

THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA

William H. Hull
is an annual member & a member of
The M G C of Minneapolis



Ryman E. Duncan
Executive Secretary

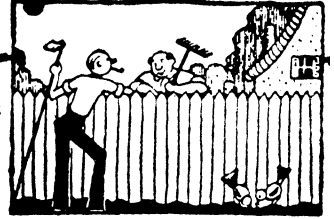
Ch. H. Groger
Club Treasurer

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Garden Spray

THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

• *Minnesota State Horticultural Society*



May 1974, Volume 32, Number 5

Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis
Annual Plant Auction
Tuesday, May 14, 1974

Place: Pearl Park Recreation Building
Portland Avenue and East Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis

Time: 5:00 p.m. Country Store
5:45 p.m. Dinner - Price \$3.00
6:30 p.m. Auction

Bring yourself, bring your friends, bring money to our annual plant auction to be held on our regular meeting night at the same fine location as last year (Pearl Park), courtesy of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Guaranteed to be an evening of fun, fellowship, and some good bargains. The auction will be preceded by a country store and the usual good fried chicken dinner catered by DeLaria's. Darwin Price, Bruce Johnstone and Bud Christenson and a host of other members are working hard to assure that this will be a fun evening. A raffle with some good prizes is also in the planning.

The Auction Committee had little opportunity to make announcements at our last meeting due to the terrific tour of the Bachman greenhouses. We need your help to help make your club auction a success. We will appreciate the donation of any excess plant material you may have in your gardens or which you have started from seed or cuttings. We will also need the help of members with station wagons for a few hours on Saturday May 11, 1974, to pick up plant material from our members and suppliers. Due to the paper shortage we do not have a guaranteed source of containers to use for packaging purchases for transportation to your homes. If it is possible for you to bring a container for this use, it will be appreciated.

If you have plant material or other items available for the auction, your committee (Darwin Price, 866-7760; Bruce Johnstone, 474-8509; and Bud Christenson, 861-1523 or 339-8821) will appreciate your advising us as soon as possible. We will make arrangements to pick it up on the Saturday or Sunday preceding the auction.

We are certain most of our members are aware that this is the only major fund raising activity your club has to off-set Club expenses not covered by dues. The funds raised from this auction are primarily used for the maintenance of the Fragrance Garden for the Blind, for our contribution to the Landscape Arboretum, and some club operational expenses.

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Old fashioned flowers are still popular. Many of these are just garden flowers and in some cases may be called weeds--Yarrow, Queen Anne's Lace, Black Eyed Susans, Dais

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Isn't it great to have the warm weather back with us? My son and I have been enjoying the lovely spring weather as we worked on a new pool for the back yard and an arched bridge to go over it. In looking over the yard for winter damage, the most serious appears to have been caused by the local rabbit population. I'll welcome your suggestions.

The April meeting at the Bachman growing area was a sellout - over 90 attended including my dad and two other members of the North Suburban M.G.C. Weren't we lucky the storm held off a day? We were all impressed with the facility there and appreciated the opportunity to see it. Many thanks to Lloyd and Henry for making it possible. The major labor saving devices were especially interesting but OH!! that heating bill!!

Bud Christenson, Bruce Johnstone, and Darwin Price have been working very hard preparing for the auction. Many of you have been asked to help and generously contributed your time and talents. This is financially the most important event of the year since we depend on this income to make our major contribution to the Arboretum and support of club expenses. Don Wilson tells me that anything paid over retail value is tax deductible so don't be afraid to bid it up and make a note of the items for use next year's tax time.

Carl Holst's nominating committee met to fill the board of directors vacancy left by the death of Norm Johnson. The committee nominated John Lillibridge and the board accepted and approved the nomination. John has served the club well in many capacities in the past and we appreciate his willingness to serve again.

A hearty WELCOME ABOARD to new members John Fowler, Richard Victor, and Mark Willey. Sponsors are respectively Charlie Proctor, Darwin Price, and Dwight Stone. Roster information is given elsewhere in this issue. How about those members who live nearby paying them a visit this summer? Chet Groger has a city map on which he has placed pins for each member. Check it out at the May meeting - you may find a member in your own neighborhood you weren't aware of.

There is still time to get your name on the Lehman Trophy competition list. See Phil Smith, Henry Halvorson, or Dwight Stone at the auction. They will have the list at the meeting for final entries.

The Flower Show Committee recommends that we try two shows this year. A spring show at the June meeting at Mount Olivet and a fall show September 7-8. The trophies will be silver wine goblets so you can try for a collection. At the spring show, a goblet will be awarded for Queen of Show and points will be awarded to be accumulated with the fall show for the annual trophies and more goblets. There will be no entry list for the spring show so bring anything worthy of consideration.

If any of you are interested in a tour of Minnetonka gardens and pools on June 21st, see me at the auction to sign a list for invitations. It may be a great source of ideas for those considering making changes or improvements.

See you at the auction. Don't forget to bring your extra green plants and greenback

--Jim Perrin

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Not a single issue of the **GARDENER** appeared in 1973 or in 1974 to date in which there was not a contribution by one or more MGCM members. That's wonderful! On the other hand, editor Hal Nelson has set out to have each region represented in each issue of the magazine and half the total membership of the North Star Region is enrolled in MGCM. Maybe the feather in our cap isn't so big after all.

