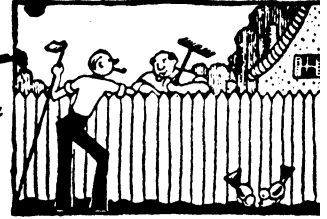




# The Garden Spray

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



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

July 1976, Volume 34, Number 7

## GARDEN TOUR NEXT TUESDAY NIGHT JULY 13th (Men Only)

STARTING AT 5:30 P.M. with DeLaria catered ribs - \$3.75.

MEETING PLACE: Bob Haley's garden 14505 - 17th Avenue North, Plymouth  
(Bring tables and chairs.)

From Bob's place we will travel by bus to visit the gardens of:

Falconer Thomas	300 Edgewood Avenue North, Golden Valley.
Henry Halverson	4915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley.
Dwight Stone	4620 Hampton Road, Golden Valley.
Walter Schmidt	2600 Lee Avenue North, Golden Valley.
Dave Johnson	1633 Xerxes Avenue North, Golden Valley.
Dick Hulbert	3422 Xerxes Avenue North, Minneapolis.

### TO REACH HALEY'S

Go west on Highway 55 one block past 494 to Fernbrook Lane. Turn left and go south one mile to 17th Avenue North. Turn right and go one block. If you get lost call Bob or Kay at 473-8729.

\* \* \* \* \*

MINI-TOUR JULY 20th. The June Mini-Tour was a success with planned visits to the gardens of Carl Holst, Charles Proctor, Glenn Bartsch, Nate Siegel and Chet Groger and surprise visits to Watt Myers and Ot Nelson. The evening was cool but the fellowship warm. The July tour will meet at Darwin Price's garden 6739 - 15th Avenue South on Tuesday evening July 20th at 7:00 PM and visit other gardens in the deep south. Y'all come down and join us now. Ya hear? Wives are welcome. If anyone has additional gardens to volunteer for this or subsequent to let me know.

--Jim Perri

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## TWO MEETINGS IN AUGUST MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21st In conjunction with the Flower and Vegetable Show at the Arboretum. More details will appear in the August GARDEN SPRAY. The North Suburban MGC will join with us in this show. The Minnetonka MGC, we hear, is holding a show of its own on the same day.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29th Tour to the Fisher Apple Orchards, Point Douglas (Ladies invited and encouraged to attend.) Buses will leave the Mount Olivet parking lot at 2:00 PM and after visiting several gardens en route will arrive at Croix Farms about 4:30 PM. Buffet dinner at the Steamboat Inn, Prescott, Wisconsin afterwards.

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## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As spring turns to summer we can look back on a series of most successful meetings. The spring plant sale was the best yet and the June meeting on wild flowers was excellent. The mini-tour was a success-but more of our members could have attended.

July is a garden tour month. See this SPRAY for the meeting place where we will enjoy a fine barbecued meal before starting our tour.

It looks as if we will be well represented at the Annual Meeting of the Men's Garden Club of America in Fort Collins. Ten members have expressed their intention of going. This will be an excellent opportunity to see some interesting country, make new friends and learn more about gardening.

Plans are progressing for the organization of the 5th District of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. Nate Siegel is acting as temporary chairman until a president is elected. Plans are to have an educational meeting this fall. Let's support Glenn and Nate in this effort.

--Leon Snyder

## THE JUNE MEETING

A beautiful display of flowers primarily iris, clematis, peonies and roses earned ribbons and points toward the August show awards. Henry Halverson brought extra peonie and iris for table decorations. Dwight Stone auctioned off Peruvian daffodil bulbs brought by Evald Johnson and African violets contributed by Ray Marshall. He also got \$5.00 from the treasurer for a black umbrella left at a recent meeting and which Dwight claimed bore a \$3.95 price tag.

Fred Glasoe's introduction of Nels Hervi, speaker of the evening was an enthusiastic talk in itself. It seems Fred went to Orr to get Mr. Hervi. Mr. Hervi cited road building, urban expansion, fires, erosion as the prime enemies of wild flowers. He had a vast array of slides of St. Louis county's native plants shrubs and trees.

Mr. Hervi was followed by Jerry Olson who discussed flower show strategy, explained the point system as applied to roses and demonstrated with samples what to look for in roses together with a few tricks to use to improve your chances with the judges.

## THE AUGUST FLOWER and GARDEN SHOW

The June mini-show was a great success with 56 entries from 16 exhibitors. A lot of points were gathered toward the sweepstakes award at the August show. Jerry Olson's tips on how to display roses were also helpful. I want to encourage all members even if you haven't entered competition before to join in the show this year. Start planning now to do your part. There will be articles in both this and the August SPRAY on exhibiting both vegetables and flowers.

Remember, also, to encourage all of the young gardeners that you know to enter the show this year. There will be two divisions of vegetable competition by age; viz, 1) Those through 12 years of age, and 2) Those 13 through 18. The competition will be collection of 3 varieties of vegetables with ribbons for all entries, a court of honor and grand champion awards plus 10 dollar gift certificates for the grand champion winner in each age bracket. The vegetables must be grown and displayed by the exhibitors. Detailed instructions will be included in the August SPRAY.

