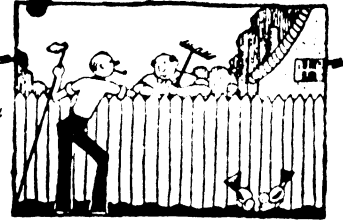




# The Garden Spray

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



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

October 1973, Volume 31, Number 10

THIS ISSUE IS EARLY. You have 5 extra days to get ready for our NEXT MEETING, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9th, at our regular meeting place, MT. OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH, 50th Street at Knox Avenue South.  
Dinner \$2.50 at 5:45 P.M.

Our speaker will be Lyman E. Duncan, MGCA executive secretary. He's not as big as Bill MacGregor, not as tall as Charley Proctor. But--He's dynamic. He's a go-getter.--And friendly--And smiling--And appreciative--And, lots of other things you'll like. And, to quote Sherm Pinkham, "We should have had him here before."

## GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Our fall show rated very well on all counts except the attendance. I think it was too bad that more people didn't view our fine exhibits of flowers, house plants, vegetable and fruit. Many of our members exhibited in one or more classes and Dale Durst and his committee did a fine job of staging the show.

October is a month that is both a beginning and an end. It is the end of this gardening season. With cooler weather and fewer insects we can all enjoy our fall flowers. Each warm sunny day is like a special bonus.

It is a time to clean up the yard and garden. It is easier to do it now than wait until some rainy day next spring. Remove all dead or diseased plant material. Some of these diseases are able to survive our winters. Roses should be given a dormant spray that will help control cane canker. Lime sulphur is still one of the best dormant sprays. Continue to water your roses and plan to have them covered by the first of November. As with all perennials the healthier a plant is in the fall, the better chance it has to survive the winter.

This is also the month to begin your spring garden. Tulips, crocus, hyacinths, and daffodils are so colorful in early spring. They must be planted in the fall so roots can be established to support the foliage and flowers next spring. These bulbs may also be purchased for forcing during the winter. They make a colorful dish garden.

This is also the time to dig some plants for house plants and to be used for cuttings next spring. If you have fluorescent lights, a few plants can be a real beginning for next year.

I am glad that open burning has been banned. It always hurt me to see leaves being burned. Then, too, on a nice day when I wanted to be outdoors, someone in the block always decided to clean the garage and burn an inner tube and a few oily rags. So enjoy your garden, the beautiful foliage, and the sunny days. Share your interest in gardening at our October meeting. See you there!

Carl J. Holst

In Memoriam

PAUL R. BURT

Mr. Burt, age 71, a long time highly respected member of MGCM died in late August. Within the past year he had moved from Minnetonka Beach to his former summer residence at Balsam Lake, Wisconsin, where he died. Funeral services were private. Burial was in Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS REPORTED

FLOWER SHOW: Dale Durst tells us that fourteen members exhibited with a total of 182 entries--182 in flower and 76 in vegetable classes. In flowers Chuck King was Grand Champion with a Vegetable Dahlia. Verner Carlson took Sweepstakes. In vegetables Marlin Gilhousen was Grand Champion with Yellow Set Onions. Bob Smith took Sweepstakes.

The following were on the Court of Honor:

Roger Peterson	- Rose, Pinocchio	Dale Durst	- Hanging Basket, Shrimp Plant
Dale Durst	- Coleus, Rainbow	Verner Carlson	- Petunia, Sugar Daddy
Bob Smith	- Egg Plant	Verner Carlson	- Rose, American Heritage
Chuck King	- Dahlia, Vegetable	Bob Livingston	- Lily, Speciosum Album
Marlin Gilhousen	- Onion, Yellow Set	Chuck King	- Plant, Strapelia, Starfish

Following are the number of points earned:

<u>Flowers</u>				<u>Vegetables</u>	
Verner Carlson	78	Dale Durst	15	Bob Smith	4
Henry Halverson	44	Roger Anderson	10	Marlin Gilhousen	4
Chuck King	29	Sherm Pinkham	9	Fred Glasoe	
Fred Glasoe	22	Charlie Proctor	6	Bill MacGregor	
Bob Livingston	15	Jerry Olson	6	Verner Carlson	