NOTES FROM THE APPLE ORCHARD
by Bob Smith

My apple crop was excellent in 1973. Over forty bushels of top quality fruit were harvested from five standard size trees ranging in age from twelve to fifteen years. The trees have been carefully pruned over the years following the central leader system with strong well spaced crotches and an open tree for good ventilation and maximum exposure of fruit to the sunlight. The five trees included a Haralson, a Connell Red Fireside, a Beacon and two Orioles. The Beacon and the Orioles have been top worked with grafts of fourteen varieties many of which are Minnesota developed. I am presently grafting desired varieties on M9 and M26 dwarf rootstocks. These will eventually replace the standard size trees.

For fertilization, rock phosphate and granite dust have been applied every few years supply phosphorus and potash. A year around mulch of leaves and hay has been maintained. This year nitrogen was supplied by two foliar applications of fish emulsion early in June to all but the Connell Red. It was withheld from this tree to prevent excessive vegetative growth and immature fruit. Liquid seaweed was applied as a foliar spray throughout the season to provide trace minerals, mite protection, and other benefits. I believe it did improve the size and quality of the fruit. Supplemental watering was required only once--during the mid-summer dry spell.

With an organic culture, I am reluctant to spray with chemicals that will adversely affect my natural garden environment, leave toxic residues on the fruit or add persistent chemicals to the soil. My apple crop has been sacrificed some years to observe the effect of diseases and insects on the various varieties in order to determine which are the most resistant and, thus, to minimize spraying in future selective plantings. Without scab resistant varieties and a natural control for the maggot fly my only choice present if I wish clean fruit, particularly since there are uncared for apple trees in close proximity, is to spray.

I modified my spray program in 1973 to minimize the number of applications with the least toxic or disruptive materials needed to still get reasonably clean fruit. A dormant oil spray was applied in early spring followed by three applications of Pyrethrum, Rotenone, Ryania, and Polyram fungicide at petal fall and in June. This was followed by three applications of Imidan and Polyram in July and early August. The fish emulsion and liquid seaweed were included with these applications, all materials being compatible. Pyrethrum, Rotenone, and Ryania, all natural plant derivatives, provided adequate control of insects up to apple maggot time in July at a cost of \$7.00.

Imidan, an organic phosphate, and Polyram provided effective control of the maggot fly and cedar-apple rust, respectively, at a cost of \$15.00. I avoided Sevin, commonly used for maggot fly control, because of its adverse effect on bees and the natural environment even though it is considered relatively safe and quick to break down from a human standpoint. Imidan I felt was somewhat better in its effect on the natural environment. With this control program, protection against the apple maggot was complete and only minimal incidence of scab and of cedar-apple rust was observed. The total including dormant oil amounted to \$5.00 per tree for the season.

I used a four gallon high pressure back sprayer. Half of the spray was applied from the inside of the tree out to get complete coverage on the underside of the leaves. Care was exercised to protect against skin contact or inhalation when applying Imidan.

My ultimate goal through the use of resistant varieties, dwarf culture, natural controls, and ingenuity is to produce quality apples without the use of toxic chemicals. Luther Burbank stated in 1926, "It has long been my belief that a solution of the problem of protecting our fruit trees from both insect and fungus pests must eventually

be found in the development of immunity in the trees themselves, rather than in resort to such expedients as spraying and gassing." Scab resistant apple varieties being developed and I believe that effective control of the maggot fly and other apple problems can be achieved by further plant breeding and natural controls if necessary efforts are directed toward these goals rather than toward continued use of chemical sprays.

In conclusion, my program is not necessarily the program for you. You must analyze your own situation and determine if you have enough trees to warrant the effort necessary to obtain effective control, organic or chemical. If so, follow the University recommendations or tailor a program to fit your own gardening philosophy and needs.

COMPOST FOR YOUR GARDEN

The Hennepin County Board last fall approved renting space for a leaf recycling plant in Eden Prairie. The plant will handle about 45,000 cubic yards of leaves, which yields about 15,000 cubic yards of compost in the spring. As the leaves are accumulated in the fall, they are placed in windrows eight to ten feet high, on a base about ten feet. They are wet down as they are piled, and a solution of Compost (a concentrated composting compound containing natural bacteria, enzymes, fungi molds, etc.) is added to the pile at the rate of 25 gallons to each ton of leaves.

The composting pile will attain internal temperatures as high as 170 degrees but normally decompose at "operating" temperatures of 100 to 120 degrees. In the spring the pile is "turned" by being put through a shredder or dirt pulverizer and repiled. At this point it is ready for use.

The Hennepin County compost site, located in Eden Prairie just west of Bloomington is on County Road No. 1 just three quarters of a mile west of County Road 18. (County Road No. 1, at this point, is three and one-half miles south of Interstate 494 and County Road 18.)

This should be an excellent source of good professionally made compost. The compost is free of charge and available on a first come, first served basis. The center will be open seven days a week for compost pickup starting Saturday, April 13th (from 8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) Bring your own pitchfork, which is best for handling compost.

