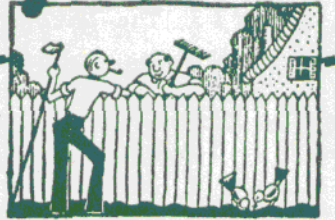




The Garden Spray

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



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

March 1971, Volume 29, Number 3.

Edwin C. Culbert, editor, 5315 Portland Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn. 55417.

Editorial Staff: Bill Hull, Art Johnson, Bob Smith, Phil Smith.

Club Officers: President - Dave Johnson Vice President - Roger Anderson
Secretary - John Lillibridge Treasurer - Cliff Brisco
Immediate Past President - Phil Smith
Directors - Carl Holst and Art Johnson
North Star Region Delegate - Dale Durst

NEXT MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS MEETING

Tuesday evening, March 9. 6 PM

PROGRAM

Two features again -

First, our own Les Johnson on "Growing Perennials from Seed."

This will be a short talk, but good, to the point, and packed full of information

Second, Albert Wittman, Assistant Superintendent for Planning, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Department on "The Eckbo Plan - Parks and Their Problems." Come early and see the regional charts and overlays which will be on display for your inspection before the meeting. Most of our time will be given to the Harriet, Calhoun, Isles area but you may want to ask questions about other areas shown.

You already know from the news on February 18 that Eckbo's initial proposals aren't being bought in their entirety by our park people any more than they are by the public. However, we are still only midway. The initial broadsides in the press with sketches showing roads closed, islands in Calhoun, bathing beaches on Isles served to arouse the public. For months groups of eight to two hundred have gathered to hear the whys and wherefores and to speak their piece. Cyclists, automobilists, sports fans, almost everyone and his dog have spoken up. But, have those who love the greensward, the flowers, the trees, the open vistas been adequately represented? Do we gardeners realize the competition we face from the road builders, for instance?

If You Care, You'll Be There!

HELP! HELP! HELP! OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT!

Since my report in the February Garden Spray:

1. The Northern States Power Company has contributed \$100 via Mr. Benkusky.
2. The Pillsbury Company has contributed \$100.
3. We have received a letter from the Beautify Minneapolis subcommittee (Mrs. Barbara Lee, chairwoman) of the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce stating that surplus moneys from their April 13 meeting will be sent to us to help on the project.
4. The Lions Club has scheduled my presentation for its April 7 meeting. (I have talked with Don Wright twice previously.)
5. Mrs. Parmeter of the Women's Club has promised consideration at the April meeting. (I met with the entire committee January 6.)
6. Mrs. Joseph Murphy of the League of Women Voters will consider the matter and call within 60 days.
7. I have talked to Don Peterson of Minnegasco and Gar Anderson of Northwestern Bell.
8. Efforts to contact the Minneapolis Foundation and the American Oil Company have so far been fruitless.
9. The Downtown Council, The Chamber of Commerce and The Junior Chamber of Commerce have all said, "No, too many items under consideration now." (Has some other member a way to work on these three organizations?)

I am soliciting a lift from everyone who can help raise funds. If you have suggestions let me have them.

- Art Johnson

NEW MEMBERS

Add the following names to your printed roster.

Berman, H. D.(Hy), 6537 Golden Valley Rd., Apt 201, Mpls., 55427 Phone 544-18

Johnson, William E., 5104 Windsor Ave., Mpls., 55436 Bus. 922-9012 Res. 925-

Livingston, Robert C., 6001 Tracy Ave., Mpls., 55436 Bus. 333-0246 Res. 929-

We are happy to welcome these three men to membership in M.G.C. Mpls. We are sure the association will prove to be of mutual benefit. Mr. Berman, sponsored by Na Siegel, is Consultant for The Judy Company. Mr. Johnson, sponsored by Harry Sov is golf course superintendent at the Edina Country Club. Mr. Livingston, sponsored by Dwight Stone, is Sales Supervisor for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance

Charles Wasley has moved to Florida. His address is now 101 Park Blvd., Venice, Fla., 33595. Correct your roster.

In Memoriam

CALVIN C. CALENDINE....1920-1971

We are sorry to report the death on January 28 of Calvin Calendine who joined the Men's Garden Club in 1965. Cal first became ill in April 1970 but recovered sufficiently to return to his work as an account manager for the Northwest Bell Telephone Co. He suffered a coronary on December 28 from which he did not recover. An Air Force veteran of World War II, he was buried in Ft. Snelling National Cemetery. We extend our sympathy to his 95 year old mother, his wife, Ruth, his two daughters and his son.

