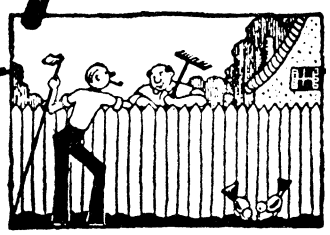
The Garden Spray

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

Member--Mens Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society

March 1973, Volume 31, Number 3



INSECTICIDES and PESTICIDES

Admittedly insects are pests. What to do about them? Squish them between your fingers like grandfather taught me to handle potato bugs? Learn to live with them? Peaceful (??) coexistence? Kill 'em off? How? Use chemicals? But at what risk to the ecology? Use their natural enemies? (Including grandfather?)

We don't know how MGCM member, Dr. Orrin Turnquist, professor and extension horticulturist at the U. of Minn. plans to deal with this topic but we do know you'll learn a lot from him

at the

MGCM MEETING 5:45 PM TUESDAY, MARCH 13, at MT. OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

GARDEN CLIPPINGS

We should all tip our garden hats to Henry Halvorson for his outstanding February program. Both speakers presented interesting and relevant information. Members asked many questions and there were many favorable comments.

As gardeners we are concerned with our environment. On the other side of the coin we are aware of the havoc that results when there is a power failure. One of the concerns of environmentalists has been that the warm water discharged from power plants is upsetting the ecology. Russell V. Stansfield had at least a partial solution. "Warm Water Uses for Horticulture" indicated that this warm water can be used to heat greenhouses, thus increasing food production and reducing pollution of our streams.

Richard Zelinka talked about growing vegetables hydroponically. His vegetables are uniformly large and very tasty (We had samples). Another big plus is that the growing season is ten or twelve months of the year. I wonder how it would work to grow crops hydroponically, and heat the greenhouse with warm water from the power plant's cooling system. The time may come!

As we think about ecology and the environment, we must realize that they are never static. It is true that man has done many things that have changed his environment, but many important factors are not man made. Earthquakes, floods, winds, mountains rising on land and sea are just a few of these natural happenings that change the ecology. Overproduction of animal life will change the environment. We read about species that are extinct or nearly so, but man alone is not responsible. What destroyed prehistoric animals? Even the most avid hunter has never gone dinosaur hunting and your neighbor's dinosaur does not tramp your flower border.

Come to the March meeting. Another good program is in store. And as you start your plants, put in a few seeds for our plant auction. And how about a few special plants for our fragrance garden? Just a few plants from each member would do a lot for the garden, and so many people enjoy it.

--Carl J. Holst

THE FEBRUARY MEETING

MGCM member Jim Mielke, General Superintendent of Research Northern States Power Co., and Russ Stansfield, the company's Administrator of Warm Water Utilization told us that: Only 35 to 40 percent of the fuel energy consumed in a large steam powered generating plant ends up as electricity. The rest is lost as heat. Water in a closed system is converted to steam in large boilers then piped to steam turbines driving electric generators. After it flows through the turbine the spent steam must be condensed and re-routed through the boiler again. The condenser requires a large volume of cooling water which is heated up only a few degrees by the waste heat of the condensed steam.

A team of research scientists from the University of Minnesota, headed by Dr. L. L. Boyd, Assistant Director, Agricultural Experiment Station, will work with NSP in demonstrating practical uses of warm water at NSP's Sherburne County plant under construction near Becker. (Approximately 450,000 gallons of warm water per minute will be circulated through towers at the plant.) An air-inflated plastic greenhouse will be constructed equipped with a system of heating and cooling which makes maximum use of the warm water. The system uses a combination of fans and evaporative cooling pads. Finned tube heaters are used to provide dry heat for humidity control. Warm water, circulated through the greenhouses, will have the heat removed from it and will be returned to the generating plant at the same temperature as the water from the cooling towers. It is planned to demonstrate growing of vegetable and floral crops in the controlled environment. If the demonstration is successful and proves to be economically feasible, NSP plans to lease land near the plant to potential warm water users.

IT'S BIG D IN '73

A full four-day convention of tours, workshops, seminars, demonstrations, exhibits, banquets, and concerts will delight all who attend the 1973 National Convention in Dallas, April 29-May 3rd. The registration fee, which was omitted in the January-February edition of The Gardener, is $55.00 per member and $55.00 for the spouse. This includes the tours, workshops, three lunches, and three banquets.

The post convention tour to Tyler is only $5.00 extra for the day-long visit to the big rose capitol.

Each club is entitled to two delegates and one additional delegate for each additional 25 members. So far only the Culberts and the Pinkhams are signed up. That isn't even enough to fill our delegate quota. Let's go fellows! Take it off your income tax. Registration forms may be found in your January-February copy of the GARDENER.

PRUNING ADVICE

We used to be told to prune our fruit trees in late winter but a more recent school of thought says--Don't overdo the winter pruning or you might stimulate a vast crop of water-sprouts on trunk and main limbs next summer. Do some pruning now, and more next summer. Winter pruning stimulates growth; summer pruning retards it.

