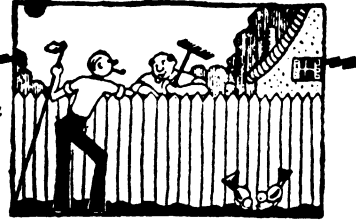




# The Garden Spray

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

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



March 1974, Volume 32, Number 3

NEXT MEETING, Tuesday, March 12, THE THIRD BIG ONE for 1974.

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

Dinner at 6:00

Price \$2.25

## FEATURING

JIM GILBERT, whose *nature's calendar* you read every month in the *HORTICULTURIST*.

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## OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Our club sadly bid farewell to our Honorary Member and Past President Harold Kaufmann. He will be remembered, however, for his contributions to the club over the years and for his beautifully designed and impeccably cared for garden.

We were all pleased to see Walter Menzel at the February meeting after his long illness. I can report that Walter Quist is recovering from his operation and back on his feet again hopefully soon to rejoin us.

The February meeting brought 64 of our members and their guests out on a magnificent evening to an interesting and rewarding meeting. Glenn Ray told us of his conception of the role of the Minnesota Hort. Society and of the innovations he and his wife plan for the *HORTICULTURIST*. Carl Holst had some beautiful slides on new varieties of roses. The new shrub roses combining the hardiness of the old fashioned rose with the beauty of the tea rose seem especially inviting to try. I dropped in on each of the discussion groups; Seeds and Cuttings, Vegetables, and Perennials. All were lively discussions and exchanges of ideas and experiences. I only wished, as many of you did, that I could have absorbed the content of each group.

Please note Phil Smith's information on the Lehman Trophy competition on page 8. The trophy is for the most improved garden. Improvement in color balance, maintenance, design, materials, lawn, shrubs, and trees all are weighed. Consider entering now as you make your gardening plans for the year.

A hearty "Welcome Aboard" to new members Wayne A. Hergott and Frederick A. Lang. Wayne is an attorney and lives at 44 W. Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis 55419 and is sponsored by Bob Smith. Fred is a teacher and lives at 4736 Coffey Lane, Minneapolis and is sponsored by James Fishbauer. Welcome to our fellowship.

The March meeting will feature the Carver County Naturalist, JIM GILBERT in "SIGNS OF SPRING", nominated for 17 Academy Awards.

--Jim Perrin

DON'T KILL THAT SPRINGTIME BUG, ENCOURAGE IT.

by Bill Hull

Testing carry-over seeds for germination; Let's assume there are a few varieties of plants you'd like to grow from seed from your own garden, or perhaps it is gift seed from a friend, or even commercial seed you've carried over for a year. Don't go to the trouble of using it until you've first tested it for germination. Perhaps you've seen the little germination squares professionals use, with holes for 100 seeds, which are placed in humidity, temperature controlled cabinets. You can do the same thing at home. For several years I've simply taken a paper napkin, distributed ten seeds over a portion of it, folded it, poured water over it, wrapped it flat like an envelope in Saran wrap, folded and dated it, then forgotten it for a couple of weeks or more. It can be held up to the light to determine whether germination is complete and can be opened and the percent germination determined. For me it's a simple, easy way to assure myself I'm not wasting time on worthless seeds. Of course you know that seeds from hybrid plants will not result in the same plant.

Anyone have a list of seeds needing stratification? Occasionally I have need of such a list and nowhere in my over 250 garden books can I ever find such a list. It would be worth distribution.

Getting itchy for spring? Aren't we all? But there are lots of things you can do these days to make spring and summer more pleasurable. First, get the garden tools in good shape. This is the time to be sure implements are sharp, rust removed, power tools are clean and you may want to make a note to get a new spark plug for mowers, etc. (The cheapest tuneup possible for any small motor is a new plug, as any motorcyclist will tell you.) This is the time to plan the garden, drawing out diagrams, arranging by color and height, as well as blooming dates.

This is the time to plan the fluorescent area. What will you grow under lights? When do you want to start them? Some of you will already have started some seeds and others will wait. A lot depends upon what you plan to grow, the time involved, whether you harden off in an outside area, or whether you prefer to move seedlings directly into the garden at a later date. I prefer the latter for many items for two reasons. It seems to be more efficient and I rather like to see a plant growing continuously and steadily without the possible setback of a shock occurring when you try to hold it back. But these are all variables.

