

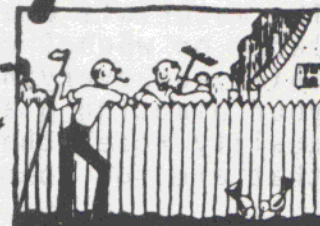


The Garden Spray

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

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

MAY 1977, Volume 35, Number 5



EXTRA!!

EXTRA!

WE WANT YOU

EXTRA! EXTRA!

YE OLDE COUNTRY STORE & AUCTION

EVENT - 1977 Annual Plant Auction - Tuesday, May 10, 1977

PLACE - Linden Hills Park Recreation Building 43rd & Xerxes S.

COUNTRY STORE - Opens at 5:15 - a chance to get plants from members' gardens.

MENU - Delicious chicken served from DeLaria's - 6 PM - \$3.50

GUESTS - Bring your friends for good fellowship and a great evening for prospective members. Get your reservations in early.

AUCTION - Starts at 6:45 sharp. Great plant material - "All Americans" and other good varieties. Your favorite "professional" auctioneers will be taking your bids, but beware! - he who hesitates is lost - and you will be watching the plants go home with someone else.

BONSAI - from Kevin Oshima. Items will be well marked showing variety and age. Bring your Bonsai friend, as these items are really choice.

LUCKY BUCKS - Get them early - 6 bucks for \$5.00 if purchased before 6 PM.

PLANTS - Remember the club needs any plants you can bring. If you can't get them there, please call me or any committee member listed in our new directory.

PRIZES GALORE - Our thanks to the many donors.

Dave Johnson, chairman
522-0132

LUCKY BUCKS!

you'll find everything you need

LUCKY YOU!

MEETINGS and MEETING DATES

We have finally arrived at the planting season. Our long winter dreams and plans for our 1977 outdoor display can now be turned into reality. If you're like me, you'll wait to determine what your annual borders and seedling plantings will be, and make those decisions at our May 10 auction. The materials available that night are far better than I am able to find later on when I compete with the plant-hungry crowds in local garden stores. This year everything's going to be out to preview, so come early and make your planting plans right on the spot. I'm looking forward to the top quality roses that I hear will be available as will some specialty items that are not found on the local market.

Please make our MMGC plans for the summer a part of your own plans. Our first tour will be on Sunday, July 17. It will include not only the top quality gardens of our members, but also some famous Twin City gardens like Ted LeBoutillier's famous garden of 750 roses. The August tour on Sunday, August 14, will be a bus trip to Northfield and Faribault to see such things as the well-known Carlton Arboretum, the St. Olaf College landscape, Roger Koopman's and Dick Lehman's outstanding gardens in Faribault, and also the famous Brand's Nursery and Lehman's Chrysanthemum Gardens. This extravaganza will be topped off with dinner at the renowned Lavender Inn just outside of Faribault.

Walt Schmidt and Darwin Price have already started the plans for the big annual show. The dates will be Saturday and Sunday, September 10 and 11. Our regular meeting will be at 1 p.m. at the Arboretum that same Saturday, so everyone will be able to become a real exhibitor and not just an outsider looking in. Garden show time can be a highlight of the year for each member if he will become a part of the event by contributing. One flower or one vegetable, no matter how small, will get you started. Try it! You'll like it!

I haven't had a chance to congratulate the club workers who contributed that fine fifth district meeting and workshop at Normandale Junior College. Dwight, Nate and all the rest did a fine job in a first time adventure. Special thanks must go to Glenn Ray and his terrific staff for the work and guidance that was necessary for a first-time success. Glenn and Jerry Shannon spent all of Friday setting up and hauling for the many workshops. How lucky we always seem to be when duty calls our MMGC to action! Thank everyone, for a job well done!

Our board meetings normally are held the Tuesday following the general meeting. We welcome your input and suggestions for planning the year to come. Phone me ahead and we will put out another coffee cup so that you may join the circle. Remember, it's not as hard to make plans as it is to help with the work that it takes to follow through to a successful conclusion. I mention this because in the next few summer months many of our own members will be working hard and giving of their time without pay. They look forward to seeing their plans for the auction, the tours and the garden show become successes. To thank each of them for their many hours of service and labor it is each member's duty to become a part of our club program. As always in the past our club is a good club because we all take part willingly and cheerfully.

--Fred Glasoe

STOP EYEING THAT EXTRA PIECE OF PIE!!! It'll raise your blood pressure and cholesterol level or make you fat. Worse yet, if you take it it will cost the club the price of a full meal. Delaxia's charge us for meals.

