



# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



Next meeting:

November 10, Tuesday, 6 P.M.  
Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church



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November Meeting

November 10, 6 PM, Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Dinner at \$2.

Program

Dr. Horace Scott - Lecture and pictures on Birds of Minnesota

Merv Eisel will talk on "Terrariums"

BRING YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY SLIDES TO PHIL SMITH

OVER THE GARDEN GATE...by Bill Hull

Each new president of a MGC will receive a "President's Program Packet" in December, from national headquarters. If the new prexy's name is not on file, the retiring president will be asked to pass it on. It will provide program suggestions and an outline of all MGCA programs and projects.

Paul Burt made an excellent talk to the Minnetonka Men's Garden Club.

Allan Johnson, of the Minnetonka club, has suffered a stroke. At last report he was at Deaconess hospital. Many of our members know Allan.

The Minnesota Hort. Society tells us the Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*), a native, should be severely pruned each spring to provide numerous new stems which winter color better than the older stems.

Frank Leech, Syracuse MGC, poet laureate emeritus, MGCA, says:

When you get to heaven,  
You will likely view  
Many folks whose presence there  
Will be a shock to you.  
But keep very quiet,  
Do not even stare.  
Doubtless, there'll be many folks  
Surprised to see you there.

Cover Photo

Aquarius, a grandiflora rose, which won an All-America Award for 1971. The color pattern of the open flowers is unique among grandifloras. Shapely deep pink buds and medium-sized, mildly fragrant open blooms are borne in great quantities, both on single stems, and in clusters on a tall, vigorous plant. Parentage: (Charlotte Armstrong x Contrast) x (Fandango x World's Fair x Floradora). Editor Bill Hull has it and likes it. A beauty. By Armstrong.

GET YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY SLIDES TO PHIL SMITH. RIGHT AWAY, PLEASE.



BUGS FOR "THE GARDEN SPRAY"....by Phil Smith

At the October meeting of the Board, Ed Culbert was appointed as the new Editor for our monthly publication, beginning with January. After several years of yeoman service, Bill Hull decided to step aside. Bill made a similar decision about a year ago, but we talked him out of it. He now feels that he must be relieved of the job which he has held for many years. Thanks for the good work, Bill, and welcome to your new job, Ed.

The position of editor for our club bulletin represents one of the biggest jobs on our club. Considerable effort and thought are required to put out a high quality publication year after year. As most members probably know, Ed Culbert is a retired school principal and has been assistant editor for a year or so. Sounds like a good background for the job, doesn't it? Let's start Ed off by giving him lots of information, good gardening articles and other help in putting out "The Garden Spray."

We are living in our new home, although there are still a few things left to move. Would you believe that we are still the lucky owners of two houses? That's right! The buyer of our old home was transferred out of town about two weeks after we sold the house, so we had to put the house back on the market. We don't look forward to payments, taxes, utility bills and maintenance on two houses this winter, let alone the job of raking leaves at two locations.

I have moved divisions of most of my perennials to a patch at the rear of our new property. In fact, I have moved over 140 plants, plus lily bulbs. Many people ask how I can leave a garden that I have put so much into over the past nine years. Actually, I am anticipating developing a new landscape and gardens. I have a few ideas already but will probably give the design considerable thought over the winter. One thing for sure, I will need lots of compost or manure since my soil is entirely clay. I decided to start a compost heap already.

Carl Holst has announced that the Park Board fall mum show will begin on November and continue through Thanksgiving. This is always a beautiful and well staged show. Hopefully, most of us will try to attend this annual event.

If the September-October issue of The Gardener is any indication, the dues increase for our national organization augurs a much improved publication, which is probably the main benefit of membership in the national. I believe the last issue was the best issue of The Gardener that I have ever read. If future issues follow this pattern, I imagine many members will feel that their increased dues has been well spent. Since most of the articles did not indicate an author, one would assume that they were written by the Editor, or perhaps the Executive Secretary. If this is so, I think we have some good talent.

Nate Siegel, Community Garden project chairman reports that: Cliff Brisco is Treasurer, St. Clair Beaman, publicity; Carl Holst and Otto Nelson are working on garden society donations; Art Johnson on large individual donors and groups; Dwight Stone to obtain donations of railroad timbers; Frank Vixo, donors to former projects; non-member Ed Peterson is liaison man to the Blind society. Cliff Brisco would welcome your donations, so see him.

## NOTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

### BULBS FOR FALL PLANTING....by Carl Holst

Plant crocus three inches deep, 2½ inches apart. If you naturalize them in the grass, you'd better plan to hand cut the grass until the crocus tops die down.

