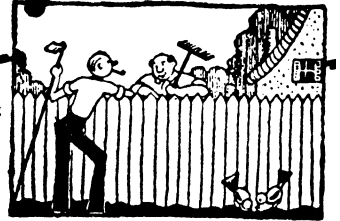




The Garden Spray

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

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



October 1972, Volume 30, Number 10

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS RECEIVES CIVIC AWARD



The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis has received a 1972 merit award from the Minneapolis Committee on Urban Environment in recognition of its contribution to the "visual quality of the City" by its Community Fragrance Garden project. The 1972 awards were presented at a recent dinner meeting held at the Lutheran Brotherhood. Dave Johnson, a major spark-plug in putting this project across attended the meeting as the MGC Mpls. representative and accepted the award in our behalf.

The picture at the left shows Dave standing before the Club members at our meeting on September 12th turning the award over to president Roger Anderson to hold in behalf of the Club. The citation appears below.

the committee on urban environment
1972 merit award
for environmental quality

presented to
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB
OF MINNEAPOLIS

in recognition of an outstanding contribution to
the visual quality of the city's environment

Charles Stenvig
Mayor of Minneapolis

Richard M. Erdahl
President, Minneapolis
City Council

Leonard T. Ramberg
President, Committee
on Urban Environment

* * * * *

NEXT MEETING, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1972, back to our regular meeting place.
MT. OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH, KNOX AND 50TH ST. SO. Dinner at 6:00 - \$2.00

FRANKLIN SIDELL, M.D., President of the Minnesota Orchid Society, will speak on "ORCHID GROWING." A short talk on "Preparing Trees and Shrubs for Winter" is also planned.

TO THE FELLOWS WHO WERE NOT THERE

Many of our active members missed the September meeting at Judson Church.

The matter of assisting in the landscaping of the two acres at our National Headquarters in Des Moines was discussed. (See the last issues of The Gardener and The Spray for details.) It was decided that rather than tapping our Club treasury that a voluntary collection be taken. Giving on an individual basis should make one feel that he is involved personally.

In a short talk, it was pointed out that we have two opportunities:
First, Help our National organization, in which we are all partners, have grounds that we can all be proud of.

Second, That we can have our selection of trees or shrubs labelled as a joint memorial, living memorial, to all the deceased members of the Minneapolis Club. They were a great bunch of guys.

In lieu of a hat, a milk bottle taken from the Flower Show table was passed. It came back with \$101.25 (from a 25 cent piece to two \$10.00 bills). Our thought is that some of you might say to yourself "I wish I had been there". If so, and you want to chip in a buck or two (limit \$5.00) mail a check to Cliff Brisco or the writer.

As of September 23, seven members have responded to the above with checks, namely Vic Lowrie, Floyd Ashley, Don Jepsen, Thurber Day, George Smith, Bob Smith, Henry Bachman and Dr. Papermaster. The books are still open for late comers. This project has the full approval of our Board. It is not one man's fancy. It would seem that our Club should sponsor one worthwhile project every year. Last year it was the Fragrance Garden. Let's help beautify America whether it is in Iowa or in Minnesota.

Our newer members are not familiar with names like Glen Cerney, Tony Koester, George Luxton, Joe Wittmer, Fred Paul, George Titus and others. Let's honor their memory. Collectively we can do a lot. There is \$168.25 in the till so far. Keep it coming.

-Sherm Pinkham

NATIONAL OFFICE LANDSCAPING FUND GROWS

Landscape Chairman Harold J. Parnham is kept busy guiding the planting of the corner tree in the planned space at National headquarters as tree planting gets underway on the grounds.

As of August 22, 21 clubs had made special contributions to the landscaping fund. The amounts given by each have varied from \$20 to the \$500 given by the Rockford Club.

