

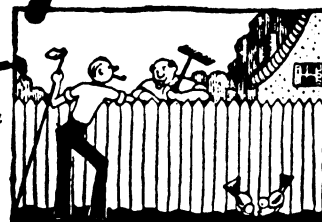


The Garden Spray

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

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

- July 1974, Volume 32, Number 7



Hear Ye! Hear Ye! All MGCM members,

And, WIVES PLEASE TAKE NOTE, too, lest your husband claims he heard otherwise. (Truly he may have but he's still wrong.)

THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB TOUR, TUESDAY, JULY 9th is

- LADIES' NIGHT -

(Other guests more than welcome, also)

MEET AT PHIL SMITH'S 7540 Ridgeway Road 5:45 P.M.

Dinner will be at 6:00. At 7:00 buses will be on hand to take us to see for the first time in several years the fine gardens of some of our members from the north area, viz., Dean Schneider, Dick Hulbert, Dave Johns Dwight Stone, and possibly, one other.

TOTAL COST, DeLaria Dinner, chicken and ribs, plus Tour, \$3.00

Tables will be furnished. Bring your own chairs, the ladies won't want to ruin their clothes by sitting on the grass.

HOW TO REACH PHIL SMITH'S: Take Highway 12 past Highway 100 to Anderson Cadillac (Pennsylvania Avenue). Turn north. Drive two long blocks to the top of the hill (Ridgeway Rd.) Turn West. One block and you're there.

A CALENDAR OF EVENTS TO COME

*July 12, 13, 14 North American Lily Society 27th Annual Show. Arboretum

*July 25, 26 Edina Garden Council Flower Show. Church of St. Patrick.

*August 11, 12, 13, 14 MGCA Convention. Cortland, New York.

*For details on these events see "Over the Garden Fence", p. 3.

August 13 MGCM August Garden Tour. Roger Anderson in charge.

September 7 MGCM Vegetable and Flower Show. Linden Hills Fieldhouse.

SPRING FLOWER SHOW

We had a good turn out for our June Flower Show. Henry Halvorson won the Queen of Show with his peony "Red Charm". Also on the Court of Honor were his iris "Stepping Out" and Terry Olsen's rose "Mr. Lincoln". All points

HINTS FOR PREPARING FOR OUR FLOWER AND
VEGETABLE SHOW, SEPTEMBER 7

Prune back annuals three weeks before the show. Remove spent flowers and seed pods. Foliar feed with a weak solution of Rapid Gro two to three weeks before the show. This will improve color.

Pansies will keep blooming if not allowed to seed.

Plants should be staked for straight, clean specimens.

Plant gladiolus so they will be in bloom at show time. Dahlias and early mums should be at their best and all other flowers will be on the rebound.

There will be a full show of vegetables which will be of great interest since we expect more people will be growing their own vegetables this year.

Hints on preparing specimens for showing will be in the August SPRAY. We are also planning a workshop on flower show preparation in August.

--Dale Dur

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

If you have a yen to dry flowers from your garden, now's the time to do so, not late in the flowering season. Various formulae have been listed in the past which cornmeal and borax were mixed and cut blooms buried in the mixture. At its best, this homemade mixture faded most flower color even though blooms did dry well. Several years ago materials became available which far surpass homemade mixtures. On page 5 Henry Halvorson tells us about the procedures he uses.

The North Suburban MGC maintains a garden for the public, too. Don McCarty, president, writes, "The City of Crystal would like to have the same basic design as last year with the big "C" in the middle of the round bed at city building. What I'm going to do this year is use red plumed celosias for the "C" and outline this with Dusty Miller. The whole bed will have a border of white and blue allysum and the rest of the area will be filled in with mixed little darling snapdragons. At the pool planting, we will have, starting in the back, a row of pink cleome, some rocket snapdragons then some yellow plumed celosia, a few bolero marigolds and an outside border of white allysum."

GREEN FINGERS, the Toledo Ohio MGC bulletin, under the heading "You Are Invited To", lists for each Sunday in the month a member's garden to visit. A description of what will be seen is included. Why shouldn't MGCM try something like this? We might visit a bit more and learn a lot more if we did.

The MGC of Houston, Texas, has a little sticker to be pasted inside seed copies of THE YARDNER

Dear Member
We have been missing you.
Come out and be with us.
The Men's Garden Club of Houston

Sounds like a very worth-while practice.

