

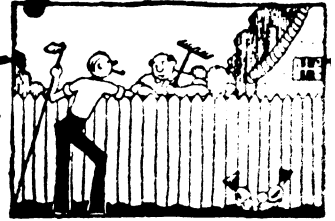


The Garden Spray

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

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

June 1975, Volume 33, Number 6



NEXT MEETING, Tuesday, June 10, THE LAST BEFORE SUMMER TOURS BEGIN.

MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH, 50th St. at Knox Ave. S.

Dinner at 5:45

Price \$2.50

FEATURING

DAVID BAILLY, speaking on the topic "GROWING GRAPES IN MINNESOTA".

When Horace Greeley exhorted, "Go West young man" he didn't mention grapes. If he had he'd likely have added, "but Minnesota's no place for grapes". Our June speaker is a man who can prove that Minnesota can produce grapes and good grapes, too.

Mr. Bailly, attorney and wine connoisseur, has a vineyard near Hastings where he grows not only grapes for table use but also excellent wine grapes. He has been instrumental in initiating two laws that clarify the position of research in grape growing and the sale of wine.

Mr. Bailly is a sixth generation direct descendant of Alexis Bailly, scion of a noted French family, son of a famous fur trader. Alexis Bailly, himself, was the agent in charge of the American Fur Company's post at Mendota from the early 1820's until 1834 when he was replaced by Henry Hastings Sibley.

PLANNED FOR SUMMER

Tuesday, July 8....Garden Tour.

Tuesday, August 12....Garden Tour and Ladies' Night.

Saturday and Sunday, August 16, 17....North Star Region Flower and Vegetable Show at the Arboretum....Sponsored by our MGCM.

The Mini Garden Tours, otherwise known as the informal Weekend Open Garden need volunteers. Please contact Jim Perrin indicating month or specific weekend preference. This program is a splendid opportunity to visit our members in the midst of their own creations. Please consider opening your garden for this purpose and also make an effort to avail yourself of the opportunity to visit the other gardens as they are announced in the **SPRAY.**

--Jim Perrin

Bring a friend to the next MGCM meeting.

Open up your garden for a Mini Tour

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Over the past few weeks there has been a beehive of activity at the Groger residence. Chet Groger, Dick Victor, Bud Christenson and Struan Complin were energetically planning and preparing for our annual plant auction. Their efforts resulted in a most enjoyable and profitable night for 84 club members and their guests at Pearl Park on May 13. Our thanks go to the committee members, our animated auctioneers and to all who contributed time or plants to the auction.

Winona is the host city for the Minnesota State Horticultural Society 1975 Convention June 13, 14, 15. Several of our club members and also various guest speakers we have enjoyed at our meetings will participate in the program. For a short vacation break try to attend all or part of the convention.

It's not too early, either, to think about attending the MGCA convention in Kansas City September 26-30. Talk to our club members who have attended past conventions and they will tell you it's a great experience.

Everywhere we hear talk of preparations for our country's bicentennial celebration. Gardening periodicals are encouraging bicentennial garden. This could be lots of fun for us on an individual basis. Consider some red, white, and blue flowers for your border or plant some patriotic plants for your patio. Please let me know if you do have a bicentennial garden.
--Bob Livingston

APRIL 1975 WEATHER SUMMARY

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

April 1975 was a very cool and very wet month. The average temperature of 38.9 degrees was 6.2 degrees below the normal. It was the 5th coolest April of record and the coolest April since 1961 when the average temperature was 37.0 degrees. The highest temperature was 60 on the 25th; the lowest 9 on the first.

This was the wettest April of record. Precipitation for the month was 5.40 inches, 3.36 inches above the normal. The previous wettest April, in 1896, had 5.12 inches of precipitation. There were two days of heavy rain....1.44 inches on the 17th and 2.22 inches on the 27th.

January thru April precipitation this year totals 10.68 inches, the wettest January thru April period of record. Snowfall for the season October thru April was 64.2 inches.

April had 2 clear, 2 partly cloudy and 26 cloudy days.

Gardening With Wild Flowers available by mail for \$1.50 from: The Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11225.

This classic handbook now revised, has articles written especially for the homeowner who wants to grow and preserve native plants. Covered are the best plants for particular regions, how to propagate them, cultural pointers, and wild-flower pests and ways to control them. One invaluable article lists mail-order sources for plants.