In addition to those clubs who sent checks, the Polk County Men's Garden Club honored long-time MGCA'er Perry Davis by planting a tree. The Mid-America Region under the direction of President Charles Elliott, planted a tree in honor of the late Dr. Cecil L. Moon, first president of the region.

Omaha Men's Garden Club held a meeting at headquarters and planted a tree as a contribution from their club.

Gene Rogers, Polk County MGC of Des Moines, has a crew of volunteer spaders on stand-by to plant trees as they are received from the nursery.

ROG'S REFLECTIONS

The first frost of the Fall made its mark on my low-land back yard the night of September 22nd this year. There always seems to be a couple of weeks difference in the arrival of killing frosts in the high, protected ground to the low unprotected areas. Considering the same difference in the Spring, one really cuts down on the length of the growing season with low-land plantings. Of course, that doesn't even count what the woodchuck helps himself to, the muskrat undermines and the pheasant scratches up, etc. I guess one just has to sacrifice a little in his garden for such luxuries as natural beauty, wild life, privacy and so on, when you have a back yard like mine.

It's always a little heartbreaking to see the tender annuals, dahlias, tomatoes and the like turned black with that first killing frost when you are accustomed to the maze of floral beauty. However, Fall brings its own pleasantries and seasonal beauty which is always a joy to look forward to. You can't help but enjoy the turning colors of Fall or the thought of putting away the hoe, lawn mower and tie strings in favor of the shot gun, fishing pole or maybe a football game on a beautiful Indian Summer day.

In regard to Club business, you'll be interested in knowing Sherm Pinkham has collected over \$100.00 for the National Garden Club landscaping project. I think our Club ought to make every effort to solicit a sufficient amount to make our memorial on the National grounds one of which we can be justly proud. I think a goal of \$200.00 to \$300.00 should be appropriate, and even that won't buy a lot of landscape material. Efforts are being made to contact members who weren't at the September meeting so they may have an opportunity to contribute.

If you didn't make it to the meeting last month, you missed a couple of good talks by our own members, Henry Halvorson on Iris and Carl Holst on Roses. After listening to Henry on how I should care for my iris, I took the first opportunity to divide mine and get them planted properly. I am hoping to get some better blooms next year from a few of Henry's tips.

Be sure to mark your calendar for October 10th and attend the next meeting back at Mount Olivet. Carl will, as usual, have an interesting program arranged for you. Also take this opportunity to bring a prospective member. We haven't been doing so well with our attempts at recruiting new members this year and will be far short of our goal of twelve new members. Also, be sure to mark your calendars for the annual Christmas party. The date will be earlier this year, due to a scheduling conflict at the church; the first Tuesday in December

See you all on October 10th.

-Roger J. Anderson

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The Dallas MGC, like Minneapolis MGC, is soliciting donations from individual members for a fund for purchasing plants for the National headquarters at Des Moines Iowa.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Anthony Wick (Tony) (Bea), 1125 Washburn Avenue North, Minneapolis, 55411
Phone: 522-8962

* * * * *

A gossip is someone who can make a mountain out of a little dirt.

THE GARDEN SPRAY OF M.G.C. Mpls., Inc. Vol. 30, No. 10 October 1972
Edwin C. Culbert, editor, 5315 Portland Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417
Editorial Staff: Robert E. Smith, Phillip H. Smith and Donald Wilson
Deadline for material the 22nd of Each Month.

Club Officers:

President: Roger J. Anderson	Vice President: Carl J. Holst
Secretary: John E. Lillibridge	Treasurer: Clifton Brisco
Immediate Past President: David W. Johnson	
Directors: Henry Halvorson and James E. Perrin	

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

by Ed Culbert

Judson Church must have some kind of a hex on Leon Snyder. Last year and again this year he was booked for our Question and Answer period at Judson. Business took him elsewhere both times. I heard that this year he was in the Sudan.

Don't get me wrong. When Sherm Pinkham passed around his bottle at the September meeting, he was really passing the hat and it was a milk bottle. When it got to me it was already jammed to the bursting point. Did someone say they broke the bank to get the cash out?