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

For those who did not attend the June meeting, you missed a terrific flower show with an orchid display by Bob Bryant, beautiful table arrangements by Henry Halvorson, and an interesting insight into a landscape architect's view of the historical and current development of the city of Boston. We learned, for example, that the cows have been unjustly credited with the plan for the city. Richard Forsyth, landscape architect at the U of M, had intended to speak on the landscape plan for the new State Zoological Park, however, the plans were not sufficiently developed for such a presentation.

Several members and friends brought items for auction which our favorite auctioneer disposed of to the highest bidder. Ken Allison, a previous guest of Dwight Stone, sent some of his home made maple syrup. Other items were Peruvian Daffodils, a garden cart and a wine scented iris. You are welcome to come to my garden and enjoy its fragrance.

I have several good news items to report. Walter Menzel let me know he called Sarasota, Fla. and found Cortis Rice out shopping and not as the rumor we had heard "gravely ill". Carl Holst is out of the hospital with no heart damage and with rest and a slower pace will be fine.

There are several events this month to which I would like to draw your attention. The North American Lily Society International Show will be held at the arboretum July 12-14. Advance registration is required by July 5th and entries in place by 11:00 a.m. July 12th. For further information contact Julius Wadekamper, Charlie Proctor, or Bob Livingston. The Edina Garden Council Flower Show will be July 25-26. M.G.C.M. has been invited to enter and/or attend this excellent show with many special educational displays. It will be held at the Church of St. Patrick in Edina. Advance registration by July 21st and entries in place by 9:00 p.m. July 25th. For further information contact Dale Durst or Bob Gage.

The Normandale Japanese Garden is making substantial progress. The architect has been in Minneapolis working with the Bloomington clubs for the past several weeks making final plant placements and designs. They do need help, however. Anyone willing and able to help with planting or caring on foundations, please call Mrs. Theisen on 835-4295. This project worthy of our support. Please help if you can.

The M.G.C.A. convention will be held August 11-14 in Cortland, N.Y. We have authority to send 12 representatives from the club. To date the following have expressed an interest in going: Ed Culbert, Henry Halvorson, Bill Hull, Paul Lindstedt, Watt Meyer, Sherm Pinkham, Nate Siegel, and Dwight Stone. Please let me know by the July meeting if you wish to join these men. Sherm has some transportation suggestions.

As noted on the front page, a change has been made as to which tour will be ladies night. JULY IS CO-ED and we will start at Phil Smith's. Barb and I look forward to being with you then.

-- Jim Perrin

Approach ecology as a science. Become a thoroughly grounded plant physiologist first. Study the soils, and the climate effects on plants, as they cluster, as they stand alone.

FUNDAMENTALS OF TREE CARE

By F. L. Steve O'Rourke, Arboriculturist

Vigorous, attractive trees which lend grace and beauty to the landscape are usually the result of careful selection, planning, and proper maintenance. There are certain fundamental principles affecting growth and the attainment of a harmonious and pleasing environment. These may be outlined as follows:

1. Irrigation and Drainage. Tree roots require both water and air, and thrive best when there is a good balance between the two. Water should be applied in adequate quantities both winter and summer, and the soil should be allowed to drain well thereafter--perhaps for two or three weeks. Too often roots are drowned in summer and allowed to dry out in winter.
2. Pruning. Trees should be pruned for many reasons, chief of which are for safety, health, and appearance. Low and weak limbs may be hazardous to people and property; dead and diseased branches affect health and vigor; and unsymmetrical protuberances detract from appearance. Pruning is a basic constituent of sanitation which is so important to tree health and the entire environment.
3. Bracing and Cabling. V-shaped crotches often require rod bracing to prevent splitting, while multiple-stemmed trees and those with spreading branches need cabling so that each may support the other. These appliances keep storm damage to a minimum.
4. Wound Treatment. When the bark is accidentally bruised or broken, prompt attention is necessary. The injured tissues must be removed by cutting the bark back to firm, live cambium and the wound shaped so that healing may proceed rapidly and adequately. A wound dressing is advisable but paint alone will not suffice without previous proper treatment.
5. Fertilization. One should first determine that a tree will benefit from fertilizer. Usually poor leaf color, short twig growth, etc., will indicate the need. A soil test from a root-zone sample will show which elements may be lacking. Nitrogen is generally the nutrient most deficient in soils. An application of two pounds elemental nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of surface about the tree evenly distributed on the ground in late fall and well watered in spring should prove beneficial. Early spring is next best time to apply.
6. Pest Control. Insects and diseases are both held in check by sanitation, the removal and disposal of all tissues which may carry pests over winter or throughout the growing season. Spraying with the correct insecticide or fungicide for the specific pest may be necessary in many cases.
7. Annual Inspection. An annual inspection of trees and shrubs by a qualified arborist or arboriculturist may not only save many dollars, but will extend the lives of the trees into the future. The reasons are comparable to ones for medical and dental examinations for the human. A condition may usually be rectified in its incipient stages, while delayed, it may be both costly and hazardous.