How about a trellis? That could be made easily inside this time of the year. I've just made one from a ten foot redwood 2 x 4. All you do is to split most of it with a saw, spread the strips, reinforcing them at intervals and running a top piece across the spread ends. If you cut the 2 x 4 into six pieces, remove one of the strips to go across the top and as horizontal braces, you'll save the cost of another piece. Leave natural or paint if you prefer. Cost is about \$5.

How soon can I get to work on my lawn? Forget it. Certainly until it's not too wet. You surely don't want to pack it down by walking on it too early. But you can make plans. What fertilizers will you use? How much will you need to cover your square footage? Plan--and dream of green grass and warm sun.

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Charles King of the Sioux Valley MGC because of press of other duties resigned the North Star Region MGC presidency and as MGCA director. Carl Holst of MGCM was appointed chairman of a committee to present a slate of qualified candidates to fill the two positions. Other members were Gary Johnson of the North Suburban MGC and Past National President Bill Hull of MGCM.

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FLOWER SEED PRODUCTION  
by D. Bruce Johnstone

A good portion of our common garden flowers, most annuals and many perennials, are propagated by seeds. These flower seeds are produced by specialist growers in only a relatively few areas of the world. There are perhaps thirty major specialist flower seed growing and breeding firms located mostly in California, Colorado, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Holland, France, Italy, Denmark, England, Tanzania, and Japan.

Most of these areas of production have long, mild, equable growing seasons with a minimum of fall rainfall, and mild winters. Inexpensive and available field and greenhouse labor is important because most flower seed crops require more hand labor than farm or vegetable crops. With such a wide range of varieties and colors required and small postage requirements for many minor kinds, small plantings are common.

Even well-known open pollinated varieties must be rogued of off-types or off-colors, and the stock (mother) seed must constantly be selected and maintained or the variety will regress to its less desirable ancestral character. Many varieties and colors interpollinate freely so they must be isolated to prevent and minimize crossing.

Most color mixtures of any ordinary annual--cosmos, petunia, zinnia, etc., cannot be grown as a mixture because certain colors are dominant genetically or are more product in seed yield. So, to maintain a balanced, pleasing and complete color mixture, plantings are of separate colors, later formula blended.

Pansies, violas, gazanias "shatter" or ripen and shed their precious seed over an extended season so these flowers must be hand-picked over a long period. Many of these crop are grown on family farms in Holland, France and Italy where the farmwife and children keep the ripening seeds picked before they fall to the ground.

Some flowers such as the California Giant type petunias must be individually hand-brushed to pollinate and set seed. This work usually is done by women field workers in California, Japan, France, and Italy.

The increasingly popular and highly developed hybrid varieties of petunia, snapdragon, begonia and others are grown mostly in greenhouses. The male lines of parents furnish pollen which is collected by hand and kept under refrigeration. The female line or parent--usually in a different greenhouse or range--must be emasculated by hand (removal of the pollen bearing anthers). Later, the previously collected pollen from the male parent line is applied manually to each female flower. Seed pods from these female plants are collected, dried, cleaned, and tested all by hand in relatively small pound ages. Remember, of course, that petunias have about 285,000 seeds per ounce; snapdragons have 220,000 seeds per ounce, and the begonia has 2,000,000 seeds per ounce!

The beautiful new improved hybrids of zinnias and marigolds are grown mostly in the field, not in greenhouses. These seed production fields are planted in alternate rows a female parent which is sterile and called a "femina" (no anthers or live pollen and only a cobby looking flower) alternates with a row of a normal male parent having both female and fertile disc flowers whose pollen fertilizes the female rows to produce F<sub>1</sub> Hybrid seed. The female or femina line genetically has 50 percent normal flowers with anthers and pollen and these must be rogued out and removed before they shed any pollen.

Most of the more easily grown open pollinated varieties such as poppies, alyssum, salvia, etc. are cut by hand at the optimum time for best seed yield and germination; they are piled on huge canvas sheets to further mature and dry. Later they are threshed and cleaned.

Some flowers such as geranium and gazania have light fluffy seeds which are harvested by special suction devices to minimize seed loss from blowing away. Phlox and four

o'clock seed often ripen unevenly and the seeds fall to the ground between the rows. To minimize loss in this situation, these flowers are grown on clean sandy soil, or plastic strips are placed between the rows and harvesting is accomplished by gathering the seeds from the ground.

