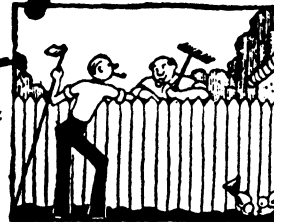




The Garden Spray

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

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



JULY 1975, Volume 33, Number 7

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CALL YOUR CALLER

MGCM SUMMER GARDEN VISITS START TUESDAY JULY 8th

MEET AT NORMAN STEWART'S - 88 WOODLAND CIRCLE, EDINA
(The Circle is one block west of France Avenue on 56th Street)

5:45 DE LARIA DINNER \$3.00

6:45 BUS TOUR STARTS

(Oh yes - Bring your own chair)

SUMMER MINI TOURS

Jim Perrin reports, "The Weekend Open Garden idea gives us a splendid opportunity to enjoy a casual visit to each other's gardens and possi the opportunity to visit with the gardener in the midst of his creati Each garden has its unique personality and offers an opportunity for learning and enjoyment.

"The Mini Tours this year will include several gardens from the North Suburban Club. We also have shared our list of open gardens with the so we may expect to have the pleasure of their company. We have three weekends of fun lined up for you so please mark your calendars now. Here are the places to go listed by weekend and general area. In ord to save space I will omit those addresses which can be found in the R

JULY 12-13 WEST SUBURBAN area:

Phil Smith, delphinium specialist; Bob Haley, winner of '74 Rookie of Year Award; Henry Halvorson, lilies, roses and everything; Dave Johns lantana trees of special interest; Dwight Stone, beautiful from all d tions; and in Excelsior, Jim Mielke, something for everyone. Also in west direction are the General Mills employee garden plots. They are hind the WTCN transmitter on the west side of Boone Ave. between high 55 and 12.

JULY 12-13 ELK RIVER area:

We recommend you visit Dave Goddard's place and within walking distan are the Wadekamper and Richards gardens. Take 694 west and turn nort on 101 for about 7 miles to highway 10. Turn right for 4 miles and r again at Edison Ave. just after the Lindsey Soft Water building. Dav place is on the right hand side of Edison Ave.

JULY 26-27 SOUTH area:

Les Johnson, lilies and perennials; Ray Marshall, hostas; Carl Holst,

Mini Tours continued

AUGUST 9-10 SOUTH area:

Sherm Pinkham, general; Otto Nelson, breathtaking terraces; Vern Carlson horticulturist extraordinaire.

AUGUST 9-10 NORTH area:

Dick Hulbert, unique design; Jim Perrin, in construction - interesting in evening; and two North Suburban members with variety gardens; Jim Klante 3125 Kentucky Ave. No., and Lloyd Wernecke 8171 Patsey Lane in Golden Valley.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

In today's mail I received a letter from Thomas L. Johnson, 2nd Ward Alderman asking for volunteers to participate in the "Elm Watch" program. Identified cases of Dutch elm disease increased from 235 in 1973 to nearly 1,000 in 1974. To combat the spread of this disease the Committee on Urban Environment (CUE) is charged with the establishment of neighborhood groups to detect infected trees. MGCM members who are Minneapolis residents are needed to watch a 3 or 4 square block area near their homes. If you can help in this worthy project contact me and I'll forward your name to the committee.

"A Lot to Shout About" was the title of columnist Barbara Flanagan's recent article about the landscaping done by MGCM member Norm Stewart to the parking lot of his building at 12th Street and 2nd Avenue South. Ms. Flanagan said so many good things about the appearance of this project that I'm going to drive by it today to see for myself what Norm has accomplished.

I'm pleased to see such excellent attendance at our meetings this year. 76 members and guests were on hand in June to hear David Bailly's most interesting talk on "Viticulture", the growing of grapes and the making of fine wines. It won't be too many years before we have the pleasure of eating fine Minnesota grown table grapes and drinking a glass of wine from the Alexis Bailly Vineyard.

By the way, Norm Stewart's garden will be the first on the July tour as we will meet at his home for dinner before boarding buses to view the other gardens on the tour. Don't miss this chance to see first hand the gardening expertise of some of our members.

Right this minute is an excellent time to telephone your caller about your attendance at the July tour. We need an accurate count for DeLaria and we can achieve this only if all of us cooperate fully.

--Bob Livingston

Who knows the whereabouts of Robert H. Campbell? His June SPRAY was returned marked "Not deliverable as addressed. No forwarding order on file". The telephone directory issued in December 1974 shows no listing similar to that in our 1974 or 1975 rosters; yet this is the first SPRAY returned. Wonder what's been happening all these months?

GROWING TALL BEARDED IRISES

By Julius Wadekamper

— If you are looking for large flowers and brilliant colors for the first weeks of June the tall bearded irises are for you.

