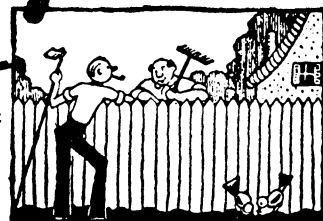




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

Member--Men's Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society



July 1972, Volume 30, Number 7

Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota
Edwin C. Culbert, editor, 5315 Portland Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417
Editorial Staff: Robert E. Smith, Phillip H. Smith and Donald Wilson

Club Officers:

President: Roger J. Anderson	Vice President: Carl J. Holst
Secretary: John E. Lillibridge	Treasurer: Clifton Brisco
Immediate Past President: David W. Johnson	
Directors: Henry Halvorson and James E. Perrin	

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

P-Ronald A. Twite
4545 Garfield Avenue So.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419
Tel: 825-8370

NEW PHONE NUMBER

David W. Johnson
Bus. Tel: 330-5640

FLOWER SHOW AND TOURS OF MEMBER'S GARDENS SET FOR JULY 11
(Not a ladies' night)

The July and August meetings each year are reserved for visits to member's gardens. Bud Christenson has been working like crazy to line up a program to equal that of preceding years sans repetitions. What with the delayed season and the number of gardens we have previously visited, you can just bet it wasn't easy.

We will assemble at the home of Bob Livingston, 6001 Tracy Avenue, Edina (take Tracy Ave. exit from 62nd Street Crosstown Highway or turn off old 169 at Tracy). Bring your own tables and chairs. After a 5:45 dinner served by Delana's and a short business meeting, we will travel by bus to visit other MGC Minneapolis gardens. The cost, \$2.75, includes dinner and bus fare.

Reminder:

Again this year instead of staging one big flower show our June, July, August and September meetings will feature little flower shows. Each monthly show will be judged and ribbons awarded by Al Nelson and Carl Holst. Points earned at each showing will be cumulative. The grand total for the four months will determine the winners so bring as many specimens as you can each time. Containers will be supplied. Specimens should be in place by 5:30.

We had a beautiful display in June - peonies, roses, dahlias, petunias, clematis, iris, dianthus, zinnias, pansies, heuchera, etc. but we need more participants. Henry Halvorson's entries took a lot of the ribbons. Get busy, fellows, and provide Henry more competition.

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER
by Ed Culbert

We came near to not visiting the Lake Harriet Garden Center in June for there was a downpour of rain just as we sat down to eat. Clearing, though threatening, skies later gave a go-ahead. The annual and perennial plantings in the garden were effective. The rose gardens were not yet at their peak but there was animated discussion and, as always, Carl Holst had much to tell the group.

We're still hearing about the May meeting. Those 3 auctioneers and 2 clowns (or was it the other way around?) set a pattern of frivolity which continued all evening. Ev Haedecke contrived so that Ed Culbert and Bob Gage drew their own names for prizes. When the crowd insisted that the first names drawn be discarded Ev, with the help of Sherm Pinkham, saw to it that the names in rotation on the next drawing then were Frank Vixo, Frank Vixo, Frank Vixo. More legitimate drawings brought Bob Smith a sprinkler, Bob Sicora and Ed Culbert bags of fertilizer, Nate Siegel assorted garden goodies, Sherm Pinkham a tree rose for bringing guests and Mr. Dahl a clematis for being a guest.

Don Peterson won the hedge clippers on which Dwight Stone was selling chances. The country store was nearly cleaned out several times and stayed in business only because of late arriving materials.

Don't judge the Sioux Valley MGC by its size. They do things in a big way. As an Arbor Day project they donated trees or shrubs to 16 Bloomington schools. They also sponsor the City Hall plantings, two nursing home plantings and a Big Pumpkin contest.

Do you know of someone who we might hire to mow the grass at the Community Fragrance Garden on a regular basis? If so, tell Dave Johnson

By the way, did you know the Fragrance Garden had its first casualty last month? Bob Smith and Dave Johnson were tagged for illegal parking while delivering material to the garden. You don't suppose that meter maid was the bikini clad beauty who screamed and ran when Dave turned on the sprinkling system the Saturday we transplanted a couple weeks earlier, do you?

When, at the National Convention, Club Bulletin Chairman Claud Farrow, Portland Oregon, announced the top three winners in each of four categories in the club bulletin contests among the winners announced were: Category A, Sioux Valley MGC of Bloomington, Minnesota; Category B, The Garden Gate, MGC of Richfield, Minnesota and, Category B, The Compost Pit, North Suburban MGC of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In a separate report, the committee said, in part, "Fortunate is the editor who can depend on regular contributions from Club Members who are associated with Agricultural Colleges, County Extension Agencies, Professional Landscapers or Nurserymen! It would be impossible to name all of them but the Committee would be remiss if it did not commend the work of those contributors. Some of the, but not all, are:"

Sam Fairchild, Reidsville, N.S.
Chuck King, Bloomington, Minn.
Bill Peterson, Tucson, Ariz.
Bob Smith, Spokane, Wash
"The Smith Bros.", Bob & Phil
Minneapolis, Minn.
Joe Sweeney, Toledo, Ohio
Ned Weymouth, Portland, Ore. and,
many others without a "By line".