With 800 to 1000 kinds, varieties and colors of seed-produced flowers, different climates and soils are needed. Cool season kinds such as sweet peas, nasturtiums and poppies thrive best either near the coast or at high elevations. Warmth loving types such as balsam, zinnia, salvia, etc., must be grown in areas of higher temperatures--inland areas, lower latitudes or lower elevations.

California is of worldwide importance in flower seed production, partly because of his torical knowhow and qualified specialist breeders and growers; but also due to her mil dry climate and the variable microclimates from cool-coastal to warm-inland only a few miles apart.

THE FEBRUARY MEETING

Following a tribute to Harold Kaufmann by Carl Holst (see p. 5) Glenn Ray discussed plans for the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. The society, over 100 years old has a membership of 9500. It aims for 15,000 in 3 years. Most of the state's 350 garden clubs hold membership. These clubs generally have 15 to 20 members meet in the early afternoon and are predominately female. There is a crying need for more males.

He emphasized, "We are a garden state. We need to be politically horticultural....We should be working to see that senior citizens' high rises have places for gardening... We need to establish neighborhood garden clinics....to establish a heritage tree project." The society has only three paid positions so these programs must be volunteer staffed.

A long range objective for *The MINNESOTA HORTICULTURIST* under Mrs. Ray's editorship is to make it a strong regional publication which will have newsstand appeal.

Carl Holst showed slides of new roses for 1974 (see his report p. 5). He hoped the shrub roses would be the answer for those who find winter care of roses too arduous.

Phil Smith's discussion group on Perennials netted the club \$8.40. Dwight Stone auctio ed the dahlia tubers Jim Bezat brought to demonstrate his method of storage at 50° in plastic bags with breather holes.

1974 BUDGET: This budget recommended at the February meeting by Jim Perrin was approv by the unanimous vote of all members present.

<u>Income Anticipated</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expenditures Foreseen</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Dues . . . . .	\$1800.00	Garden Spray . . . . .	\$ 600.
Plant Auction . . . . .	600.00	Auction . . . . .	100.
Interest on Saving . . . . .	200.00	Flower Show . . . . .	100.
Miscellaneous . . . . .	150.00	Christmas Party . . . . .	150.
Carried Forward		Arboretum . . . . .	350.
Convention Fund . . . . .	493.08	Minn. Hort. Soc. Dues . . . . .	360.
Total	<u>\$3243.08</u>	MGCA Dues . . . . .	630.
		Project Fund . . . . .	150.
		Awards Program . . . . .	75.
		Remembrances . . . . .	60.
		Uncommitted: 1967 Conv. Fund . . . . .	293.
		1974 MGCA Conv. Delegates . . . . .	200.
		Tours & Dinner Shortages . . . . .	125.
		Miscellaneous . . . . .	50.
		TOTAL	<u>\$7247</u>

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

In Memoriam

HAROLD R. KAUFMANN 1883-1974

Harold Kaufmann was a man of many interests and he contributed to the accomplishment of many worthwhile projects. At his memorial service I listened to a review of some of the highlights of his busy and useful life. I wondered how he was able to accomplish so much. Suddenly I realized that he lived like he gardened. As a gardener he was knowledgeable, meticulous and ambitious. He knew what he wanted to accomplish and he was always looking for the best method. He was progressive. His garden was a model of perfection, but the work involved was not drudgery because he was enthusiastic. In gardening as in his other fields of interest he was a visionary and a leader. We of the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club will miss him and so will the community. His garden, as well as his other activities made others want to try a little harder.

As Harold's health began to fail he still planned his garden carefully to insure color harmony and points of interest. The planting was slower with more time out to rest, but his mind was keen and he enjoyed what he was doing. He knew each tree and shrub in his yard and they reminded him of the past. In the same way, he enjoyed keeping up with his gardening friends. He corresponded with an unbelievable number of them. His garden and his gardening friends were a real comfort during the evening of his busy lifetime.

NEW ROSES FOR 1974

There are two new types of roses being introduced this year, one from Jackson-Perk the other hybrids of Dr. Griffith Buck of Iowa State University.

Dr. Buck has been doing research on hardy roses for the American Rose Society and developed seven varieties of everblooming hardy shrub roses. These roses have single flowers with many of nearly hybrid form and are very floriferous. In Iowa they have been tested and have survived the winters with no winter protection and developed into good sized flowering shrubs. There is a need for everblooming hardy shrub roses in Minnesota and they certainly can complete our landscape design.