Daffodils can be planted late if mulched plentifully.

Tulips are best planted five to six inches deep. Deeper planting slows formation of extra bulbs. Good drainage is a requisite. Bone meal mixed with the soil beneath the bulbs helps. It must not touch the bulbs, however. Break off the flower heads as soon as the tulip finishes blooming to conserve energy for next year's bloom. Interplant with annuals and leave the bulbs in the ground. "Zip" sprayed on tulips keeps away rabbits...and ducks.

Treat lilies like tulips. Stake the heads of hyacinths if they are heavy.

### FALL CARE OF ROSES....by Al Nelson

Al dug up a regular tree of a rose with which to demonstrate...and pointed out that the stalk is the most important part of the tree rose.

Cease nitrogen fertilizer in August. If you must fertilize in September use 0-10-10 or 0-20-20. Cover your roses during the last half of October. First spray with a copper spray or fresh Bordeaux. This fends off the stem canker which sometimes comes with burying. Tie all the branches, leaves and all, tightly together. Clothesline works best for large bushes. Dig down about a foot deep a foot away from one side of the bush and lay it down level. Loosen the soil with a spading fork or water if the plant won't give. Cover with two inches of soil. After a light frost cools the ground, cover with three to six inches of leaves. A sprinkling of soil will hold down the leaves. Jerry Olse sprays them with water.

Remove the leaves about April 1. Loosen up the plant with a spading fork about April 15. Raise your plant and stamp it into place.

### SEPARATING A DAYLILY CLUMP....by Dave Goddard

Dave was a surprise program member. He demonstrated how to use an up-ended spading fork to separate a daylily clump. Brace the fork against the handle of a shovel stuck in the ground. Steady the fork with your toe in the handle, on the ground of course. Bring the root mass of lily tubers down over the tines and work them apart into units small enough to separate by hand.



## TOO MUCH NITROGEN?

by P. W. Young

Do you have a part of your garden wherein the plants do not do well, even when you consider the soil to be in good condition? It would be a good idea to find out WHY. I have a border, size 3' x 24' where this was the condition. One portion, size 3' x 3' was planted to rhubarb which for the past three years had never developed a good crop. Leaves were 6" to 8" and stems not over one-half inch in diameter. Another portion, size 3' x 21' was planted to one year and older delphiniums. The 1969 crop of delphinium was substandard. The 1970 crop was a complete failure with only two out of twenty-eight plants surviving.

In August I decided to test the soil. Samples were taken and sent to the University of Minnesota Soil Laboratory for what is called a "Greenhouse Test"--a more thorough test and analysis than the regular "Field Test." When the report came back with Dick Widmer's analysis I was astounded. At first I could not believe it. For outdoor planting, the University recommends 20 to 40 points (p.p.m. - parts per million) of nitrogen. My report showed 124 points for the rhubarb plot--three times the maximum recommendation. I had fertilized this plot lightly for the years 1967-68 and 1969 and not at all in 1970.

The 3' x 21' delphinium plot showed 116 points--again nearly three times the maximum recommended. This plot had been fertilized lightly all four years. Another plot of delphiniums which had not done well this past season - the first year planting of 1969 seedlings, showed 65 points, 50 percent above the recommended maximum. This bed had moderate fertilizing at planting time last September (1969).

Dick recommended leaching, which I did by setting my sprinkler at the rate that was just what the soil would take without runoff. The entire 3' x 24' plot and the other delphinium plot were leached for nine hours. The rhubarb plot suddenly came to life and in spite of the late season developed a growth of 50 to 100 percent over the original growth - in the two weeks following leaching. The delphinium plots showed no improvement, which was to be expected.

About three weeks after leaching I took more samples from the 3' x 24' plot, the second delphinium plot and another suspected plot of mixed perennials. This second report showed the rhubarb plot reduced in nitrogen from 124 to 64 points. Still too high (20/40). The 3' x 21' plot of delphiniums was reduced from 116 to 58 points. Again, still too high. The second delphinium plot showed the nitrogen content reduced from 65 points to 48 points. Not much too high. The perennial plot showed a first test of 73 points, nearly double the recommended maximum--confirming my suspicions. All of these plots are again being leached.

I haven't the faintest idea how these beds came to be over-fertilized with nitrogen. I always considered I was careful in the use of fertilizers--but it happened, and I am doing my best to correct it.

The phosphorus content on all the plots was high in the first test but not excessive. The leaching did not materially affect the phosphorus content.