ROG'S REFLECTIONS

Summer has officially arrived and the gardens are beginning to perk up after a slow start. I am sure most agree this year's growing season has been one of the strangest we have had in a long time. Being in the garden service business and seeing many yards in the past month, I find it rather peculiar to see roses, for instance, doing exceptionally well in some places and very poorly in others. The growth on shrubs I have found to be very uneven, with honeysuckle, particularly, having poor new growth. Evergreens seem to have suffered a great deal of winter-burn and also have a meager amount of new growth.

It appears that those gardeners who waited for the safe frost date to put out their annuals, hit the spell of very hot weather and as a result are having trouble getting an early show from them. I certainly haven't got anything to brag about in getting my annuals to make those gorgeous blooms and I've been very generous with my compost and manure, too. It just has to be the weather.....!!

Remember Dave Johnson, past president, and his serial in last year's Spray, "The Woodchuck Affair"? Well, I've had my share of short leaves and past couple years also. In fact, its gotten to the point, with the bad weather and the varmints, that something had to be done. So, my vegetable gardening neighbor and I decided to declare war. The result was two young woodchucks drowned out, Ma woodchuck shot and Pa woodchuck (I think) skipped the country. Wonder where all the woodchucks are coming from. A few years ago I couldn't identify one.

Getting around to the Club business, I am pleased to report that Nate Siegal will be representing our Club serving on the Minneapolis Civic Awards Committee. This Committee recommends and acts upon awards that are made by the city. I am sure Nate will be a real asset to the civic body.

I read with a great deal of interest, Sherm Pinkham's suggestion in last month's Spray, that the MGCM do something about providing a memorial to assist in making it possible for our National to beautify their landscape. It certainly would seem the only way to accomplish this is to promote an idea of this sort. Give this proposal some thought. We will bring it up at a future meeting to see what the membership might be interested in doing on this question.

Bud Christensen, tour chairman, has been working hard arranging your tour for this month and has an exceptional group of gardens to look at. So, plan to attend and bring a friend. We need new members (good gardeners) and better attendance at meetings. We slipped off after the big May auction to thirty-eight in attendance last month. We should be able to do better than that. Let's all get out and see what some of the boys have in their gardens this month.

See you all July 11th. Remember to bring your flowers for judging. The flower tables looked very nice at the June meeting.

-Rog Anderson

* * * * *

A new publication by USDA's Agricultural Research Service contains 12 pages of up-to-date, sound advise for the home tomato grower. It lists 18 tomato varieties for the home garden, their disease resistance and where they grow best. Ask for HG-180, "Growing Tomatoes in the Home Garden," price 10 cents. Supt. Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

MULCHING IS THE ANSWER

In the forest, plants have fallen bark and other natural debris as a protective coat. By laying bark mulch on plant soil, home gardeners can do the same thing--protect plants' delicate roots from heat and drouth in summer, help them resist freezing and thawing in winter.

For your editor, mulching is his lazy man's way of weeding...and composting, too. Years ago I laboriously crawled around the vegetable plot plucking each weed. Then I tried mowing the neighboring vacant lots for mulching material. No longer necessary! The vacant lots have houses on them and neighbors who grow grass in prodigious quantities. I've persuaded several of them to deposit their weekly clippings in my back yard from whence I transfer them to the garden rows. It is now only June 19th but already there is a heavy mulch around all the vegetable plots, between the rows of beans, under the grape vines, around the tomatoes, between the raspberries, around the rhubarb, under the drip-line of the garage and I still have a carry-over of grass from last week to scatter.

The following two testimonials relative to the efficiency of mulch are briefed from articles by John F. Heinze in Green Fingers, bulletin of MGC Toledo, and by Warner and Lucille Bowers in the NRTA Journal, respectively. Note, by the way that the serving of beer to slugs advocated years ago by our own MGC Mpls' George Luxton is reported to be helpful.

"Last spring, we decided to plant a garden. This area has rock hard clay. We had it plowed. We had to have the man who plowed come back and work it with his tractor. After the seeds started growing, we made several trips to the leaf dump, picked up truckloads of partially decayed leaves and piled them around the plants and in the space between.