Walter Menzel brought potted aloes; Dave Johnson brought Schwaben wald begonias and Les Johnson brought freshly dug spuria iris to be auctioned off in September. Dwight Stone wasn't there yet so no one thought to auction off the clump of Siberian iris Henry Halvorson displayed nor the bearded iris rhizomes used for demonstration purposes.

We hear that results of the summer flower shows will be officially announced at the Christmas party at which time the trophy will be awarded. Our informant tells us that it was nip and tuck and that Henry Halvorson ended up with 38 points and Verner Carlson with 36. Congratulations to you both. Your efforts made the shows worth while.

Nothing like the MGC fellows to keep an editor on his toes! At Judson, Les Johnson chided him for not including lilies in the list of spring flowering bulbs and Larry Corbett wanted to know why the Spray didn't mention the meeting date. Too bad, boys My bulbs all bloom before lily time and the typist omitted the date line. Keep on looking for the errors. I do, too.

Those split blue ribbons at the last flower show didn't mean that the judges couldn't make up their minds, that there was a tie, or, that the exhibit was only half first class. It meant there was so much superlative material the judges ran out of ribbon and had to make do by making two narrow ribbons from each regular one.

You don't need to bake pancakes for your squirrels as I did last winter. They seem to go for a slice of bread just as readily. We saw one in our back yard leaning his chin on the top of a slice of bread he was carting away. It reminded us of the men leaning on shovels in W.P.A. days in Pearl Park.

American scientific genius and inventive skill has truly surpassed itself. We have created a non-biodegradable paper towel "stronger wet than other towels are dry" because it has nylon mesh inside the paper. How long will that nylon mesh endure in the dump?

BENLATE

During the Question and Answer period at our September meeting, Carl Holst reported that Benlate in combination with other chemicals is now much used. He commented, "It's very expensive and usually available only in 2 lb. packages which would last you a lifetime", one-half tablespoon per gallon of water. Benlate is a systemic fungicide which controls blackspot, powdery mildew and botrytis."

About a year ago now Joe M. Woodard then editor of the Green Thumb, the bulletin of the Dallas, Texas MGC and an expert in the field of horticulture, wrote in part. "Perhaps no other agricultural chemical has received the build-up of DuPont's benon marketed under the trade name Benlate. The success of systemic insecticides on a number of sucking insects has prompted the clamor for a systemic fungicide. After the chemical was cleared for roses, home gardeners were anxious to go after that dr fungus disease so common in our area, blackspot. Then an amazing discovery was made Benlate was also fairly effective against powdery mildew--perhaps our number two disease problem of roses and commonly found on other ornamentals. Some raised the question, wouldn't it be nice to have just one chemical that was effective against blackspot, mildew and that number one insect pest, red spider. Don't raise your hopes too high...but there is hope re the effectiveness of Benlate on red spiders. Seemingly it does work as an ovicide on eggs and perhaps also as a sterilizing agent on some adult males. This, of course, will bear additional study."

I can personally cite one year of experience in using this product in my garden. I started early this season, using Benlate at the rate of 1 teaspoon per gallon as soon as early pruning of roses was completed (around Feb. 15th). It was used on an average of 10-14 days until June 15th. For the first time ever, I did not detect a single leaf showing blackspot on some 300 rose bushes. Only one evidence of powdery mildew was noted. I did not spray with Benlate for about two months during the summer, although no leaf burn was noted when used at this strength and not mixed with other fungicides, insecticides, miticides and soluble fertilizers. During the period toward the latter part of August after 3 weeks of damp weather, some evidence of blackspot was noted. After getting a start, it has been difficult to clear up again stressing that even this chemical has far better preventive than curative properties. I did experience one rather severe outbreak of red spiders during the long hot dry period in June. During the remainder of the summer and fall there has been far less red spider damage than usual. The weather has been in our favor in this respect, however.