Thoughts from the Terraces
by Dave Johnson

A special welcome to our new members Hy Berman, Bill Johnson and Bob Livingston. Congratulations to Nate Siegel, Harry Sova and Dwight Stone for bringing them in. Take heed fellow members and keep those applications for membership coming.

It looks like Saturday, April 3, will be the first work day in our Community Garden. That is, if the weatherman cooperates and if plans stay on schedule. Bob Smith will be engineering the job and will be construction foreman on the site. Orders have been placed for 250 timbers 8'6" by 8" by 6" for constructing the sides of the raised beds. Be sure to reserve some time during the months of April and May as it will take the combined effort of the Club.

At least ten members have formed a special interest group on growing under lights and selection of annuals. Vern Carlson and Otto Nelson are co-chairmen and the first meeting will be at Otto Nelson's home Saturday, March 6, at 10 AM. If anyone else is interested, please call either chairman.

My fibrous begonia seeds had such great germination that I now have some 1500 plants of seven varieties. It's more than I can possibly propagate under lights as I also take cuttings from plants brought in the fall. If anyone wants some please let me know before I have to discard them.

MGCM may take off on another venture. A committee consisting of the present board, Bob Voigt and Chairman Dwight Stone met with park board personnel. This committee is to make recommendations to the Park Board that will improve the present park gardens, plans for future gardens and give consideration to long range park facilities pertinent to horticulture. Dr. Leon Snyder is also a member of the committee but is presently out of town.

Here is our proposed venture. It is to be a senior citizen flower garden at a major park facility such as Powderhorn, Pearl, Minnehaha or Longfellow Park. The Park Board will provide the plot, scarifying of soil, some fertilizer, all the plants, source of water, and garden tools if necessary. MGCM is to give the supervision and leadership.

This appears to be a most worthy project and one that could really blossom into a bloomer. It is the committee's recommendation that initially we start one, and at the most two, such projects. If all goes well with these projects, in future years the projects could be expanded to include a Senior Citizens Flower Garden in all major parks in the City.

If you agree we will proceed with plans to get the project under way.

THE GARDEN SPRAY of M.G.C. Mpls. Inc. Vol. 29, No. 3. March 1971.
Deadline for material the 22nd of Each Month.

BRING THAT ATTENDANCE UP

Well, 70 of you didn't write "M.G.C. Mpls., meeting" on your calendar so we didn't get 60 out to beat our usual 50 on February 9. We've got another gimmick.

Get your wife to make a date with your neighbor's wife to eat out someplace on garden club night. If he's an M.G.C. Mpls. member, too, so much the better. Then there'll be two fellows at garden club who prefer Ladies Aid cooking to Sloppy Joe's.

Ken Burger's, Marcie, came up with the idea several months ago and now she and Barbara Culbert start looking forward to their next foray before the last one is cold. Fellows, this deal is sure fire garden club attendance promotion. Our women folk get together even on garden club nights when Ken is out of town. Nothing stops them--not the kids' protests--not medical appointments--not weather not anything a tall!

AND ANOTHER THING,

Two of our honorary members, Archie Flack who is just home from the hospital, and Harold Kaufman whose health has kept him from meetings for 17 months would enjoy chatting with you. When you've been active in the business world and in daily contact with many people, things can get pretty quiet after retirement, especially if you can't get around. Each of these fellows is as near as your telephone.

LIKEWISE,

Did you remember to enter the 1971 Christmas party date on your calendar? It is December 7, the first Tuesday not the usual second. Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church ladies will again serve.

BACKWARDS, TURN BACKWARDS, OH TIME....

"BLACKBERRY AND WINE CORDIAL. -- We avail ourselves of the kindness of a friend to publish the following receipt for making cordial. It is recommended as a delightful beverage and an infallible specific for diarrhoea or ordinary disease of the bowels: --

"Receipt. -- To half a bushel of blackberries, well mashed, add a quarter of a pound of allspice, two ounces of cinnamon, two ounces of cloves; pulverize well, mix, and boil slowly until properly done; then strain or squeeze the juice through homespun or flannel, and add to each pint of the juice one pound of loaf sugar; boil again for some time, take it off, and, while cooking, add half a gill of best cognac brandy.

"Dose. -- For an adult, half a gill to a gill; for a child, a teaspoonful more, according to age."