THE GARDEN SPRAY - Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
May 1977, Volume 35, Number 5
Deadline: the 15th OF EACH MONTH

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MGCM PRESIDENTS: GRANT R. CHRISTENSON, 1968

Born and raised overlooking Minnehaha Creek at Nicollet Avenue, schooled at Washburn High and the University of Minnesota, Bud Christenson is a home grown product. He started out to be a chemical engineer, but after service in a Marine aircraft wing during the Korean War, Bud resumed his education at the University and graduated with a degree in business administration.



After working his way up with two mortgage banking companies in Minneapolis, Bud joined the First National Bank in 1974 as Assistant Vice President, Real Estate Department, specializing in income property management. While with the first mortgage company, Bob Adams, a fellow employee, sponsored Bud as a new member of the MGCM in 1960.

The Christensons had bought their first home in 1954 and the landscaping consisted of one tree. They started a flower garden and, with encouragement from the Garden Club, kept enlarging it. Bud's total experience with gardening as a youth consisted of weeding the family garden, a job which he didn't enjoy. But, starting seeds under lights and planning a flower garden was a different matter and an enjoyable one. After growing flowers in a sun-filled yard, Bud had a new challenge when they bought their second home in almost complete shade. He is limited now to mostly shade plants.

Bud has been an extremely active club member. His attendance was perfect for the first nine years, until traveling interfered. He served as Secretary for 3 years, as Vice President for 2 years and as President in 1968 the year when joint flower shows were begun with the Richfield Garden Club. He was deeply involved in the 1967 National Convention in Minneapolis, serving as convention secretary and as chairman of the convention industrial tour. He has served as chairman and committee member of many flower shows, May plant auctions, summer garden tours, Industrial Award committee and the old time April shrub auctions. Bud has been chairman of the Christmas Party committee and a member of the committee twice.

The Lehman Trophy has been awarded to Bud and he received the Bronze Medal in 1973, both in recognition of a hard working and deserving member. Bud's hobbies include hunting, fishing, camping and cooking. But, during a busy career, some hobbies have to wait. Not so with gardening. The friendships found in the Garden Club and the new gardening information available each year make gardening Bud's No. 1 hobby.

--Chet Groger

FOR LAST MINUTE CHANGES IN RESERVATIONS. If you can't get Fred Glasoe call Jack Peterson.

NEW MEMBER

Thomas Hamilton Home Phone 474-4794 Bus. Phone 372-8623
224 Chanview, Chanhassen, Mn. 55317

THE APRIL MEETING IN REVIEW

The April meeting was full to overflowing in more ways than one. 87 members and guests ate and we had a full program starting with a birthday celebration in honor of MGCM's 35th anniversary. A fancy layer cake large as a millstone and festively iced in white and pink was wheeled in for charter members Henry Bachman and Walter Menzel to cut while Les Johnson reminisced about early days and members.

Howard Klier followed with a splendid color film on peat moss--how formed--where found--how cut and packaged, etc. We learned that the Michigan Peat Company now gets its peat moss from northern Minnesota's bogs. We are no longer dependent upon Canada.

Northrup King's Kermit Henrikson discussed newer trends in flower plant breeding...begonias, larger flowers on dwarfier plants (But the lateral break won't come if plants are set too close together)...coleus, narrow leaves, half bushy habit adapted for hanging baskets...dianthus, for best results start in Jiffy 7's...geraniums, dwarfier and earlier...impatiens, all sizes of flowers on all sizes of plants (The impatiens is rivaling the petunia in popularity)...marigolds, in crested varieties...pansies, that will bloom under hot, dry conditions...verbenas, upright instead of sprawling and with improved germination rates.

For good measure he threw in these comments: That new Melody hybrid spinach bolts easily so plant it early...Cabbage flies and the resultant worms bother both flowering cabbage and flowering kale equally but the worm holes aren't so conspicuous on the kale.

Dr. Leon Snyder's advice on vegetables was...The segmented type of beet seed looks promising...Brussels sprouts make good eating after frost...Buy yellows resistant cabbage seed...Try the disease resistant cucumbers...Butter Crunch and Slobolt lettuce are resistant to summer heat...Wanda is still the best pea. It is heat resistant, too...Try Frosty for extra early peas...Summers in this area are too warm for rutabagas...Avoid Russet potatoes unless you have a sandy soil...It gets too hot here too soon for spinach...He likes Butternut winter squash best...Yellow Baby watermelon is surprisingly good but Stokes Sweet does best in the Snyder garden...Try the new but stick with what has worked for you.

The meeting concluded with Jim Mielke's slides showing his equipment and methods for starting seeds and Bob Smith's slides on his hot beds and coldframes. Both sets of slides with an accompanying narration should be circulated by the national.