There will be six varieties of these shrub roses planted in the Minneapolis rose garden this summer and they will be labelled properly for the public to identify. It will be next year or the year after before it can be determined if they will survive winter without protection. However, we feel that the garden should be a place of experimentation and a place to test out the newer roses.

The varieties which will be planted and grown in the garden are: 1) Country Mus 2) Apple Jack; 3) Square Dancer; 4) Wandering Wind; 5) Music Maker; 6) Prairie P. These roses cannot be purchased locally but must be ordered from Tillotson Roses Watsonville, California.

The second group of roses has been hybridized by William Wariner of Jackson-Perk. They are a hybrid tea type rose that does not grow over two feet tall with hybrid size bloom on single stems. He has classed them as a Flora Tea. Whether this will be recognized by the American Rose Society or the British Rose Society remains to be seen, and how they will be judged is going to be determined by the judging committee of the American Rose Society. These Flora Teas are: 1) Sunfire, a bright yellow 2) Evening Star, a white rose; 3) Viva, a red rose.

The new 1974 All America Rose Selection winners are: 1) Perfume Delight, a large

## THE CHRYSANTHEMUM, PART II - CULTURE

by Dick Lehman

Garden Mums are among the easiest of all hardy plants to grow. They will tolerate most endless neglect, but will still give a good account of themselves. To have them at their best, give them rich, well prepared soil (by this we mean a soil that will grow Peonies and Iris well). A sunny location is absolutely essential. Do not let them suffer for want of moisture during the hot summer. Peat moss, leafmold or backyard manure worked into the soil is excellent and much to their liking. If your soil is poor, an application of a complete fertilizer, plus bone meal is very good.

PLANTING TIME Spring is by far the best planting season. The proper time is when spring garden work is still underway and the ice-freezing frosts are past. This is about the time the tulips and lilacs are in bloom. Young, vigorous, potted plants with a small ball of earth around the roots are far the best plants to buy and plant. Field grown clumps are seldom satisfactory unless divided down to single shoots. Evidently, a Mum is best divided to single shoots every year. These will give more vigorous plants and better bloom.

SUMMER CARE Good culture during the summer with regular loosening of the soil to maintain a constant supply of moisture, to aerate the ground and to keep the weeds from coming established, is all that is necessary to grow good Mums. An application of balanced fertilizer is beneficial, but not absolutely necessary. Roughly, about a handful of fertilizer, well watered into the soil around the plants, a month or so after planting is sufficient.

PINCHING To have sturdy, well branched Mums that will not blow over in storms, it is advisable to pinch the terminal shoots once or twice during the growing season. This operation consists of removing about one half inch of the growing tip of the plant when it is six to seven inches high. When these terminal branches are six to seven inches long, they should again be pinched, to induce more lateral branching. Discontinue pinching the early varieties by July 4th as the buds will be forming by then. A well pinched plant will not need staking or other support to stand erect.

SPRAYING Garden Chrysanthemums can be grown out in the garden without a spraying program summer long, but I would recommend several sprayings during the growing season to control troublesome insects and fungus diseases. Generally the chemicals recommended for Roses will do a good job on Mums. We have been very successful using Isotox, which contains Sevin, for chewing insects; Meta Systox R, with its systemic action for a wide range of insects and then Kelthane, a miticide, for red spider. We usually add Phosphor Benlate for mildew and leaf spots and other fungus diseases. Isotox and Benlate are compatible. A good thorough program is to spray every three weeks, from mid June to the blooming time.

WINTER CARE If the soil in your garden and growing area for Chrysanthemum is on the sandy and light side and is well drained, you should be able to successfully winter at least 75% of your garden Mums using leaves or straw covering for the winter. Overabundance, in the form of too much covering, is responsible for more winter killing than the amount of freezing cold. Usually there is a greater loss in a mild winter because the covering material smothers the crown of the plant thus causing decay. The ideal covering material is anything that will stay loose and dry thru the winter. Coverings that are compact and get soggy will rot the crowns.

If you have had trouble in the past, wintering Mums, then try this out in an experimental way. About Nov. 1st dig a few plants, retaining a good ball of soil around the roots. Stand the plants close together right on top of the ground in a somewhat protected place such as against the foundation of your house, working leaves or straw between and around the roots to a depth of 6 inches. In the spring, remove the covering, divide

## THE SPRAY IS READ; REACTIONS

Larry Corbett received the following letter recently from Bill Brooks our Apache Junction, Arizona member.