-- Bob Smith

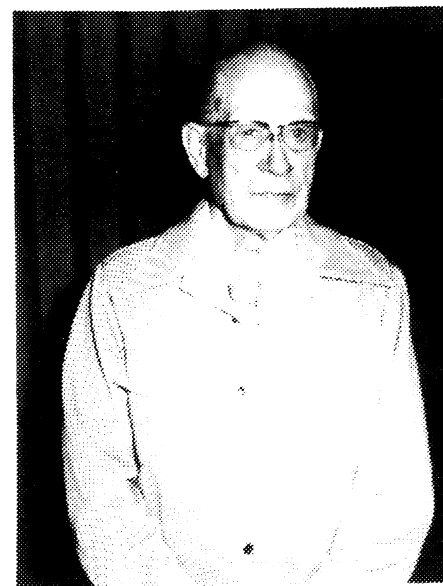
Arborists report that trees should be fertilized to grow strong and stay healthy. and

THE GARDEN SPRAY - Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc  
July 1976, Volume 34, Number 7.  
Deadline: the 15th OF EACH MONTH.

MGCM PRESIDENTS: LESLIE W. JOHNSON 1961

Les Johnson has two overwhelming interests in his life--gardening and children. In fact, he is overwhelmed by 5 children, 24 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren, going on 20. Some of his fondest memories about gardening go back to the 1958-1964 period when he guided as many as 65 elementary students at Fulton School in a garden club.

Les was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, but moved with his family to Minneapolis at the age of 10. He grew up near his present home and has lived at 3919 Pleasant Ave. So. since 1918. The area was open farmland then and 2 cows furnished milk and grazed nearby. He worked for many years as a surveyor in the engineering department of the Milwaukee Railroad, but World War II put a stop to further construction and he turned to a sales career. Les retired in 1962.



Les Johnson

In 1943 and 1944, Les won third and then first place in the Victory Gard awards for larger gardens. In 1944, he also received the National Green Thumb Award. In 1954, he joined MGCM and became active as a member or chairman of about every committee. He served as an officer and director for five years, including the presidency in 1961. Les was awarded the Bronze Medal by the Club in 1963. He belongs to a host of garden and horticulture societies and is a founder member of the Minnesota Landscap Arboretum.

Les has grown about every kind of flower including roses. But his interest has been chiefly in growing perennials new to this area and proving them hardy. This has led to probably the largest collection of perennials one can find. His companion interest is in lilies and he has an outstanding collection of them also. In 1972, he won Best of Show at the National Lily Society convention in Detroit. He enjoys showing folks through his garden, calling each plant by its botanical name and its common name, as though it was a member of his family.

--Chet Grog

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MORE CONVENTION GOERS: Floyd Ashley, Larry Corbett, Henry Halverson, Ev Johnson, Nate Siegel.

The MGCM board selected delegates to the national convention at Fort Collins, Colorado, July 24 through 29 by drawing names out of a hat. Those whose names were not drawn were named alternates. Named delegates were Floyd Ashley, Ed Culbert, Henry Halverson, Paul Lindstedt, Sherm Pinkham (MGCA DIRECTOR), Leon Snyder, and Dwight Stone.

NEW MEMBERS

(Clip and paste in your roster)

Marlin K. Rosin 888-0558 721-4417 R. L. Housman

874-070

## THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN SELECTING AND PREPARING VEGETABLES FOR EXHIBIT

Specimens should be uniform in every respect, especially in size, shape, color and maturity.

- .Not small or oversize for the variety.
- .Shape must be typical for the variety.
- .Color must be typical for the variety; must be bright and uniform.  
(Don't shine or wax)
- .All vegetables should be at the same stage of maturity.

Proper grooming and trimming procedures tell you--

- .Specimens should be clean.
  - Wash root crops.
  - Dip leafy vegetables in cool water.
  - Wipe some vegetables with a damp cloth.
  - Clean other vegetables with a soft bristled brush.
- .Trim tops and tap root of root vegetables.
- .Leave wrapper leaves on cabbage, husks on corn and scales on onions.
- .Remove stems from tomatoes and muskmelons.
- .Leave stems on beans, cucumbers, squash, pumpkins and watermelons.
- .Exhibit swiss chard and celery as one plant.

Your vegetables should be of edible maturity.

- .Many reach their highest quality when young and immature (Sometimes determined by size; sometimes determined by color; sometimes determined by texture.)
- .Some vegetables should be fully mature.

Vegetables that have a longer shelf life for showing--

- .Should be firm and not break down.
- .Some lose quality quickly such as leafy greens and sweet corn.
- .Should not be overripe, shrivelled or wilted.
- .Care should be taken in handling specimens to avoid mechanical injury.

One final word:

- .No insects should be present on specimens.
- .Do not wrap specimens in transparent films to maintain quality.
- .No specimens should be exhibited in water.

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

"June 10, 1958 The final spring dinner meeting took place in the church parlors with much of the program devoted to the plans and details of the Fall Flower Show...Cortis Rice (talked) on "Selection of Show Flowers and What Judges Look For in a Prize Winner". Ed Peterson demonstrated the technique in flower arrangements and Show Committee chairmen Les Johnson and P. W. Young gave us inspired pep talks on how to make this our finest show. Dr. Leon Snyder closed the meeting with some timely warnings on the use of poisons in our gardens."