CARE OF HOUSEPLANTS

by Cliff Brisco

Since your wives may be the experts in this field, I hope from what I am going to say, you can pick up one or two pointers to take home to them.

LET'S START WITH CULTURE. Since most plants obtain water, nutrients, and air from the soil, it is important to start with a proper soil mix. A rule of thumb is: 3 parts sterilized soil; 2 parts organic matter; 1 part sand, or perlite. Then add one cup of bonemeal, or superphosphate to a bushel of soil. Organic matter can be leaf mold, compost, peat or peat moss. Most foliage plants grow best in 50 percent organic matter, half of which should be peat moss.

If you use a good potting soil, no fertilizer should be needed for 3-4 months. In fact, your plant has probably suffered enough shock in the transplant, not to face up to being fertilized right now. Well established plants may need additional fertilizer every 5-6 weeks. The liquid form is easiest and safest to use. Dissolve a teaspoon of dry 5-10-5 in a quart of water. Let it stand overnight and stir thoroughly. NEVER USE FERTILIZER ON A DRY SOIL. Moisten the roots first.

Make sure the pot you use is clean and sterile. Containers can be plastic, glazed or clay pots. The last require more frequent watering. Some plants benefit from a little water daily; others twice a week. Your time schedule may differ, depending on heat, humidity, etc. Most gardeners touch the soil to know when to water. Don't let the plant wilt. Often, when you knock out a root ball from the pot, you will find the bottom soil dry. Submerging the plant in a kettle or pail of water for a few minutes may be indicated. But DON'T LET THE PLANT STAND WITH WET FEET. Poor growth may result from prolonged use of water which has been chemically softened. Repot, and use unsoftened, tap water. Our City water, with chlorine and fluoride, will not injure plants.

NOW, we'll talk about HUMIDITY. Most homes are dry, so mechanical humidifiers are popular. Mist or spray the foliage (perhaps in the bathtub) weekly. Or, set pots on a waterproof tray of sand, gravel or pebbles, but be sure no plant stands in water.

Like humans, plants need ventilation. In daylight, plants discharge oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide from the air. At night, the process is reversed, but the amount of carbon dioxide is so minute, it is not significant. Most plants will grow well in 65-75 degree daytime temperature. Night temperature can be 10 degree lower. KEEP PLANTS AWAY FROM hot air registers, open windows, sudden changes or drafts.

LIGHT CONDITIONS in the average home are poor. Plants growing in a sunny window can stand higher temperatures. Warm temperatures and poor light are a fatal combination. FLOWERING PLANTS usually require bright light, or sunlight most of the day. FOLIAGE plants need less light, but you should be able to read in that area most of the day.

When the top of the plant outgrows the pot, or the plant has to be watered oftener than once every 24 hours, repot. Remove the shoulder and any loose soil. Break up an old clay pot for shards, or use pebbles over the hole in the pot, and cover with some soil. Gently lower the plant into the pot, and firm the soil around the old root ball with your fingers.

Most house plants are propagated by cuttings of stems of terminals. Water only is satisfactory for some, like coleus, begonias, philodendron, impatiens. Cuttings may be rooted in clear sand, Jiffy Mix, vermiculite or peat moss. And right here. let's add a word of caution - DON'T USE JIFFY MIX OR ANY SOIL A SECOND TIME.

Room temperature for cuttings should not exceed 75 degrees. During rooting, keep cuttings out of direct sunlight.

TO INCREASE HUMIDITY, use some type of propagating case, such as a large glass jar, or a flat. Cover it with plastic with small holes punched for ventilation. Wire arches will keep the plastic from touching the cuttings. Be alert for excess moisture on plants or plastic.

Bottom heat is helpful, such as the top of a gas water heater or clothes dryer. Or line another flat with aluminum foil and insert a five watt bulb, and put this heated flat under the one containing your cuttings.

Shall we talk about some of the CURES for those PESTS, the sucking insects which draw out vital sap?