Even so, winter is the best time to prune diseased branches off fruit trees, according to Herbert G. Johnson, U. of Minn. Extension plant pathologist. This is especially true if bacterial fireblight was present in the previous growing season.

Disinfect the pruning tool with a material such as liquid bleach diluted one to five parts with water.

Bring a gardener friend to the next meeting. Urge him to

STANDARD DWARF BEARDED IRIS

by Julius Wadekamper

In this second article of the iris series I would like to discuss the standard dwarf bearded iris. By definition these are the irises which grow from 10 to 15 inches tall The stems may be branched or un-branched and usually have two or more terminal buds. The flowers are from 3 to 4 inches wide. The erect leaves are shorter than or equal in height to the flower stalks. The SDB's begin their bloom season just as the miniature dwarf bearded iris are finishing, about May 15. In a normal year in Minnesota they bloom from May 15 to May 30.

The flower is important in selecting varieties of standard dwarf bearded iris. Lack of proportion and balance is more notorius in this class than in any other. Often the flower stalks are shorter than the foliage creating a very displeasing effect. Another fault with this class is oversized flower on small plants. This lack of scale is neither desirable nor a pleasing trait.

Recently some excellent plants in this class have been introduced to the public. Outstanding features of these new plants are their eye-catching colors, good substance and spectacular beards. With such a small plant wide falls are essential. Another good characteristic found in this class is the long season of bloom of some of the newer cultivars. WEE LAD, a wine colored SDB blooms for over three weeks.

Like the Miniature dwarf bearded iris the SDB's are not usually used as specimen plants in the landscape. They should be used in cluster or mass plantings. SDB's are especially suitable in raised areas and rock gardens where small clumps are very effective

The culture of SDB's is similar to that of the miniatures. The top of the rhizome should be almost level with the soil surface (slightly below). They do best if planted in July as do most iris here in Minnesota. They like a sunny location. Leaf spot may be the most serious problem. It can be controlled with Sevin. Benlate or benomyl is also said to be effective against leaf spot.

Some good selections for your garden according to color are:

PURPLE: Dark Spark, Royal Fairy, Cherry Garden, Silkie

BLUE: Sky Baby, Blue Denim

BROWN: Gingerbread Man, Elfin Antique

PINK: Lenna M, Pink Cushion

WHITE: Snow Elf, Little Lane, Cotton Blossom, Nylon Ruffles

TAN: Arrangement, Knotty Pine

CREAM: Just So, Scot Cream, Laced Lemonade

YELLOW: Baria, Golden Fair

ORANGE: Orange Caper

RED: Wee Lad, Ruby Contrast

For a special treat try to get WOW or KNOCK-OUT.

LILIES, PART 5 -- MORE ON PROPAGATING LILIES

by Les Johnson

Lilies may be increased by vegetative methods, by scaling, by stem bulblets and by bulbils which are formed in the axils of the leaves of some varieties.

#1 Scaling. Lily bulbs are made up of scales in concentric rings, each scale bein attached to the base of the bulb. Each of these scales can be made to produce new bulbs. From a healthy mature bulb remove a few scales by breaking them off from t base of the bulb with your thumb and finger. If you have dug the bulb from your g den replant it at once after removing the scales. Dust both the old bulb and the scales with a fungicide such as arasan or fermate. Then plant the scales heel dow in a flat or pot of moist (not wet) vermiculite or sphagnum moss leaving the top l of the scale exposed. Keep in a warm place and after a week or two you will find bulbs forming at the base of the scales. Many scales will form more than one new so leave them in the medium after you remove the first ones to appear. Take these tiny bulblets off as they form and place them in moist moss or vermiculite in a pl bag. Put them in your refrigerator for a few weeks. Then take them out and plant in a good growing medium and they will quickly send up green leaves. From then on handle them like any other seedling. Scales are the easiest way of reproducing a when an exact replica of the original plant is required.

#2 Aerial bulbils. These are small potential bulbs resembling peas that naturally on the above ground steam of certain lilies such as L. tigrinum and L. sargentiae hybrids of these. Bulbils should be gathered shortly before they drop, which will soon after the lily has finished blooming. They may be planted and treated like s Plant them about 2" deep either in the open or under lights in the house. The gre advantage of growing these bulbils is the rapidity with which they will grow into ering bulbs.

#3 Stem bulblets. Many lily varieties form small bulbs along the stem above the b The number of these is increased by deep planting or by hilling up around the stem These small bulbs can be harvested by digging down along-side the stem and careful removing them after the flowers die. These should then be replanted in your nurse plot to be grown on to flowering size.

#4 Bulb increase. Established bulbs increase by budding off new bulbs from the ol bulbs, some very slowly like L. candidum and others rapidly and in profusion such L. bulbiferum, L. croceum, L. pardilum, L. superbum, and others. Vigorously growi lilies should be dug at intervals of three to five years, divided and replanted. new bulbs will bloom in the next and following seasons according to their size.

Did you read "Raising Vegetables Is Fun" in the February FLOWER and GARDEN magazin The illustrated article by C. Hal Nelson, MGCA national president describes a juni gardening project sponsored by the Rockford Illinois MGC.