There is no comparison between the form, substance and colors of some of the newer developments with those handed down from generation to generation or passed on from one garden club member to another. There are hundreds of good new cultivars that are not too costly and you would do well to invest in some for the colors you need in your landscape design. Some of these cultivars are listed by color at the end of this article.

Irises are best planted from July 15 to August 15. They should be watered well during this time to develop a good root system by fall. In November cut them back to 5 or 6 inches and cover them with a loose mulch. I use Reed canary grass from north of Elk River. It is loose and a good insulator as well as being weed free. It also breaks down readily to help build a good soil structure.

In the spring, about April 10 to 20, remove the mulch. When the days are warm, spray with a mixture of one tablespoon sevin, one teaspoon benlate and one tablespoon miracle-gro in one gallon of water. Be sure to add one drop of spreader-sticker.

The sevin will prevent borers which can ruin your iris planting. It should be renewed after heavy rains. The borers hatch after 3 days of 70 degrees or more. They produce only one brood per year so can be easily controlled if caught at the right time. The benlate will prevent fungus diseases especially leaf spot which can make the iris foliage unattractive slightly later on in the summer. The miracle-gro, which contains trace elements, will give you large colorful bloom.

Use your tall bearded irises to your best landscape advantage. Plant them in a spot where gay brilliant color in early June is an advantage and where the sword-like foliage for the rest of the summer adds texture to your later blooming perennials. Planting 3 or 4 rhizomes of one cultivar will give a larger mass of brilliant color for 3 or 4 years. They should be dug and divided every 3 or, at most, 4 years.

Some newer superior cultivars in various colors are given below beginning (in each color) with the most costly, 4 or 5 dollars a rhizome, and ending with the cheaper ones at 1 or 2 dollars each. The irises which are underlined are easy to grow and very beautiful.

WHITE: Angel Choir, Happiness Is, Patricia Craig, Cup Race, Ermine Roll, Powder Snow.

LIGHT BLUE: Babbling Brook, Flattery, Eleanore's Pride, South Pacific, Blue Sapphire, Cross Country.

MEDIUM BLUE: Pacific Panorama, Shipshape, Royal Touch, Diplomat, Sylvia Stream.

DARK BLUE: Dusky Dancer, Nighside, Caliente, Indiglow.

DARK PURPLE to BLACK: Night Owl, Swahili, Black Swan, Edenite, Licorice Stick.

LAVENDER: Rippling Waters, Raspberry Ripples, Amethyst Flame, Lilac T

PINK: Esther Fay, One Desire, Pink Taffeta, Lorna Lee, Judy Marsonette

BROWN or TAN: Gingerbread Castle, Gingersnap, Mary Todd, Inca Chief, Olympic Torch, Millionaire.
 LIGHT YELLOW: Buttercup Bower, Debbie Rairdon, Southern Comfort, New Moon, Tinsel Town, Sunny Splendor.
 DARK YELLOW: Rainbow Gold, West Coast, Golden Delight, Radiant Apogee
 ORANGE: Minnesota Glitters, Orange Parade, Spanish Gift, Celestial Glory.
 PLICATAS (Blue): Stepping Out, Blue Petticoats, Rondo, Rococco, Ribb Round.
 PLICATAS (Brown): Summer Sunshine, Kilt Lilt, Siva Siva, Cayenne Cap, Chinquapin, Wild Apache.
 BICOLORS: Margarita (white and lavender), Milestone (yellow and purple), Out Yonder, Miss Indiana (white and blue), Amigo's Guitar (pink and violet), Lilac Champagne (cream and blue), Wine and Roses (pink and violet), Toll Gate (white and dark blue).

If you are interested in some new and exotic irises in beautiful colors, try:

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Bayberry Candle - (light and dark tan) | Beaux Arts - (orchid) |
| Dusky Evening - (smoky and dark purple) | Gigi - (blue plicata) |
| Dutch Chocolate - (dark brown) | Grand Waltz - (orchid) |
| Gay Parosol - (white and red violet) | Ming Dynasty - (gold) |
| Loop-the-Loop - (blue plicata) | Peach Frost - (peach) |
| Louise Watts - (orchid, brown rim) | Powder Snow - (white) |
| Matinata - (dark purple) | Sparta - (red) |
| Sapphire Hills - (medium blue) | |

All the irises mentioned in this article can be obtained from one or more of the following firms:

Cooleys Gardens, Silverton, Oregon. 97381 (catalog 50¢)
 Schreiners, 3625 Quinaby Rd., Salem, Oregon, 97303 (catalog 50¢)
 Gable Iris Gardens, 2543 38th Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55406
 Taiga Toft, Rt. 2, Box 141A, Rogers, Minn. 55374

* * * * *

Last month's suggestion that clay pots be washed in the dishwasher didn't set so well with the wives, we hear, so you might try this way which Herb Graham (Miami's "Sunshine Gardener") quotes from an old "Nature's Way" book. "Take an old tin or wooden tub full of water. Fill it with used pots, don't stack, just drop them in helter-skelter. Let soak for 2 days. Drain water off and fill with fresh water. See 4 ounces (by volume) of frog eggs and add to tub. Place screen over tub to deter mosquitoes. Then sit back and let the tadpoles do your clean-up work." Why the old tub? The zinc from the galvanized finish on a new tub will kill the tadpoles. -- Of course, that old tin or wooden tub may turn out to be an antique in which case your wife will clobber you again.