1. For APHIDS, use malathion premium grade. It's less smelly than agricultural grade. Spray with $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon to a gal. of water. Or, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon nicotine sulphate to a gal. of water plus 2 table-spoons soap flakes is also effective.
2. MEALYBUGS leave their calling cards under leaves in the form of cotton-like masses. Use malathion at higher dosage at 7-10 day intervals. Also good is a toothpick dipped in rubbing alcohol rubbed over the pests.
3. WHITE FLIES feed on the underside of leaves. Spray with 1 level tablespoon thiodon per gal. of water. Use liquid or wettable powder. Repeat 2 or 3 times at weekly intervals. Vern Carlson says he has good results with Phillips 66 fly or insect strips - most drug stores have them.
4. RED SPIDERS. One of the worse pests! 2 level tablespoons wettable 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Kelthane to one gal. of water. This formula will not control any other insect. Malathion at higher dosage is also recommended.
5. CYCLAMEN MITES are difficult to control because they feed in the heart of the plant, and curl the young leaves. They can be found on African violets, gloxinias, begonias, English ivy, and geraniums. Spray Kelthane into the hearts of plants, in the same solution as for Red Spiders.

WHEN YOU USE INSECTICIDES, FOLLOW DIRECTIONS to the letter. Wettable powders must be agitated thoroughly. The liquid forms are a little more likely to burn plants if sprayed too heavy. Personally, I prefer to dip the plant in a pail of insecticide for a few seconds. That way, I can select plants that are infected. None of the insecticides mentioned are expensive. All are available in Minneapolis at the better greenhouses. Aerosols (small bombs in cans) are convenient. Read the label carefully to make sure the product is intended for house plants.

AND LAST, the virus diseases. When the leaves turn yellow and wilt - burn the plant.

JUST ONE MORE THING - WHETHER OR NOT YOU CHOOSE TO TALK TO YOUR HOUSE PLANTS, don't overlook T L C
tender loving care.

You are cordially invited to attend
The 50th Wedding Anniversary of
Mr. & Mrs. William (Bill) Cowcill
To be held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Roy Kitson
4228 Chowen Ave. South
Saturday, March 20th, from 2 to 5 PM

ROANOKE IS PLANNING FOR YOUR VISIT - APRIL 26-29, 1971

The date for the 1971 Convention falls middle way of "Historic Garden Week in VIRGINIA" which starts the weekend before and lasts through the Saturday after the 1971 Convention. During this week Historic Homes & Gardens of Virginia which can't be seen at any other time are open to the public.

The Men's Garden Club of Roanoke is one of the few Men's Clubs that has developed and operates an AARS Accredited Public Rose Garden. Almon English, Charter President-Roanoke, and Chairman of the Garden Committee will proudly show you this local outstanding effort, and 2200 tulips blooming.

The Hotel Roanoke, the convention headquarters is itself a classic, and will feature a full-sized garden in one of the convention rooms. The garden will be the artistry of the good gardeners from the Virginias-Carolinas Region.

Paul C. Agee, general chairman, of the National Convention, and the 100 members of the Men's Garden Club of Roanoke, have bet everything down to their last dogwood that the 1971 Convention will be the most exciting and rewarding that any men gardeners (and ladies, too) ever attended.

The Pinkhams and the Culberts from M.G.C. Mpls., are already signed up to go. Who else plans to attend?

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

Congratulations, Bill and Mrs. Cowcill, from all of us and thanks for the invitation.

* * * *

It was good to see Ev. Haedecke out on February 9. Let's have him do his Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa Claus bit again this coming December.

* * * *

The L.A. area quake came on our February meeting date. Our on-the-scene observer, P. W. Young, telephoned to Les Johnson from the center of the quake area to say that though his son's swimming pool was cracked, they were unharmed. Good News!

* * * *

M.G.C.A. Executive Secretary Lyman Duncan writes: "Every dues-paying member of MGCA should be aware that his dues are deductible on his income tax report since MGCA is a nonprofit, educational organization."

* * * *

Who plans garden improvements this year? If your project amounts to anything at all contact Les Johnson or Phil Smith. You may be just the guy to win the Lehman Trophy.

* * * *

We had three guests at the January meeting and three guests at the February meetin reports our secretary, John Lillibridge. Good work! Keep it up fellows.

* * * *

What is your minimum list of garden tools? I use rake, long-handled shovel, large and small hoe, clippers and hand-pruning shears. Everything else stays in the

ANNUALS DISCUSSED BY BRUCE JOHNSTONE AT JANUARY'S MEETING

Ageratum: Summer Snow - F1 Hybrid, pure white, dwarf compact. Blooms early.

Celosia: Golden Triumph - Golden yellow plume, green foliage.

Dianthus: China Doll - A Double Dwarf Chinensis type. Pinks and shades of white, pink, red and carmen.

Geranium: Fleuriste Mixed F2 - For garden use. Similar to Carefree but one generation removed. Seed much less costly.