CLASS ON BONSAI

A number of MGCM members have indicated an interest in bonsai and have organized a class. If you want to get in it, too, here are the particulars:

- ...Classes will begin Wednesday night May 25, 1977, at 4829 Xerxes Avenue South, Minneapolis.
- ...Classes will run for two hours (6 pm to 8 pm) and will continue for eight weeks.
- ...The cost for the eight week session will be \$20.00.
- ...Each member will provide his own materials--These items are not included in the \$20.00 charge.
- ...Registration by May 20 is necessary since it takes 10 to 14 days to get materials delivered.

TO STAKE OR NOT TO STAKE TOMATOES

by Bob Smith

To stake or not to stake tomatoes is a question that is often asked. For two years I have been ^{working} in my garden specifically for an answer to this question. Big Boy is the variety I have used to experiment with. Six plants were staked and six plants were grown in cages. The staked plants were pruned to four stalks with all other suckers removed and were tied as they grew to eight foot 2" x 2" stakes. The caged plants were contained in two foot diameter by five foot high concrete reinforcement mesh cages. The same cultural practices were followed for each group. They were planted from seed on March 22; transplanted into rich organic soil on May 26; six inch leaf mulch applied in mid-June; and, supplemental water supplied weekly when no rainfall occurred.

The following results were recorded in 1976. The 1975 records although incomplete because of a vacation, nevertheless, were sufficient to confirm the 1976 findings.

	<u>Staked</u>	<u>Caged</u>
Number of plants	6	6
Date of first harvest	8/1/76	8/1/76
Total yield	139.1 lbs.	133.25 lbs
Total number of tomatoes	251	321
Average yield per plant	23.25 lbs.	22.25 lbs
Average weight per tomato	8.6 oz.	6.6 oz.
Date of last harvest (killing frost 10/6)	10/ 5/76	10/ 5/76

I was very surprised to see that the yields were approximately the same for both systems. I have always heard and thought that staking reduced production. This would probably be true if staked plants were pruned to only one or two stalks per plant. The first harvest occurred on the same day, August 1, for both. The yield was heavier during the early part of the season for the staked plants but by September 1 the caged plants caught up and then exceeded the yield of the staked plants until September 23 when the yield again reversed itself. This could have been due to the heavier foliage shading of the caged plants. If they had been left to sprawl with more direct sunlight reaching the fruit they might have started bearing earlier with heavier yields.

The average size of fruit was two ounces less from the caged plants. 6.6 ounces is quite small for Big Boy tomatoes. However, there was greater uniformity of size, less cracking and fewer defects from the caged plants. The smaller size is usually better for marketing. The eating quality was the same under both systems.

I, personally, still prefer to stake and prune four stalks although staking is a little more work than growing in cages. Each of these systems of growing tomatoes has certain advantages in terms of amount of work, size of fruit, etc., but total production and eating quality are about the same and both keep the fruit well off the ground and out of slugs if they are a problem.

My next experiment will be to see how staking and pruning to one, two and three stalks compares with the four stalk system and how allowing plants to sprawl with no support at all compares with growing in cages. If optimum spacing of plants is followed for all systems I would suspect that most upright systems would yield about the same per unit of space.

This experiment and these observations would apply only to varieties with indeterminate growth habits. Determinant growth varieties (Those that top themselves and require sucker growth for maximum production) do not do well under the staking and pruning method. They are best grown in cages, allowed to sprawl, or tied to a number of stakes to keep the fruit off of the ground with no pruning. Their production is often more concentrated than is the case with the indeterminate varieties but I don't believe that total yield or quality with these varieties is as good as for Big Boy--at least not for the many varieties I have grown.

FOR LOVERS ONLY

Hey fellas! In case you haven't noticed, Mother's Day is just around the corner. Not only does your Garden Club have the solution to your gift problem, but it also allows you to kill two birds with one stone. A new cookbook entitled "Jams, Jellies, and Desserts from Vegetables" would be a welcome addition to any woman's bookshelf. The added benefit is she will be able to better utilize all those vegetables you are going to grow this summer. There's a little something for everyone. For the with an adventuresome palate, there's Bubbly Beet Jelly, for the sweet tooth, how about Too Good To Be Candy, Candy, and for those with a cast iron stomach, there's Smokin' Hot Jelly. You say you're on a diet? How about Sugarless Car-Nut Cake?

The best part is all of this is available to you for the very modest price of \$3.95. Books may be purchased at the May Auction or by sending \$3.95 to Bob Gage. A limited number of copies are available for delivery by Mother's Day so don't wait too long.

We were sorry to learn at the April meeting that Al Nelson was hospitalized. He hadn't had to see a doctor since his discharge from the army following World War I.

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
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