* * * * *

REMEMBER - Flower and Vegetable Show - August 16 and 17

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Perhaps the only perennial that flourishes in all fifty states is the Daylily. No doubt, the easiest of plants to hybridize. If all hybrid

GARDENING IN FLORIDA

By Rene' Dufourd

Gardening in Florida is not like that of other states. For this reason garden guides written for northern conditions are a hindrance rather than a help to Florida gardeners. Likewise, in many ways gardening in northern Florida is not the same as in southern Florida.

Over much of the United States gardening is limited to the summer months. There is little activity the rest of the year. Not so in Florida where plants of one kind or another are not limited to growing in the summer season. There is no cessation of care or labor. Plants selected to fit the seasons can be grown and brought into bloom and the garden can be kept green throughout the year.

This is citrus country--no grapes, apples, peaches, raspberries. We have strawberries planted in early fall and maturing in February. We have few perennials--they don't last. I am talking of those of the North such as lilies-of-the-valley. Some species of violets do well. Delphiniums are used as annuals.

We have many bulbs; but not those that need cold weather--No tulips, no iris as you know them. We have the caladium, crinum, dahlias for late summer, gladiolus, gloriosa lily, tiger lily, watsonia (related to the glads), Easter lily, rain lily, shell lily.

If perennials aren't so successful as in the North we do have more flowering shrubs--azaleas, gardenias, camellias, etc.

Despite much wishful thinking to the contrary most of Florida has, at times, freezing weather; some sections and some locations more than others. Here in central Florida we may expect two or three freezing nights so we have to cover some of our plants.

In central Florida annuals may be planted in the fall. Localities well located and usually free from frost such as those at higher elevations or in towns can have blooms all winter. My location on a lake front is low so I usually wait until the December frost is over before I plant. Even so, I do have to watch out for the January and February frosts. Many annuals can take the frost (our cool season is from November to April) and most do. But many annuals can't take our hot sun in summer. So the cool season is the time for annuals.

We have a large, screened patio garden with hanging baskets. We use ferns, Eucharist lilies, chrysanthemums (we buy plants), ivy, canna, Rose-begonia, odorata violets, some bulbs, coleus, umbrella plant in a corner, dracena, day-lily, etc. We tried African violets but they can't take the climate.

In my garden I have petunias, sweet alyssum, begonias, calendulas, coreopsis, dianthus, chrysanthemums, gaillardia, marigolds, pansies, snapdragons, sweet peas, zinnia, and others. I do not have the large vegetable garden I used to have but I do have some lettuce, cabbage, carrots, onions and a few potatoes. One reason I don't have more is because we leave here in May for New York state and many vegetables planted from fall on would not mature before we go. Another reason may well be that given me by a local garden club member when I proposed some activity in the club.

MAY 1975 WEATHER SUMMARY

(For those who file weather records with their garden notes.)

After a cool, wet April, May turned out better for gardeners. The average temperature of 60.9 degrees was 3.8 degrees above normal. The warmest day was 91 on the 20th; the coolest 33 on the 1st. A rather warm period occurred from the 19th thru the 23rd with daytime temperatures above 80 and nighttime temperatures above 60.

Rainfall of 3.81 inches was 0.44 inches above normal. It was rather dry from the 8th thru the 22nd. Only 0.18 inches of rain fell during those 15 days. Heaviest rain was 1.56 inches on the 23rd. Precipitation thru May has been 14.49 inches, 5.81 inches above the normal.

May had 2 clear, 13 partly cloudy and 16 cloudy days. April had 26 cloudy days.

--Data courtesy National Weather Service. (Member Vinton Bouslough retired from the U. S. Weather Service May 1 but has arranged to continue this column for the balance of the year.)