Last fall, we decided not to turn the ground over for spring planting. Instead, we piled all of our leaves, the neighbors' leaves and 4 or 5 truckloads of manure on top of all the leaves put on in the spring. This year, we planted directly in the compost on top and not in the clay ground underneath. The garden was beautiful. The roots of the plants refused, or couldn't grow into the clay soil. When we pulled up the bean plants in late summer, they had roots 2 feet long. One sweet potato weighed 3 pounds and was 10 inches long--grown only with compost."

The Bowers say, "We do not fertilize because we are trying to grow tomatoes rather than luxuriant vines. In the fall, a three-inch layer of ground leaves is put on as a mulch over which we spread two inches of salt marsh hay. About every fourth or fifth year, we throw five pounds of magnesium sulfate (Epsom salts) around in the fall.

In the spring, we drive 7 foot poles into the ground at 4 x 4 foot intervals to locate each plant. No cultivation of the ground is needed; and to set out the plants, we simply scrape back the mulch at the base of each stake, make a suitable hole with a trowel and that is it. With our deep mulch, maintenance is limited to one or two minor weeding sessions a year to pull up weeds seedlings brought in by the birds.

Our only pest of importance is the slug which thrives prodigiously in our deep mulch. Beer, in shallow lids, is an excellent deterrent (and we have killed as many as a hundred slugs a night by this simple means.)"

OUR COMMUNITY FRAGRANCE GARDEN
by Dave Johnson

Thanks to the great support of our Club members, our Community Fragrance Garden is a beautiful sight to behold. The planting has been completed and weekly maintenance is in full swing. Four benches were installed so you can take a break when working at the Garden. (Check first to see if a sun bather is occupying the bench.) Be sure to note the maintenance schedule to see when you are supposed to do your part in the project.

The Canton Redwood Lumber Company donated the generous gift of redwood for the benches. The benches really added to the beauty of the garden and will give many hours of pleasure for the blind to have a comfortable place to sit while enjoying the wonders of nature. Bob Smith engineered the job with Mielke, Holst and D. Johnson assisting.

If you haven't seen the Garden this year, it's well worth the trip. Bring some friends with you so they may enjoy it too.

Garden Maintenance Schedule

Weed, cut off dead flowers and trim grass along planters and fence - Lets keep it the best looking garden in the metropolitan area. The work does not have to be done on the Saturday designated, but can be done evenings during the week. If you can't make it, please let me know or better yet, get your own substitute.

June	10	John Lillibridge	Chet Groger
	17	Evald Johnson	Vern Carlson
	24	George Sweazy	Charlie Proctor
July	1	Jack Peterson	Harry Sova
	8	Dean Schneider	Dwight Stone
	15	Nate Siegel	Vic Lowie
	22	Jim Perrin	Henry Halvorson
	29	Bob Sicora	Don Jepsen
Aug.	5	Sherm Pinkham	Paul Lindstedt
	12	Don Wilson	Bruce Warner
	19	St. Clair Beeman	Warren Bergstrom
	26	Carl Holst	Tom Warth
Sept.	2	Roger Anderson	Bob Gage
	9	Norman Johnson	George Smith
	16	Tony Wick	Otto Nelson
	23	Phil Smith	Dave Johnson
	30	Bill MacGregor	Ralph Papermaster
Oct.	7	Ed Culbert	Bill Johnson
	14	Bud Christenson	Vinton Bouslough

Roger Nelson - Keep the automatic sprinkling system working.

BACKWARD, TURN BACKWARD, OH TIME...

The other day when I was clipping along the front sidewalk, the odor of the rugosa roses lay heavy on the air. They are delightfully fragrant as compared with our more favored hybrids. Would anyone like to try a recipe from Godey's Ladies Book and Magazine for May 1864?

"Tincture of Roses - Take the leaves of the common rose (centifolia) and place, without pressing them, in a common bottle; pour some good spirits of wine upon them, close the bottle and let it stand until required for use. This tincture will keep for years and yield a perfume little inferior to attar of roses; a few drops of it will suffice to impregnate the atmosphere of a room with a delicious odor. Common vinegar is greatly improved by a very small quantity being added to it."

Perhaps you have longed to keep a prize rose blossom on the table longer or to revive it after the first few hours at a show. Would you gamble on the following procedure recommended by Godey's for September 1864?

"To Restore Faded Roses - Throw some sulphur on a chafing dish of hot coals, hold a faded rose over the flame of the hot sulphur and it will become quite white; in this state dip it into water; put it into a box or drawer for three or four hours; when taken out it will be quite red again."