PLANT POTATOES CLOSER TOGETHER

by Bob Smith

Two questions, "How far apart should the plants be spaced in order to produce maximum yield and the highest percentage of uniform medium size potatoes averaging about six ounces each?" and "Should single or multiple eye seed be used?" prompted me to undertake a special potato experiment in 1974. I used Kennebec and Anoka, white varieties of excellent quality grown regularly in my garden and extensively throughout Minnesota. Kennebec is very vigorous and produces extra large tubers unless plants are closely spaced. Anoka produces very uniform tubers that do not get overly large even with wide spacing. The experiment didn't turn out exactly as planned because the unforeseen effect of shade and tree root competition (See the GARDEN SPRAY, December 1974, page 4) invalidated the Anoka test. I plan to continue the experiment in 1975 with Anoka potatoes grown under more favorable conditions and to observe the results from Kennebecs grown under the optimum conditions determined in this experiment.

The conditions for the Kennebec test were as follows:

1. Test plots were 90 inches long with two plots, one in each of two rows, for each plant-spacing and seed-type to average out the effect of soil differences.
2. Rows were 3 feet apart.
3. Plant spacings of 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13 inches were tested with single eye seed; 13 inches only with multiple eye seed.
4. The soil was prepared and fertilized by filling in an application manure the previous fall, applying colloidal phosphate and sulfama with an approximate analysis of 0-10-10 at planting time and three foliar feedings of liquid seaweed during the growing season.
5. The potato eyes were cut from certified seed potatoes and planted a depth of 4 inches on April 26. The crop was harvested on September 14.
6. The plants were hilled just prior to sprawling in mid-June and a 1 mulch applied to conserve moisture and prevent greening from exposure of surface developed potatoes to the light.
7. Leafhopper control was maintained by three releases of Ladybugs and one application of Rotenone and Pyrethrum spray.

RESULTS, YIELD and SIZE vs. PLANT SPACING, KENNEBEC POTATO TEST

Plant Spacing (Inches)	Yield (Tot. No.) Potatoes	Tot. Yield Potatoes (Pounds)	Avg. Wt. Per Potato (Ounces)	No. of #1 Potatoes	% of Tot. Yield
<u>-Single eye seed-</u>					
7	97	36.0	5.9	95	98%
8	61	26.0	6.8	52	85%
10	62	26.0	6.7	57	92%
11	60	28.0	7.5	50	83%
13	52	25.0	7.7	40	77%
<u>-multiple eye seed-</u>					
13	69	37.5	8.7	53	77%

Conclusions: With an extremely vigorous potato variety such as Kennebec close spacing is necessary to optimize total yield, size, uniformity and percentage of #1 potatoes. The suggested spacing of 8-10 inches is too great. Seven inches produced greater uniformity of size. With wider

-continued over

spacings there were corresponding increases in the number of oversize and irregular shaped potatoes. This was even more pronounced in the plots using multiple eye seed at 13 inch spacing. Closer spacing with multiple eyes was not tested. However, I don't believe multiple eyes will produce the uniformity of single eyes at close spacings. With wide close spacing there would probably be a tendency to produce a lot of undersize tubers.

With more uniform varieties like Anoka I would suspect that with close spacing total yield would be no greater than for wide spacing and that the potatoes would be undersize. At very wide spacing the total yield would probably drop. Optimum spacing would likely be 12 to 14 inches. I intend to find out for sure this year for Anoka is a variety of excellent texture and flavor with good disease resistance.

WHITE FLY ERADICANT

Every beautiful plant, it seems, has some drawback or some pests to its particular liking. In the case of fuchsias, it's white flies. Every piece of literature on fuchsias which I have read always mentions that white flies are a problem, but little is given about their control, other than trying malathion.

I have tried malathion repeatedly, and my experience is that it does not control white flies. The University recommended using Thiodan, or even better, Thiodan mixed with malathion. This seemed to discourage the white flies, but it certainly did not eliminate them.

Then the next recommendation of the University was Temik. However, upon checking the availability and method of application, it appeared that Temik was so dangerous to use that it would be better to have the white flies.