SEPTEMBER MEETING: I hate taking notes but how else could you out-of-towners hear about what went on? Even so I was glad Leon Snyder turned out the lights to talk and show slides of his western trip in April. I could enjoy his Colorado snow scenes and the snow at Flagstaff, Arizona. His Arizona "rock garden" looked to me for all the world like "Boulder siding" on the old Mesabi electric line near Chisholm (present site of the mining museum). Some of the slides showed evening primrose (white, growing in sand), desert lily, sand verbena, ocotillo, yucca, desert dandelion (I forget what said it reminded him of but I thought it resembled a chrysanthemum). However, the garden dotted with gazanias did look like dandelions, Leon. There were also some film slides taken in the Huntington Botanical Garden in Los Angeles.

It's interesting how Walter Menzel comes up with a display appropriate to the evening topic. This time he brought a cholla cactus skeleton and a potted desert plant of the impatiens family.

It was good to see members Harold Pederson and Al Mohr out. Harold had just returned from three weeks in Brazil where he attended the International Conference of Agricultural Economists. Harold officially retired two years ago but it didn't quite work out that way. First it was half time; then 3/4 time. Now it's full time retirement so we should be seeing him more often.

## GROWING SIBERIAN IRISES

by Julius Wadekamper

If you haven't tried the newer siberian irises in your perennial border you have a treat coming. I believe the Siberian Iris to be the finest of all irises for landscape use. The leaves are narrow, spearlike and stay beautifully green until late fall. They are usually erect and neat. The clumps become more beautiful with age. Frequent division is not necessary. While they will tolerate any soil and almost any location, they do prefer a moist area and a slightly acid soil. They do equally well in full sun or partial shade.

The siberian irises fall into two distinct categories. First, those with 28 chromosomes and their derivatives. These include the species *I. siberica* and *I. sanguinea*. The second group, those with 40 chromosomes and their derivatives. The species includes *I. clarkei*, *I. delavayi*, *I. wilsonii*, *I. chrysographes*, *I. forrestii*, and *I. bulleyeyana*. *I. d. kesii* and *I. phragmitetorum* are also believed to belong to this group.

Our modern garden siberian irises are derivatives of the 28 chromosome species. Hybrids between the two groups are rare, and when they do occur are usually sterile. A notable exception is the iris *Foretell* by Dr. William McGarvey which was obtained from a cross of *I. forrestii* by a 28 chromosome seedling. *Foretell* has been reported to be fertile with both 28 and 40 chromosome plants. No common or simple nomenclature has been decided upon to distinguish the 28 and 40 chromosome siberians.

Siberian irises belong to the apogon or beardless series of irises. They range in color from white to deep purple--almost black. There are some good yellow cultivars appearing in hybridizer's gardens now. I might add that the yellow swamp iris some of you may grow is *I. pseudocorus* a species not belonging to the siberian group.

Perhaps one of the finest siberians is Ego. It is a deep blue with large flared falls that give the flower a round appearance. It is a specimen plant with excellent foliage that went on to place on the Court of Honor at the 1973 Iris Society of Minnesota's Annual Show.

I presume you are all familiar with the older siberians *Caesar's Brother*, *Gatineau*, *Towanda Red Flare*, *White Swirl*, etc. so I will list some newer siberians:

ANNIVERSARY--wide petalled white, yellow at hafts.

CAMBRIDGE--excellent substance, turquoise blue 1971 English Dykes medal winner.

SUPER EGO--unusual; standards light blue, falls dark blue at center shading to powder blue; very attractive but not as good an increaser as EGO.

SWANK--medium blue, short upright standards; very good.

RUBY WINE--rich wine shade.

TEALWOOD--dark violet, almost black.

Newest siberians include:

BLUE FORTY--blue.

FAIR and FORTY--yellow.

EWEN--wine red.

FOREST SCION--brilliant yellow.