"June 14, 1958 On this Saturday afternoon Tony Koester and a number of the faithful workers in the club met in the Garden Club area of Lyndale Gardens and planted a large number of foliage plants--mainly coleus..."

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A shade tree or bush planted so as to keep your air conditioner out of direct sunlight will keep down your electric bill.

PREPARING VEGETABLES FOR EXHIBIT  
by Orrin C. Turnquist

Much has been written on how to do a better job of raising top quality garden produce but little on the selecting and exhibiting part of gardening. Exhibits must be educational to be worthwhile. They must show that better produce is the result of the use of good seed of adapted varieties. They must show what can be produced when improved cultural methods are used and when insects and diseases are controlled.

SNAP BEANS -- Wax and green beans should be harvested before the constrictions appear between the seeds, when the seeds are about half grown. The ends of the pods should be broken off in picking. The pods should be uniform in size, color and quality. The pods may be wiped clean but should not be washed. Avoid showing blemished or wilted specimens.

BEETS, CARROTS, PARSNIPS, TURNIPS, RUTABAGAS -- Root crops should be made but not over-grown, pithy or coarse in texture. Tops should be trimmed off 1-1½ inches above the crown. Side roots should be carefully trimmed off but not the tap root. Roots may be carefully washed but not scrubbed so that the outer skin is injured.

BROCCOLI -- Although the heads quickly wilt, it is sometimes brought in to exhibits. Heads should be dark or purplish green and compact. Avoid any yellow flowers in the head. Stems should be cut about 5 inches from the top of the head.

CABBAGE -- Select firm compact heads that are not soft or withered. Stems should be cut about ¼ inch below the head. Remove all blemished or broken leaves but care should be taken not to peel the heads too much. A few outside wrapper leaves are desirable. Specimens may be washed.

CAULIFLOWER -- Heads should be white, compact and free of small leaves and ricey texture. Stems should be cut so as to leave 4 to 6 leaves. These outer leaves should be trimmed to 1-2 inches above the white head. Use a soft bristled brush to remove dirt from the heads. The curds of the head turn brown quickly if damaged.

SWEET CORN -- Select ears that are well filled out to the tip. Kernels should be milky and juicy. Remove outer husks but allow a short shank and the inner husks to remain. Ears should be uniform in size and color. They should be fresh and green.

CUCUMBERS -- For pickling select fruits 3-5 inches long. All specimens should be at the same stage of maturity and uniform in size, shape and color. For slicers select fruits that are straight, dark green, and 6 to 10 inches long. They should be uniform in size, shape and color. Do not show over-ripe fruits that are usually dull in color.

EGGPLANT -- Fruits should be of uniform purple color and free from bronzing and greening. Stems should be left on the fruits. Specimens should be wiped clean but not washed. Avoid large or wilted fruits. Dark spots indicate bruises or decay.

ONIONS -- Have specimens mature and thoroughly cured. The neck should be small. Do not peel to give a slick appearance. Only outer scales that are broken or discolored should be removed. Small basal roots should

PEPPERS -- Select specimens uniform in size, shape and color. They should be free of disease or other defects. Stems should be left ½ to 1 inch long. Wipe clean but do not wash the fruits.

POTATOES -- Tubers should be uniform in size, shape and color. Washing is permitted but do not blemish the skin by scrubbing. Avoid specimens with defects or disease.

PUMPKINS -- Specimens should be mature and uniform in size, shape and color. Stems should be attached to the fruits. Wipe clean but do not wash.

RADISH -- The radish should be prepared by removing any discolored or injured leaves. The roots should be washed and tied in bunches of 12. They should be kept refrigerated until ready to exhibit. Only fresh, firm, crisp, good colored, smooth, and roots free of blemishes should be shown. Some of the common faults include spongy, wilted, or poorly colored roots. They should not be exhibited without the leaves.

SUMMER SQUASH -- Select small to medium size fruits when the rind is soft and easily punctured with thumbnail. Select specimens that are uniform in size, shape and color. Leave about ½ inch of stem and wipe fruits clean.

WINTER SQUASH -- Select mature specimens where the rind resists the pressure of the thumbnail. Fruits should be uniform in size, shape and color and free of defects. Leave stems attached to the fruits.

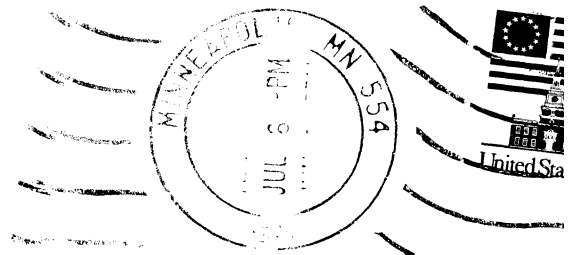
TOMATOES -- Select fruits that are uniform in size, shape and color. Remove stems. Fruits should be perfectly shaped and free of cracks or blemishes.

Return to  
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