* * * * *

STRAWBERRY CARE

Contrary to a popular belief, old strawberry plants can be productive for as eight or more years if the home gardener manages them well. Prof. John P. Tomkins, pomologist at the N.Y. State College of Agriculture, Cornell, said that weeds and plant diseases are two major factors to be weighed whether to keep the strawberry beds for additional fruiting seasons. If the bed is relatively free of strawberry diseases and weeds, chances are good that the plants will give good yields next year. The Cornell pomologist suggests these steps to follow in preparing the strawberry bed for the next season:

1. Immediately after harvest mow the plant foliage with a garden lawn mower; cut the leaves about one to two inches above the top of the plant crown.
2. Cultivate and narrow the plant rows to about 15 to 18 inches using a rototiller or other suitable equipment. Sometimes the excessive amount of mulch must be removed to facilitate cultivation.
3. Check the stand of strawberry plants and thin out if plants are closer than five to six inches apart in the matted row.
4. Fertilize the plantings using about 50 pounds (per acre) of 10-10-10 fertilizer. The rate of fertilization for a home garden is five pounds per 100 feet of row.
5. Water the plants (equivalent amount of an inch of rain) right after fertilization.
6. Use a weed killer to destroy germinating weeds.
7. Cultivate if needed to control weeds and be prepared to do some hand weeding in case chemical weed control is not perfect.

ARE YOUR FRITILLARIAS FRETTING?

(Reprinted from The Englisht Rose Bulletin and revised by Phil Smith to conform to the American Idiom.)

According to recent press reports, several scientists (even some from Soviet Russia) have discovered that plants have feelings and intelligence, and are very sensitive to pain. Actually there is nothing new in this publicized discovery. It merely confirms what a lot of people have believed for a long time. Uncle Charley down at the barber shop reckons he knew this when he was knee-high to a kniphopia and it is well known that old Charley spends hours talking to his plants. He says that he would rather talk to his plants than to his wife, because they believe every word, and never interrupt or talk back.

On a TV talk show observed some time ago, a celebrated vegetarian was promoting his cult when he was rebuked by the host for "Shedding the green blood of the silent vegetables." A preference was expressed for the rare taste of prime beef. Come to think of it, perhaps we should form an A.S.P.C.V.

Perhaps we should not regard the Soviet scientists as infallible, but I would never argue with a green-fingered old mossback like Uncle Charley. Anyway, we should keep an open mind on these things.

Of course, we all have some bad habits. The perpetration of pernicious poetry falls in that category. In honor of our sensitive plants, we poetically report:

I hoe and spray, and hope and pray
Those weeds are gone for good,
Then comes the rain, they rise again
Just as I knew they would.

Some folks maintain that plants feel pain
They're sensitive and shy,
An unkind word, and, so I've heard,
They just break down and cry.

If this is true, then tell me, do,
Since they so much deplore,
My dreadful deeds, why do these weeds
Keep coming back for more?

* * * * *

WORLD FAMOUS ARBORETUM

The Arnold Arboretum is celebrating its one hundred Anniversary this year. It and Kew Gardens in England are probably the foremost Botanical Gardens in the world. In 1925, E. H. (Chinese) Wilson, its second director, brought out a book called "America's Greatest Garden The Arnold Arboretum". The frontispiece is a picture of Charles Sprague Sargent, the man who started it and made it. The name came from James Arnold, who a little over a hundred years ago, left a trust fund of \$100,000 with Harvard.

The original site of 125 acres was laid out by the noted Landscape Architect Frederick Law Olmsted who also helped to design Central Park in New York City. Today, it consists of 265 acres with another 100 acres some miles away. Harvard gave the Arboretum to the city of Boston and then leased it back for 1,000 years at a dollar a year. Boston builds and maintains the driveways.

WE'VE READ RECENTLY THAT..

John Holroyd, principal scientific officer at the Agricultural Research Council organization in Oxford, England, has developed a weed-killing glove. All one has to do is to stroke the weed with this glove which emits a lethal dose of herbicide. Inside of three days the weed withers and dies.

Cornell University researchers have found that common table sugar prolongs the vase life of roses. The average length of life of cut roses, at best, is five to seven days, depending on the variety and environmental conditions under which roses are grown. Using sugar, it is found that the keeping quality of cut roses can nearly double, up to 10 days.....Now go back to Page 6 and see how great-great grandma revived her roses.

Some plants profit from soaking in a strong starch solution - half starch, half water. The solution adds to their lasting quality and the petals will not drop.

The music that floods our greenhouses today may be doing more than making contented gardeners. There is strong evidence that plants, too, like music provided it isn't too loud and too close.

In hybridizing glads, the odds of a variety worthy of introduction are 1 in 20,000. From annual starts of 150,000 only about 5 to 10 varieties will be saved. After a production run of 7 to 8 years, these few varieties will be named and marketed.

- 8 -

THE GARDEN SPRAY
Men's Garden Club of Mpls., Inc.
5315 Portland Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417



FIRST CLASS MAIL

William H. Hull
6833 Creston Rd.
Edina, MN 55435