Carefree Hybrids - Seed expensive. Slow to get started and grow. More disease free, more adapted to outdoor use than the cutting propagated types.

Marigold: Aquarius - The best new double crested french type mixture. Large blooms for a medium dwarf plant. Beautiful color range. Very showy.

Apollo and Moonshot - F1 Hybrid Dwarf African types, Apollo gold and Moonshot light yellow. Dwarfier and earlier than the Jubilee series.

Jubilee Series - Hedge type F1 Hybrid Marigolds. Blooms appear above the foliage on bush type plants. Very floriferous.

Petunia: Chiffon Cascade - Grandiflora with a very pale pink fringed bloom.

Apollo - Pure white grandiflora with a dwarf compact plant early to bloom. One of the best new whites.

Morning Glory: Early Call Rose - Rose colored, large flowered. Extremely early to bloom. Excellent ground cover but not too good at climbing trellis.

Snapdragon: Bright Butterflies - Medium tall open faced color mixture F1 hybrid

Madame Butterfly - Azalea flowered double form of Bright Butterflies.

Sweet Pea: Royal Mixed - Floribunda type, long strong stems, multiple clusters quite heat resistant. The best climbing summer bloomer for this area.

Knee-Hi Mixed - A rather tall bush type sweet pea. Needs no trellising.

Vinca: Little Mixed - A beautiful heat tolerant Periwinkle. A blend of Coquett or Pinkie, Little Blanche, Little Bright Eye and Polka Dot.

Zinnia: Whirligig - Flat petals fully doubled with bizarre colorings, bicolorings and striations.

Fruit Bowl Mixed - F1 Hybrid mix of giant cactus flowered types.

Springtime - Open pollinated cactus flowered variety with good size bright pink blooms. Very floriferous.

Editor's Note: We have deleted Zinnia, Peter Pan Pink and Peter Pan Plum, Hibiscus, Southern Belle, Snapdragon, Little Darling and Hollyhock, Silver Puff because they were discussed in depth in Leon Snyder's GARDENING column in the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune of January 24 and in the HORTICULTURIST for February. Dianthus, Queen of Hearts discussed in the HORTICULTURIST is reported not avail because the seed crop failed.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT - Bringing your excess seeds to the next meeting? Someo

PHIL SMITH TELLS WHEN TO START ANNUALS

The seeding date for annuals started under lights depends on species, germination time, hardiness, growing temperature, and other growing conditions just as it does when you direct seed out of doors. Your experience with your own setup may well vary from that of others; but, typically, one can speed up growth by liquid feedings and plenty of water. No feeding and light watering will slow growth. Your objective is to have material ready to set out in 6 to 8 weeks so you must know whether your young plant is "tender" (won't stand any fro "half hardy" (will take light frost), or "hardy" (will take several degrees of frost. My seeding schedule is:

<u>Jan. 15-Feb. 1</u>	<u>Feb. 15</u>	<u>Mar. 1</u>	<u>Mar. 15</u>	<u>Apr. 1</u>
delphinium	carnation	ageratum	dwarf-	aster
fibrous-	dianthus	alyssum	marigold	celosia
begonia	feverfew	coleus	dwarf-	marigold
geranium	pansy	impatiens	zinnia	salvia
		petunia	stocks	zinnia
		phlox		
		snapdragon		
		verbena		

PLANS FOR SPRING AUCTION ALREADY UNDER WAY

Auction committee chairman, Dave Goddard, asked members attending the February meeting to fill out questionnaires designed to help the auction committee determine what would be in greatest demand and who would have material to donate. For the benefit of those who missed the meeting, we are supplying the form below. Why not fill it in and return it to D. W. Goddard, Rt. 3, Box 215, Elk River, Minn. 55330?

 I am interested in bidding at the M.G.C. Mpls. Spring Auction for the types of plants and materials checked below:

Dozen lots of

Snapdragons	Petunias	Mums	Border Plants	Tomato	Pepper	Cauliflower	Cabba

Other (please specify)

 Single Plants of

Iris	Roses	Cannas	Lilies	Dahlias	Daylilies	Mums	Perennials	Annua

Other (please specify)

Stakes	Labels	Ornaments	Bird Houses	Other (please specify)

I have available sources of plants and materials for OUR PLANT AUCTION AND WILL BE GLAD TO COOPERATE WITH THE COMMITTEE if and when needed.