The best sources for siberian irises are:

Condon Bleu Farms, 618 Buena Creek Road, San Marcos, California 92069

Dr. Currier McEwen, South Harpswell, Maine 04079

Illini Gardens, N. State St. Road, Monticello, Illinois 61856

Old Brook Gardens, 10 S. Franklin Circle, Littleton, Colorado 80121

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Cortis and Muriel Rice will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary November 10. Cortis is a former president of our club. He is now very active on the gardening scene.

## HOME-GROWN VEGETABLES CAN STRETCH THE DOLLAR

by Bill Hull

This is my twenty-fifth year of vegetable gardening. Some years I've grown for showing and some just for eating, but I still maintain that vegetables can be a rewarding and extremely satisfying crop, with or without flowers and roses, which I also enjoy.

This year we started a garden in a hitherto unused plot because we had moved a year or so ago. Our new house, built on a gravel pit as the neighbors say, has very little top soil so we tilled the existing sod, if one can call it by that name, returning it to the soil and added two small trailer loads of commercial manure and black soil, of good local but doubtful value. To that the only nutrient added was a regular dressing of liquid fish emulsion early in the growing season. The results have been superb.

The first items went into the ground on April 20, Easter weekend, the earliest I've planted a garden in Minnesota in 25 years. I took a chance by guessing at an early spring and it came out smelling like a rose, or should I say a squash blossom?

Five hills of Butternut winter squash have produced about thirty superb specimens which are now drying out for storage. Six hills of Burpee Cucumber (from Park's) produced a bonanza of 422 superb cukes until I ripped them up on September 2. Everybody in the neighborhood was sick of cucumbers, my office staff had their fill, and the crocks are full of Kosher-type dills. Four hills of Black Beauty Zucchini produced 130 fine squashes until we also destroyed them on August 18. Everybody we know had zucchini free this summer if they wanted them. A favorite vegetable, which wife Carol prepares in about six different ways, zucchini is fast growing in popularity in our area.

Our tomato plants we grew from seed, along with some other items in a tiny former well room under two fluorescent bulbs. In addition to some test varieties, which we didn't like too well, we grew Better Boy and Super Master Marglobe. Both have been excellent but we prefer the Better Boy. Tomatoes are still being produced (on September 8) in huge quantities, starting the end of July. Staked on eight foot stakes, and tied regularly, we've had blue ribbon quality tomatoes, if I'd bothered to enter them. Dozens of symmetrical toms, mostly spotless with identical size and mouth-watering high liquid content.

In addition, we've grown okra, bush beans, lima beans, carrots and green peppers. All this on a space twenty by thirty-five feet in size. Now, of course, we planted the three cucurbits (zucchini, Butternut and cucumbers) closer together than recommended, but it hurt nothing. It simply meant the weeds didn't grow very much and cultivating wasn't too vital. In early spring we mulched very heavily with grass clippings and watered regularly.

It's been the most satisfying vegetable garden we've had in 25 years, although we've had bigger ones in the past. Looking back, I'd say the secrets this year, on this particular garden plot were: 1) addition of richer soil; 2) mulching heavily; 3) good seed; 4) healthy seedlings, some started indoors and permitted to keep growing with no setback; 5) plenty of water; 6) a good warm summer; 7) fish emulsion; and 8) a little neglect.

I still believe watering is a major key. On loose soil I water daily unless nature has provided plenty of rain. If rain is predicted, I water anyway, because so many times the prediction is wrong.

But it's been gardening the easy way and really required very little work. The result: \$200 to \$300 worth of vegetables consumed and given away.

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SEEDS and DISEASE RESISTANCE  
by L. W. Corbett

Plant diseases can very definitely reduce the yields of flowers or vegetables. Plant breeders have recognized this and their main effort has been to develop disease resistant varieties. Unfortunately plants are attacked by more than one disease so you start working on multiple disease resistance.

