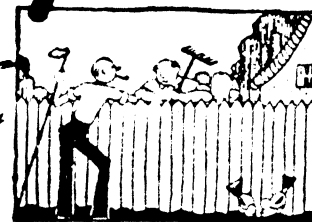




# The Garden Spray

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

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



October 1974, Volume 32, Number 10

## WINTER MUST BE COMING

We're Going Back to Our Regular Meeting Place Again  
(Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, Knox Ave. S. at 50th St., Mpls.)  
for  
Our OCTOBER MEETING, TUESDAY OCTOBER 8th, 1974

Dinner at 6 PM

\$2.25

Meeting at 7 PM

### PROGRAM

The Speaker Jane P. McKinnon, associate professor and Extension Horticulturist, University of Minnesota.  
Her Topic "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To THE Park"  
(If you've heard Dr. McKinnon before, you'll be there; if you haven't heard her it's high time you did.)

Time permitting, Special Interest Groups will meet following the talk.

## THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

Dinner was delayed until 7 p.m. so we could tour the Educational Building and adjacent grounds at leisure. Your editor got so interested in examining the books in the library that he almost failed to go outside. The library would be a marvelous place to decide upon worthwhile books to purchase for Christmas or birthday giving even to those under 8 or over 80.

The building with its surrounding grounds looks for all the world like an opulent country manor. What a setting! The wide sloping lawn, the pond, the arbor vitae planting against a background of great deciduous trees. (I must come to see what the winter effect of this is.)

Close to the building and extending to the west the gardens were super. The spreading creeping junipers already were extending into the paths. I fancied I actually saw them stretching their fingers out. Since the present intervening area of wood chips shows them off to the best advantage I wonder what controls will be needed to restrain them. There were beds of chrysanthemums just starting their fall burst of bloom and roses putting on their last show before frost. Though the beds featuring annuals and perennials were past their peak of bloom, they were still gratifying.

The herb garden area was informative as well as colorful. Flowering kale was gorgeous--prettier than in the Minns Garden at Cornell where it was used as a decorative accent among flowers. The colorful rhubarb chard with its shiny red stems and glossy dark green pebbled leaves

## FLOWER SHOW REPORT

Our 1974 Flower and Vegetable Show was held at Linden Hills Park, 43rd and Xerxes Avenue South, September 7 and 8. We had 350 entries in horticulture and 70 in vegetables. Chuck King took Queen of Show in horticulture with his succulent "Stapelia Gigantea", and Bob Haley took Best of Show in vegetable with his display of 22 herbs.

The following were on the Court of Honor:

Allen Westerberg	Marigold "Red Wheels"
	Petunia "Blue Lake"
	Hanging Basket "Calla Queen"
Jerry Olson	Rose "Uncle Joe"
Watt Meyers	Celosia Crested
Vern Carlson	Aster "Totem Pole"
Marlin Gilhausen	Multiflora Begonia Plant
	Onions "White Bermuda"

### Sweepstakes, Horticulture

Vern Carlson	68 points
Henry Halvorson	44 points
Allen Westerberg	30 points
Marlin Gilhausen	29 points
Harry Sova	28 points
Jerry Olson	28 points

### Sweepstakes, Vegetables

Marlin Gilhausen	60 points
Robert Haley	43 points
Verner Carlson	10 points

The flower show was beautiful this year with excellent material, but it was disappointing in that we had so little support from our own members. Only 15 members exhibited and I don't believe more than 15 other members came to see the show. However, the show was well received by the neighborhood and many people expressed a hope that we would do this again.

Future show chairmen should be assured of the support and cooperation of the entire club. Holding the show in an easily accessible location such as Linden Hills Field House or a shopping center will bring the visitors; but, first of all, our members must support the show.