Last week, I observed the test plot in the Tyler Municipal Garden where Dr. Lyle has been testing Benlate for several years. The Benlate test plot is distinctly superior insofar as health and vigor of the same plants in the control plot. Here is an excerpt from the Texas Rose Foundation fungicide report: "Benlate spray fungicide still is proving to be the best fungicide available to the public today providing it is used in preventive treatment rather than to cure blackspot or mildew that might be present at the start. The low concentration of only half a pound per 100 gallons of spray leaves almost no residue. Treatments every 21 days have proved adequate but only when plants were free from disease when the tests were started."

This year Woodard said, "Follow pruning immediately with a thorough spraying of a good fungicide. I was especially pleased with the results of Benlate last season. Some reported better results for blackspot with a mixture of Benlate and Manzate (or Dithane M-22). Research at the Texas Rose Research Foundation indicates this spraying with a fungicide is even more effective than the use of a dormant spray."

REPORT ON USING MONEY FOR HUMUS

"As reported last month, the Treasury Department in Washington granted us a permit to experiment with shredded currency as a soil additive for flower beds.

The stuff is fluffy and has an amazing thirst. A handful will absorb a full cup of water. There are now two bales (about 125 lbs.) composting along with an equal amount of grass clippings, iris and day lily leaves, etc. Temperature 6 inches inside the pile is 130 degrees, and decomposition is well advanced after only two weeks. So far, there has been no sign of the packing and thatching that usually occurs with grass clippings.

To obtain an immediate toxicity test, I prepared a small bed, using existing soil and sharp sand, with 4" - 6" of the raw material as it is delivered spread on top and worked in. (It makes an interesting green colored flower bed.) I planted 15 Shasta daisies in the test area, and so far, they show no signs of adverse effects. The mixture retains water most satisfactorily, requiring water only every fourth or fifth day, even in August heat. The amount used in this bed is estimated to be about \$15,000.

Results to date appear to be most promising. More later."

-THE GREEN THUMB
DALLAS, TEXAS MGC SEPTEMBER 1972

Editor's Note: Let's go to the National convention in Dallas April 30, May 1, 2, and 3, 1973.

Prepare now for Beautiful Christmas Flowers. . . .

Fall is the ideal time for home gardeners to begin preparing Christmas cactus and poinsettia plants for holiday blooming. Extra care is required each day or the poinsettia and Christmas cactus may fail to bloom for the holiday season.

Both plants should get as much sunlight as possible during the day, but they also need long, cool nights. At night, the plants should not be exposed to any artificial lighting; this will upset their delicate flowering-control mechanisms. At least 12 hours of continuous darkness are required to start the flowering process. Night temperatures of at least 60°F., are ideal for both plants, but the Christmas cactus can grow at temperatures as low as 55°. During the day, ordinary household temperatures are satisfactory.

Avoid placing the poinsettia in a draft. Sudden excessive changes in temperature cause the leaves to drop. Supply sufficient water so that the soil is always moist. During active growth, feed poinsettias regularly, preferably with diluted solutions of soluble fertilizers.

Also see the article in the February 1972 Garden Spray reporting the talk by Todd Bachman on Christmas plants.

BOOKS OF INTEREST

THE COMPLETE GARDENER by Lois Wilson, a 400 page book with 76 color pictures, 115 drawings and 12 photographs of how to plan a garden or plant a space for year-round beauty. All about bulbs, annuals, perennials, vegetables, pruning, fertilizing, pest and disease controls. Hawthorn Books, Inc., New York \$12.95
Chapters from this book have appeared recently in Flower and Garden Magazine.

SEPTEMBER MEETING
THE TALK ON IRIS

The iris, the messenger of Spring, named for the goddess of the rainbow comes in a veritable rainbow of colors. There are selfs (one color), bi-tones (2 shades), bi-colors (2 colors) and pliccattas (white background dotted with another color).