A feature article in the Sarasota (Fla.) Journal devotes 4 columns to the Sarasota MGC. Cortis N. Rice, Jr. is the central figure in the 3 column picture which acco panies it. The paper says Rice (a former president and very active member of MGC contributes a monthly column to his club's newsletter. Knowing Cortis we know ful well he does a lot more than that. He is a real spark plug!

Errors in Roster

Falconer Thomas address is 300 Edgewood Ave. N.

Robert J. Dassett's zip code is 55419

THE GARDEN SPRAY March 1973, Volume 31, Number 3

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC., MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: CARL J. HOLST
Vice President: HENRY HALVORSON
Secretary: ROBERT C. LIVINGSTON
Treasurer: JAMES E. PERRIN
Immediate Past President: ROGER J. ANDERSON
Directors: JOHN E. LILLIBRIDGE and DONALD WILSON

1973 COMMITTEES

TELEPHONE COMMITTEE - Purpose: To phone all the members of the club regarding meeting attendance or upon special occasions as authorized by the President.
Chrmn: EVALD JOHNSON.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Purpose: To make nominations for the club's officers and directors for the following year and to fill any vacancies during the current year.
Chrmn: NATE SIEGAL.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE - Purpose: To plan and arrange for programs for meetings and to determine or judge the desires of members concerning program topics.
Chrmn: HENRY HALVORSON.

MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL COMMITTEE - Purpose: To visit the gardens or homes of men who have applied for membership and determine his interest in gardening and desirability as a member prior to making a recommendation to the Board for membership approval.
Chrmn: SHERM PINKHAM.

GARDEN TOURS COMMITTEE - Purpose: To determine means for selecting the gardens to be toured during our summer meetings; to select and visit ahead of time the gardens to be toured; to make arrangements for bus transportation and other special requirements for our tour meetings.
Chrmn: BOB SMITH.

THE GARDEN SPRAY - Purpose: To publish the monthly bulletin of the club.
Editor: ED CULBERT.

CHRISTMAS PARTY COMMITTEE - Purpose: To plan and make all arrangements for the club's annual Christmas party, in consultation with the Board of the club.
Chrmn: CHARLES PROCTOR.

CHEER OR CONCERN COMMITTEE - Purpose: To keep in touch with members who are hospitalized or ill; to seek information from other club members concerning such members; and to inform the club concerning their progress.
Chrmn: BILL SWANSON.

PLANT AUCTION COMMITTEE - Purpose: To plan, promote and obtain plants for auction for fund raising for club projects.
Chrmn: DAVE JOHNSON

LEHMAN TROPHY COMMITTEE - Purpose: To determine any revisions in the rules for competition; to publicize and record entries for the award; to handle the actual judging; and to make the award.
MEMBERS: PHIL SMITH and MARLIN GILHAUSEN.

FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE - Purpose: To plan, supervise and make arrangements for the club's flower show activities for the year.

CIVIC BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS COMMITTEE - Purpose: To determine rules for competition for an award(s) to be given to business, industrial or civic organizations for landscaping projects of extraordinary merit; to organize the development and promotion of entries; and to publicize the entry procedures and awards to winners so as to gain publicity for the club as well as the entrants.
Chrmn: VIC LOWRIE.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE - Purpose: To develop and promote an atmosphere and opportunities for fellowship among all club members and at all club functions and to develop means for insuring that new members and old members become acquainted and are active in club activities.
Chrmn: DWIGHT STONE.
Name Tags - JOHN LILLIBRIDGE

NORTH STAR REGION DELEGATES - Purpose: To represent our club in regional activities or planning with other area clubs.
Delegates: (to be appointed)

1973 BUDGET

This budget recommended at the February meeting by Carl Holst was approved by the unanimous vote of all members present.

Income Anticipated	Amount
Dues	$1,845.00
Plant Auction	400.00
Interest on Saving	160.00
Miscellaneous	100.00
Carried Forward	
Convention Fund	200.00
Total	$2,705.00

* Any additional club projects will be financed as approved by club membership.

Expenditures Foreseen	Amount
Garden Spray	$ 535.00
Auction	75.00
Flower Show	50.00
Christmas Party	125.00
Arboretum	300.00
Minn. Hort. Soc. Dues	375.00
MGCA Dues	640.00
Project Fund	300.00
Industrial Award	50.00
Cheer	35.00
Miscellaneous	20.00
Transfer: 1967 Convention Fund to delegates 1973 MGCA Convention	200.00
	$2,705.00

PRESIDENT'S CITATION FOR SHARING GARDENING

A presidential citation will be given each member who shares his love of gardening by sponsoring a new member during the months of January, February, and March. The citation will reward those who are active in sponsoring new members and keeping the membership growing through sharing gardening know-how and fellowship.

The citation is signed by National MGCA President C. Hal Nelson and the local club president.

IN ADDITION: Any member who sponsors two or more new members during any calendar year becomes a member of the MGCA Spade Club and is entitled to wear the special Spade Club pin in recognition of his dedication to gardening. He will also be a guest at the Spade Club breakfast at the national convention. The first annual Spade Club Breakfast will be held at the Dallas convention in May.