Last summer I discussed this problem with one of the employees of John's Wholesale Florists, in St. Paul. He told me of a new spray which they were carrying, about which they had received exceedingly glowing reports and repeat orders from commercial florists. This spray was simply called "White Fly Spray", a product of Patterson Chemical Co.

I applied the spray as directed, spraying once a week for four weeks, at a teaspoonful per gallon. It worked! After the first application, the white flies disappeared. However the directions emphasized that the spraying must be continued for four weeks, in order to get the flies in the egg and larva stage.

David Noetzel, the insect and disease specialist at the University Farm is familiar with this product. He says it is not at all dangerous to use although it has not been cleared for use on any food crops.

I have found only one drawback with this spray. It costs \$29.00 per pint but at the rate I have used it, I think one pint will last 10 years. --From an article on "Fuchsias and White Flies" by Stanley Crist in the April issue of the Minnetonka Men's Garden Club bulletin.

I AM A MEMBER OF THE F.F.A.
by Chet Groger

Yes, I'm a member of the Frustrated Farmers of America. Having been raised on a farm, I have known the planting, cultivating and harvesting of crops and of a large garden, partially under the watchful eyes of a 4-H club leader and the county agent.

Then came the uprooting of a war and the subsequent struggle to raise a family in a metropolitan area. During this time, there was little chance to pursue a latent desire to garden. Our first house in Minneapolis seemed to have its back yard built on a pile of ashes and nothing would grow. Our present home of 18 years is built into the side of a sandy hill and will never grow good vegetables. But flowers will grow where vegetables won't and this has become an outlet for my farmer instincts.

My wife and I have worked long and hard building rock wall planters and level land planters for every perennial we can find locally, as well as those we succumb to in the colorful seed catalogs. And, now that our children are gone from home, our reward is the chance to make flower gardening a full time hobby.

But the planter instinct doesn't stop with a perennial garden supplemented with annuals. Whether it is a raw peanut or coffee bean from a burlap sack, or a cutting from Florida, or a seed pod from an Arizona yucca, anything that might grow must be planted. This leads to a fluorescent light fixture and then to multiples until indoor gardening becomes as time-consuming as outdoor gardening.

I am fortunate in having a wife who also loves to garden. Both indoor and outdoor gardening becomes a common bond, perhaps helping to replace the children now gone. She has her iris and I have my delphiniums. She has her African violets and I have my gravel trays full of green plants and seedlings. With only a few years until retirement, it has become an essential part of our lives.

Now, the point of this whole story is this. There must be thousands of men in this country with interests similar to mine. There must be thousands of uprooted farmers who need only the chance to find an outlet for their inherent interest in agriculture. If only those of us in the garden clubs of America could find every one of these men and urge them to express themselves by gardening. Somehow, there must be a way.

MY WIFE SAID, "DON'T YOU DARE"

Lloyd Wernecke of the North Suburban MGC says, "Let the wash machine clean your cucumbers and carrots. Hose down the vegetables on the lawn before you bring them into the laundry room. Fill the wash machine with enough water to allow the vegetables to tumble during agitation. Use the delicate fabric cycle and wash the cucumbers for about 1 to 2 minutes. Rinse and spin off the excess water. Carrots can be washed longer if necessary because they generally have more body. Rinse and spin off excess water."

Charles Stahl of the Toledo, Ohio MGC goes him one better. "Washing cl..."

MGCM INSTRUMENTAL in GETTING ARBORETUM GOING
by Rene' Dufourd

This will appear to be somewhat personal but it is intended to help b
past history to newer members -- R.D.

I remember that in 1948 Archie Flack was chairman of the Trees and Sh
Committee (a new committee). In December of that year he brought his
report to my house and we went over it. One statement he made has co
true, "We ought to have an arboretum to develop the use of shrubs in
climate." Expressing that idea to Leon Snyder and others started the
Arboretum.

A man near Excelsior offered us a tract of land at a reasonable price
build an arboretum. P. W. Young and I would go every Monday afternoo
to the University Farm campus; meet Leon Snyder, members of the Horti
cultural Society and others; and talk over plans to raise the money t
buy the land.

I remember that many of our MGCM members took active part in this cam
paign and now we have the Arboretum. Our garden club can be proud of
its early efforts to reach that goal.

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

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
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