The potash content in the first test was excessive. Leaching reduced it materially from an average first test of 47 points to an average of 18 points. This indicates that potash will leach about the same as nitrogen which, incidentally, was a surprise to me.

#### RESULTS OF NATIONAL VOTE ON DUES INCREASE

On October 26 your president received the following information from the national headquarters office indicating the results of the club-by-club balloting on the national dues increase proposal.

Of the 148 clubs returning their ballots, 99 clubs cast affirmative votes; 46 clubs cast negative votes; and 3 clubs cast spoiled ballots. Seventy-one (71) clubs did not vote. Pursuant to a resolution adopted at the convention, the non-voting clubs were counted as affirmative votes by the Executive Secretary, making the final affirmative vote 170.

To summarize, 99 clubs out of a total of 219 clubs, voted by club action in favor of the dues increase. However, including the non-voting clubs as affirmative votes (as authorized by the convention), the final vote for the dues increase becomes 170 clubs out of a total of 219 clubs. The increase to \$5.00 per member therefore becomes effective January 1, 1971.

P. H. S.

#### A COUPLE OF GOOD BOOKS

Elvin McDonald, well known in this area for his work with Flower and Garden Magazine in the past and now House Beautiful Magazine, and for his co-authoring some books with Peggie Schulz, has a new book of his own just out. "Garden Ideas A to Z" is an American Garden Guild Book published by Doubleday & Company, for \$7.95. It's a good idea book and I think you'd like it. It's dominated by hundreds of beautiful photos, many in color. Would give you good inspiration during the coming months for planning next year.

Recently I saw another book which didn't impress me too much until I started reading it. It's "The Gardens in My Life" by the widow of a mining engineer, later Dean of Women at Colorado College, etc. The jacket says something about the book being inspirational but I enjoyed it more as an interesting autobiography in which she really emphasized the gardens she had, particularly in the west. It's good reading. If you like the West and want to hear some reminiscing about Pisgah Graveyard, Cripple Creek, etc., if you want to read an intimate memoir, as I did, you should read it. It is published by Doubleday and sells for only \$4.95.



### MORE ON THE DUES SITUATION

Copies of our Bylaws were sent to all MGC Minneapolis members with THE GARDEN SPRAY of October 1969, preparatory to final incorporation action, which was scheduled for October 14, 1969.

Article VI, Section 1, of these Bylaws specified "The dues shall be ten dollars (\$10) per year payable in advance on December 1", etc.; but this limitation seemed unwise to a number of the members present. After considerable discussion the Article was reworded to read:

"The dues shall be in such amount as shall be determined by the Board of Directors from time to time; provided, however, that no increase in dues shall be made effective until authorized by a favorable vote of a majority of members present at a regular or special meeting of the incorporation. Dues shall be payable on December 1", etc.

THE GARDEN SPRAY for November 1969 announced that the amended Articles of Incorporation had been filed with the Secretary of State.

Ed Culbert

### CORTIS RICE SPEAKS OF VICTORY GARDENING

Phil Smith mentioned in his column last month that Cortis Rice, former member of our club, now active in the MGC of Sarasota, speaks as follows of World War II Victory Gardens. Victory Gardening was the official national effort of the Men's Garden Clubs of America.

"Do you remember the victory gardens during World War II? Federal, state, county, and city authorities did everything they could to encourage people to grow at least some of their own vegetables. There were thousands of such gardens, many of them in the owners' back yards, but many more on vacant public property or on vacant lots loaned for the purpose.

"People found that this was a way to good eating, that it was fun, and that it was good needed exercise. Many of the present garden clubs, particular among the men, grew out of this movement.

"Some of us in civic affairs tried to continue promotion of the idea at the end of the war, but the organizations of commercial vegetable growers stop it cold, and there was henceforth no more publicity or encouragement of any kind.

"Now here we are spending millions to help the poor people and talking about helping them to help themselves. But not one word is being said about the benefits to be derived from home gardens. Even in 1943 a well-kept vegetable garden, of a size about 25 feet by 50 feet, was worth about \$300.00 in produce per year, \$25.00 per month. This should be of considerable incentive to poor people, and certainly to many able-bodied retirees who are looking for exercise and something interesting to do. Not only that, these gardens would provide for better eating than can otherwise be obtained.

"Certainly there is enough vacant land in the Sarasota area for hundreds of gardens. All that is needed is some promotional publicity, a few civic-minded landowners scattered about the community who would allow their land be used, and a director or committee to coordinate the project. Our social