--Chet Green

THE APRIL MEETING AT BACHMAN'S

Such greenhouses! Concrete driveways through many of them. Tubular, 14 foot wide polyethylene roofing for many houses kept inflated by 1/4 HP motors. The 2 inch insulating air cushion cuts heat loss. The polyethylene reduces burning. Fire extinguishing devices like automatic fire extinguishers just above plants in some houses. Individual tiny cord-like tubes from main supply pipes to water and fertilize each plant. Long planks set on upended concrete building blocks instead of the traditional style benches. The obvious presence of perlite in potting and growing mixes.

Such flowers! Mums, mums, mums in every stage of development. Gloxinias seeded in September now budding. Cyclamen already started for Christmas 1974. 2000 callias and some of the 13,000 cinerarias which had all been in one house still left. Fuchsias, vining geraniums, lantanas and, yes, tomatoes in hanging baskets over ways.

Great pots of vigorously growing geraniums for cutting on three long benches. Don't infect your hands, then wash them with soap and water before you start to make

NO FLOWERS, PLEASE?

by Don Wilson

"No Flowers, Please," is the headline of a recent article in NEWSWEEK. It is important that we should not send flowers to burn victims, patients requiring dialysis (what that is) and those with surgical openings in their windpipes.

Two investigators at the Miami School of Medicine report in the British Journal that, "The water in flower vases is a breeding ground for no fewer than six species of bacteria that are a particular threat to debilitated patients", and that, "these particular bacteria are often resistant to antibiotics to boot."

They also say that "flowers wilt and acquire a bad odor in direct relation to the bacteria count in their water." They checked water samples from vases in the hospital. "We were amazed at the variety and count of bacteria we found," the epidemiologist said. Most of the bacteria come from "the soil around the flower stems," they ac

It is well to be cautious, but, gentlemen, let us tell you something: A vase of flowers in a hospital compared to the hundreds of other wet sources of infection as tracked in mud, mops, sinks, soap dishes, and bathrooms is a small thing, indeed. For centuries roses, carnations, gladioli, and other floral tributes have cheered and helped cure some medically "incurable" patients. Also those of us who have driven our nails into the "soil around the flower stems" have managed to survive.

Instead of such concern about the flowers that bring life to the drab walls, ceilings, beds, and corridors, how about some concern about other lethal visitors:

How about Cousin John, Uncle Jake, and Aunt Sally who come spraying their germs but "they love dear Cousin Pete"? How about Aunt Gertrude who can't organize her own room but insists on coming to the hospital and adjusting your shades, bed elevation, rearranging your furniture, changing your TV program and telling the nurses what to do? How about the friends who come in and, no matter how weak you feel and no matter what medication you have had, insist on staying way beyond their welcome? How about the wife or son who come bringing all the bad news?

A little lousy bunch of flowers in a vase?

One should be so lucky to die that way!

THE EDITOR COMMENTS: Don's article above so intrigued me that I asked my niece, Librarian at 3M, to run down the original article (Flower Vases in Hospitals as Reservoirs of Pathogens. Taplin, D., Mertz, P.M., Lancet, 1973, ii, p. 1279) as well as several preceding and follow up articles by others. I have photostats to show anyone who cares to wallow through a maze of technical terms.

It all started with a report on Pseudomonas on the Chrysanthemums, followed by one on Contaminated Flower Vases, then one headed No Evidence That Pseudomonas on Chrysanthemums Harms Patients but raising a question about potting soil.

This February the tables were really turned. (Protecting Chrysanthemums from Hospital Infection, Hughes, W. H., Lancet, 1974, i, p. 267). After citing his studies, bacteriologist Hughes concludes, "Experience does not suggest that hospital infection occurs in the wards where there are the most flowers. On the contrary, the women's ward private wards have more flowers and less infections than men's wards"....."Apparently the flowers are innocent victims of the ward environment and can be protected by changing the flower water" with 10 ml of 1% hypochlorite...each time it is changed."

But, I'm with you, Don. Let's ban all those visitors.

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

It's time to start thinking about the national convention to be held at Cortland, New York August 11, 12, 13. The Finger Lakes region is a great vacationland and the facilities at the college lend themselves to family groups. Most important MGCA conventions are packed full of gardening activity and information.

Every club is entitled to two delegates for the first 25 members plus one additional delegate for each 25 members above the original 25. On the basis of MGCM's 1973 membership, we could send six delegates. For delegates who itemize their deductions, a trip offers a tax break, too. Think it over.

ADDITIONS TO MEMBERSHIP LIST (Clip and Paste in Roster)

	<u>Res. Tel.</u>	<u>Bus. Tel.</u>
Brandt, Frederick W. Rockford, Mn. 55373	477-5480	545-3761
Fowler, John S. 4126 York Ave. So., 55410	920-8120	835-4575
Victor, Richard G. 7426 Bryant Ave. So., 55423	861-6637	348-2553
Willey, Mark E. 7115 Upper 139th St. Apple Valley, Mn. 55124	432-3873	330-5599

- 6 -

Return to
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