"EVER WISHED YOU COULD KEEP A FRESH FLOWER FOR ALWAYS?"

The above is a quotation from "The Complete Book of Flower Preservation" by Geneal Condon--which got me started on this fascinating hobby.

I have been preserving flowers for two years and have used two different methods. I would like to tell you what I've done. Maybe you, too, like to try something similar.

Method 1 Make yourself a flower press. Use two boards 1 x 8 x 8 in or similar. (Any size convenient.) Put a butterfly nut and screw on corner for tightening. Tighten each day as flowers are drying. Cut paper to fit your press. Use eight sheets on bottom--then one sheet clear newsprint. (One can buy special flower preservation print, to hobby stores.) Place your flowers on the paper and cover with clear print plus eight more sheets of ordinary newspaper. Then add another clear sheet and place some more flowers on it. One can do quite a few stacks of them. Then put your press together and clamp tight. Tighten each day for eight days. Most flowers dry in that time. Take them off the press and place them neatly in a folder until ready to use for picture arrangements. This is where the fun to create begins.

Method 2 In this method I put the flower in "silica-gel" bought at hobby centers. (Looks like white sand or sugar.) Completely cover the flower with it. I use small plastic butter cartons and put the covers on a tight. Leave flowers anywhere from four to six or eight days. Different flowers need different lengths of time for drying. Take a peek now and then to see when they are dry. Do not leave too long because then they are apt to lose some of the color. For miniature roses--which are easy to site with this method--it takes about four days. One learns a lot about the different types of flowers and which are best for preserving. (All flowers preserve well.) Small flowers are the best.

When they are dried, take them carefully out from the silica-gel and place them in a plastic covered container in a dry place until you can use them for your picture arrangements--perhaps next winter! It is surprising how beautiful the natural color keeps this way. I prefer this method over Method 1 because it gives a three-dimensional look to your arrangements. One can also make life-like arrangements in glass domes, dishes, dried wood, and picture frames. The ones that you seal in domes, dishes, picture frames last indefinitely and are truly beautiful. They make wonderful gifts of your own creation. One could make his own frames, and use a preservative spray on the flowers if not covered by glass. Silica-gel can be used over and over by heating it in the oven at 225 degrees for thirty minutes to take out moisture absorbed from flowers. It is rather expensive initially but pays for itself many times in the life of your productions.

Two valuable books to get are:

- 1) PRESSED FLOWER PICTURES by Pamela McDowall (Charles Scribner's Sons, N. York)
- 2) THE COMPLETE BOOK OF FLOWER PRESERVATION by Geneal Condon (Prentice Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N. J.)

I hope from reading this, you, too, might like to discover for yourself this very fascinating hobby.

WE'VE RECENTLY READ THAT

Flossy-leaved plants should be washed or at least sponged weekly; sprays daily. Fuzzy-leaved plants should be dusted occasionally with a camel hair-brush.

So called "shoot apex" technique--as opposed to traditional growing by seed or from cuttings--protects species' purity from mutation, reduces growing time nearly half, eliminates trouble-some infection.

Taiwan hopes to become the world's orchid capital as rapid, inexpensive methods of reproduction are stepped up.

An aphid will extract about one drop of plant fluid per hour.

A ladybug will eat 60-100 aphids per day.

As a rose preservative, a mixture of half room temperature Sprite and hottest tap water can't be beat. With a daily stem cutting to enable roses to absorb the liquid, this will keep roses alive and well far beyond normal expectations.

The moss plant is hard to transplant into the garden because a fungus normally in the soil around it dies.

Many native plants have inhibitors which affect their growth.

Dormant transplants should receive but one watering. We suspect this vice presupposes some conditions not mentioned in the article we read.

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Return to
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