There are two sections of the family: 1) the bulbous iris commonly grown by florists, and 2) the rhizomatous iris normally garden grown. Both types have six petals, three upper called "standards", three lower called "falls". Most bloom in May or June.

Bulbous iris are divided into three types: 1) the English iris, 2) the Spanish iris, and 3) the Dutch iris. Bulbs of the latter may be planted outdoors in October 6 inches deep and 3 to 4 inches apart or may be grown in pots. If grown outdoors, they will require winter protection and must be left undisturbed year after year.

Rhizomatous iris are subdivided into two groups: 1) bearded, which consist of a) the dwarf bearded blooming with the spring bulbs and the rock garden plants; b) the intermediate bearded (medians) blooming at tulip time and c) the tall bearded blooming in late May and early June. 2) the beardless which have fibrous roots and grass like leaves. In this group are: a) the Siberian iris two to 4 feet tall blooming in early June in colors of white, yellow or blue. These demand a moist site and division in spring every three or four years; b) the spurias; c) the Japanese iris - July bloomers not hardy and requiring special care; d) the yellow flag and the blue flag Minnesota natives which prefer the edges of streams.

Planting. If you plan to purchase new plants, purchase from a local specialist if possible but know the varieties you buy. Choose so as to provide for a succession of bloom. (Call Henry for recommendations as to sources.)

Divide old plants every three or four years or whenever the clumps become crowded. Lift with a spading fork. Wash off the soil and separate the rhizomes with a sharp knife. Discard the bloomed out center. Cut back leaves to about 6 inches. To avoid disease, dip the rhizomes in Lysol or a fungicide such as terrichlor or captan and let dry before planting.

The best time to plant or transplant is mid-July to September. The site should have maximum exposure to sun; the soil be rich in organic matter. The optimum soil is sandy loam, deeply spaded to which 2 lbs. of 5-10-10 fertilizer per 100 square feet has been added. Avoid fresh manure as it encourages rot. Avoid low spots.

In planting, make little ridges in your holes. Set the rhizomes on the ridges and spread out on either side. Space rhizomes 8 inches apart. Water to settle ground. Cover with not over an inch of dirt.

Winter Protection. Clean out all weeds then after the first frost cut the tops down 6 inches. Spray with a good fungicide and insecticide as a precautionary measure. After the first heavy frost, apply a 4 to 6 inch hay mulch and hope for a good snow covering over this.

Spring Care. Remove the mulch about April 1st being careful not to break the center of the fan (bloom stalk). Leave the mulch material handy to throw on again in case of severe weather to prevent heaving. Do your final clean-up on a dry, sunny day. Look for rot. If present, scrape away the soft portion and drench the exposed part with a good fungicide. Apply 5-10-10 or 10-20-20 fertilizer at this time and later as needed to maintain healthy growth. Avoid manure close to the plant.

After growth begins, spray with Sevin to control borers, the principal insect pest of iris. The systemics Cygon and Isotox are effective after borers have entered rhizomes. After bloom, cut back the flower stalks - not the leaves. Keep the plants growing actively to store food for next year's bloom. Do not fertilize after mid-August.

BACKWARD, TURN BACKWARD, OH TIME....

Just about this time of year we used to have a problem. Let's see what the book says we should do. "FOR CHAPPED HANDS. - Take an ounce and a half of spermaceti, half an ounce of white wax: scrape them into an earthen vessel or pipkin (an earthen jam pot will do), add six drachms of pounded camphor, and pour on the whole four tablespoonsfuls of best olive oil - let it stand before the fire till it dissolves, stirring it well when liquid. Before you wash your hands, take a small piece of the cerate, and rub it into your hands, then wash them as usual. Putting the cerate on before going to bed is very good."

-GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK AND MAGAZINE
NOVEMBER 1864

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THE GARDEN SPRAY
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5315 Portland Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417



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