THE LOWLY RADISH

Noted merely as a "salad item" by most gardeners, radishes receive little of our attention. We know that they have about a calorie apiece, give color to a green salad and have a pungent flavor as equally relished as it is disliked, but we really don't think much about radishes. Gressinger and Sons is a large firm producing 15 kinds of fresh vegetables. They cultivate 4,150 acres in Florida, Canada and Ohio. But radishes are by far their major commodity. Gressinger's modernized packing plant is capable of processing 100 tons of radishes a day. Radishes grow best in rich, absorbent soil of drained swamplands because they need an abundance of minerals and water. It has not yet been determined exactly what makes a radish hot. Europeans like radishes. They set bowls of them out as hors d'oeuvres and eat them by the handful like Americans eat peanuts. Try a few in your garden, all shapes, sizes and colors. Harvest in 22 to 28 days, so you can have some on hand all the time. The Japanese have giant ones from 3 to 5 pounds or 15 to 50 pounds. The greens are good eating mixed with beet tops or other greens. Radishes, like tomatoes, cannot be frozen and maintain their original form because of their high water content. And there is evidently no market for canned radishes.

--The YARDNER, MGC of Houston, Texas

THE TOMATO COMES INTO ITS OWN

The tomato is the top vegetable among consumers. Studies have shown that tomatoes have been tops in consumption during the past decade. The growth of fast food stands and pizza emporiums and the increasing use of cars have boosted tomato consumption. Per capita consumption of tomatoes now stands at more than 50 lbs. a year, up 18%.

* * * * *

An analysis of the 38 commonly eaten fruits shows that the one with the highest calorific value is avocado with 1,200 calories per pound. The lowest value is cucumber with 75 calories per pound.

NOTES ON THE JUNE TALK

Most wine grapes developed to date are only borderline hardy in Minnesota. *Vitus vinifera*, the European wine grape can't long withstand zero temperatures. Concord and other eastern grapes make very bad wine. *Vitus riparia*, the Minnesota wild grape, crossed with *vinifera* is not acceptable to many.

Grapes need: sun (north-south rows get 10% more sun); sandy type soil where the roots will go deep down; moderate moisture; moderate fertilization. The minimum temperature is not necessarily as important as sudden drops in temperature before the vines are "wooded up".

Disease (not troublesome) is readily controlled with Bordeaux. Crop size is controlled by the number of buds left on the vine; quality by ratio of leaf surface to fruit. (Soil type has only a minor bearing.) To increase quality, remove some of the bloom.

CARE First year: Keep down the weeds. Let the vine grow wild. Second year: Cut back to one or two 5 to 6 foot canes from which to develop a trunk. Third year: Develop a head. (2 long canes or an umbrella series of canes.) Prune when dormant.

LEHMAN TROPHY COMPETITION

(A report presented at the June meeting by Dwight Stone)

For the last several years it has become difficult to conduct the Lehman Trophy competition.

As a trial run the Lehman Trophy contest for year 1975 will be run in conjunction with the July and August tours. Each tour member's garden will automatically become a Lehman Trophy contestant.

If a member does not wish to have his garden in competition, it can be removed upon request.

If a person wishes to have his garden in the Lehman Trophy competition and is not in the tour, he should so advise the tour chairman who will endeavor to include the garden in the tour if the location is in the tour area. If his garden is not in the tour area, every effort will be made to have a tour the following year in his area.

The gardens will be judged the night of the tour based on the same criteria as judged in previous years.

If you have any questions, please refer them to either Phil Smith or Dwight Stone.

* * * * *

About the only thing we got right in our May issue was Robert E. Pollman

DINNER RESERVATIONS PROCEDURE and WHO TO CALL BEGINNING THIS MONTH

Telephone your caller by Thursday eve preceding each MGCM meeting. Let him know whether you will or will not attend the meeting and whether you will have guests.

If you know in advance you will be out of town or have to miss a meeting, make sure to notify your caller so he won't be expecting a call.

| <u>Members (See Roster)</u> | | <u>Contact Person</u> | <u>Home Tel.</u> | <u>Bus. Tel.</u> |
|-----------------------------|------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Anderson thru Bouslough | call | Floyd Ashley | 938-8311 | |
| Brandt thru Day | call | Jim Fishbaugher | 445-2239 | |
| Durst thru Haedecke | call | Harold Sievers | 926-2562 | 344-6135 |
| Haley thru Johnstone | call | Robert Haley | 473-8729 | |
| Klier thru Lowrie | call | Richard Lange | 866-6671 | |
| MacGregor thru Proctor | call | Sherm Pinkham | 926-9848 | |
| Ray thru Phil Smith | call | Frank Vixo | 922-2321 | 330-5914 |
| Bob Smith thru Tornstrom | call | Harry Sova | 922-4755 | |
| Turnquist thru Zats | call | Paul Lindstedt | 561-6574 | |

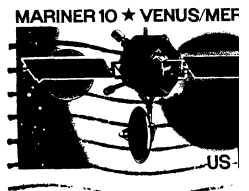
We sincerely request your cooperation in telephoning.

Return to
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