Cucumbers are again a good example because they are subject to viruses or mosaic, powdery mildew, downy mildew, scab, spot, angular leaf spot and bacterial wilt just to mention a few. In the development of disease resistance a plant pathologist maintains a source of disease material. Plants are exposed to optimum conditions for disease development and then inoculated with the disease. The immune plants are saved and over a period of years a new disease resistant variety is developed.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has trained men who search the world for disease resistant plant material. This material is known as P. I. (plant introduction) lines. The resistance to cucumber mosaic came from lines out of China. Tomato species from Central America carried resistance to fusarium. Once these disease resistance characteristics have been established they can be bred into commercial varieties. The original gynecious form of cucumber came through these P. I. lines.

Nature has a way of maintaining species through plants that mutate or somehow develop resistance to a certain disease. The first mosaic resistant beans were saved from plants of the old Refugee variety which appeared clean in a field that was destroyed by mosaic. Dr. Walker's work on yellows resistant cabbage was through selection of tolerant plants in the Racine, Wisconsin area. Nature and good plantmen can and do work together.

Plant diseases have played a very important role in seed production. Not too many years ago both pea and bean seed were grown in New York State. Rains at harvest and diseases such as common bean blight and halo blight cut yields and reduced seed vigor. Seed quantity was uncertain. Production moved west into Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Today practically all production is in Idaho and California. Seeds should be produced in disease free areas and where maximum vigor can be attained.

It is a continual challenge to meet the needs of the home gardener, the commercial grower and shipper and the food processor. Today there are many highly skilled and technically trained men devoting their lives to breeding and selecting improved flowers and vegetables. To increase yield per square foot of ground you need good viable vigorous seed true to name and free of disease. More food can be grown from a pound of good seeds than can be produced by any other method known to man.

WE WELCOME AS NEW MEMBERS

Frederick W. Brandt, Rockford, Minn. Phones: Bus. 477-5480 Res. 545-3761  
Mr. Brandt, sponsored by Norman Stewart, is a personnel officer Minnesota Highway Dep

Watt Myers, 5117 Ewing Av. S., Mpls. 55410 Phone: 926-0690  
Mr. Myers is sponsored by Sherman Pinkham.

Everett E. Trumble, 4508 17 Av. S., Mpls. 55407 Phone: 729-1678  
Mr. Trumble, retired, is sponsored by Jack Peterson.

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Jack Kolb's new residence phone number is 454-3106.  
Bruce Warner now has a telephone 861-4754.  
Harold Kaufman's apartment number is 340. We failed to list it last month.

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

Dave Goddard is recuperating at home after a long spell in the hospital following his heart attack.

You've wondered why the iris series was interrupted in August and September? Julius swamped, that's why. He says, "My summer has been extremely busy with plants, plant meetings and work. In Washington, D. C. on July 7 I was elected president of the North American Lily Society. I had to get a new executive secretary. Fred Abbey, the past one, is 80 years old. Now school has started and I'm trying to set up a curriculum in horticulture--There is very little to go on and so that's kept me busy, too."

I read that carrots, beets, parsnips, salsify, rutabagas, turnips and celery should be stored at 32 to 40 degrees with 90 to 95 percent humidity. I dig my carrots and parsnips after the first ice-producing frost. (This usually produces a quarter inch crust on moist soil.) After breaking off the tops, I throw the carrots or parsnips into a laundry tub of cold water to remove the dirt. I then toss them onto a few sheets of newspaper spread on the floor. This picks up some of the moisture. I then cut off the tops and the growing ends to reduce the likelihood of sprouting and stack them big end down in 5-gallon stone crocks. As each layer is complete I cover with pouring insulation (vermiculite) and shake down. The crocks are then stored in the fruit cellar against the outer wall where the temperature during a sub-zero spell may get down to near freezing, I suppose. I have found carrots and parsnips so stored in good shape the following July though some have developed filamentary roots all over by then. The beauty of this vermiculite treatment is that if a carrot or parsnip does decay, it either wizes up or leaves a localized soggy mess which seems not to affect the others.

Earth laughs in flowers--Ralph Waldo Emerson.

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Return to  
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM INC.  
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**FIRST CLASS**

**TO**

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