"I was interested in your article in the December Spray and particularly your reference to the finding of seeds in the Pyramids of Egypt. This reminded me that a neighbor of ours here is the widow of a once famous archeologist who specialized in excavating the tombs and pyramids in Egypt.

She spent several years there with her husband while King Tut's tomb was being explored, and she tells this following story about it.

A small quantity of wheat was found in the tomb and it was decided to put some of this wheat in small packets and send one to each of various wealthy benefactors whose contributions were essential in financing the undertaking. However, the amount of wheat found in the tomb was inadequate for the purpose. Someone had the bright idea of purchasing an additional supply of wheat at the nearest town. This was then taken into the tomb and packaged just as the original wheat had been, so that it could be truthfully said that all of it came from King Tut's tomb. These packages were then sent out to the various contributors as souvenirs, and were accompanied by requests for further contributions.

One of the recipients planted some of the wheat which had evidently come from the newly purchased supply. Naturally, this sprouted and the story was given out to the press by this individual that the wheat from King Tut's tomb was still viable even though it was several thousand years old. The scientists who had done the excavation had not expected this development, but evidently felt it would not serve any good purpose to reveal that they had perpetrated a sort of hoax on their benefactors, and the story went unchallenged, and is still being widely regarded as being factual."

Bill Bahrs, editor of *GREEN FINGERS*, the Toledo MGC bulletin reproduced page 7 of our January issue with this preface (in part):...The first national convention that we attended was in 1967 in Minneapolis and, naturally, we have some very fond memories of a well organized and staged convention program. This created in us a desire to attend these affairs and I haven't missed any since. Among the many fine people we met was Dick Lehman, the chrysanthemum grower, whose article we reproduce here as well as the editor's note and his comments in DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER."

Thanks, Bill Brooks and Bill Bahrs. We all appreciate your interest and commendation.

### MORE NEWS

John and Nancy Lillibridge put in hours of work getting out the fine new and much more readable Roster you received last month. And it came early! Thanks a million from all of us. Won't you take on the job permanently?

Lyman E. Duncan, MGCA Executive Secretary, conducted a workshop for officers and directors of all North Star Region MGCs at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Saturday, February 23. Arrangements were in charge of Rollen V. Maske of the Lake Minnetonka MGC.

### ROSTER CORRECTIONS

Anderson, France 7545 Park Ave. (Not 5745)  
Beeman, St. Clair 4342 1st Ave. So. (Not 4324)  
Jepson, Donald (Not Jepsen)  
Thomas, Falconer 300 Edgewood Ave. No. (Not 3900)  
Wick, Anthony 1125 Washburn Av. No. (Not So,)

### NEW MEMBERS (Clip and paste in Roste

Hergott, Wayne A. 825-0458  
44 W. Minnehaha Pkwy. 55419  
Lang, Frederick A. 722-307  
4736 Coffey Lane 55406

ENTRIES BEING ACCEPTED for LEHMAN TROPHY COMPETITION

One of the more popular competitions in past years has been the LEHMAN TROPHY award for greatest garden improvement. The trophy was donated several years ago by Dick of Faribault. The regulations for the competition were established by the original committee in consultation with Dick Lehman, and are designed so that any member with virtually any type of garden has a chance to win.

Even if you do not plan a major garden improvement this year, you can still enter garden since general garden improvement is only one of six categories in which points may be earned. If your garden scores high in the other areas this can outweigh a low score for "general improvement". Likewise, one can improve his garden in all areas not just in the "general improvement" category. For example, an improvement to the lawn will score additional points in that category.

The judging areas are as follows:

Landscape: Foundation planting and general garden design.

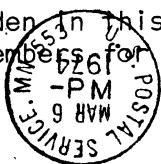
Selection: Trees, shrubs and plants suitable for area and in the proper location.

Lawn: Freedom from weeds, thickness and color, general condition, and maintenance.

Borders: Location, design, content, proper depth and relationship.

General Improvement: Addition of new garden features, new construction, new or made garden sections, and overall improvement.

To enter your garden in this competition you must, prior to May 1st contact one of three committee members for this year. They are Henry Halvorson, Phil Smith and Stone.



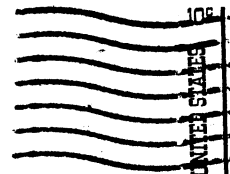
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Return to  
THE GARDEN SPRAY OF MGCIM INC.  
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