-- Dale Durst

## GARDENS ARE FOR PEOPLE

by Nate Siegel

The keynote speaker of the MGCA convention on Monday afternoon August was Dr. Elizabeth Scholtz, Director of the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. Her topic was "Gardens are for People". In the talk she spoke primarily of the various programs for involvement of the public--some of those mentioned were Children's Gardens, Vegetable Gardens, Classes for teachers and adults--also Bird Watchers. The success of Brooklyn Botanical Gardens' programs can be attested to by their membership of 6,000. I was interesting to note how many of their programs paralleled those that we now have at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, particularly since we have our Learning Center Building functioning.

After the meeting there was a walking tour with a guide--who needed a guide--We finally did get to our first stop--The McAleer Japanese Gar

## OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Sixty of us enjoyed the atmosphere and cuisine of the beautiful arboretum educational building last month. The new perennial border and rock gardens are attractively designed and the plants educationally arranged, in all a magnificent asset to our horticultural community. I noticed a number at dinner going back for seconds and giving compliments to the chef.

Glenn Ray spoke to us of the role of the Minnesota Horticultural Society, his goals for the HORTICULTURIST and the reasons for the increase in dues to the Hort Society. A discussion followed as to what the MGCM should take. A motion was made from the floor, seconded and passed recommending that the board notify the membership of a proposal to amend the By-Laws of MGCM to increase the dues to cover the increase in Hort dues. You have all been notified by a separate mailing prepared and paid for by Bob Gage. Your board values our affiliation of more than 40 years with Minnesota Hort and supports its goals. MGCM should continue this affiliation without an increase in dues or a deficit budget. Your board feels our reserve funds should be used for emergencies or to support horticultural projects rather than to subsidize ordinary expenses. The question will be decided at our October meeting which features Jane McKinnon as our speaker.

An OSCAR to Dale Durst and Marlin Gilhausen, their lovely hard-working wives and everyone who participated in the fall show. It was a wonderful array of specimens to view and the display of the Audubon Society was attractive, informative and tended by such pleasant and helpful people, not the least of whom was our trusted weatherman Bud Krause and his wife. Thanks to all of you.

I have several items for your calendar. The date for the Lily Show at the arboretum was incorrectly stated in last month's Spray. It is on Friday, October 6th, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. If you are interested in the Christmas decoration workshop circle November 29th. We will meet at Klier's Nursery at about 7:00 PM and make our own wreaths, centerpieces or what have you. An evening guaranteed to be fun and rewarding.

-- Jim Pe

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(Continued from Page 2)

It was the home and garden of a couple 93 and 98 years of age who through the years had built a garden of unusual beauty. Their home was equally interesting, furnished with lovely antiques. They had a shop also with many rare items. We lost our guide here but acquired another, Ed Culbert. We walked around the residential area and saw an unusual patio, completely screened by hanging baskets of Fuchsia, Tuberous Begonias and Fuchsias.

At our dinner that evening Past Presidents and Past Directors were honored. Among those honored were our Bill Hull, national president 1960 and Ed Graupman of the Minnetonka club who served as a national director for six years. There was presentation of awards on State Competition and Club Bulletins. Our "SPRAY" was one that won and justifiably so. There was also a demonstration of and participation in Square Dancing. The "participation" part did not have a

## THE 1972 CARROT TRIALS

by Bob Smith

Which varieties of carrots are best suited for various uses? This is the question that prompted me to conduct a trial of 15 varieties of carrots in my garden in 1972, to display them at the October 1972 Meeting and to publish this report on the results.

Conditions of test. 15 varieties including all types from short, stocky Chantenay to long slender Emperor carrots were grown and tested. They were planted on June 6 in a medium loam soil of high humus content. Manure had been applied in the fall and a supplemental fertilizer of hydrolized turkey feathers, rock phosphate and wood ash (approximate N, K, P analysis of 3, 4, 3) was applied and the soil deeply tilled at planting time. The row spacing was 20 inches with plants thinned to 2 to 3 inches in the row depending upon variety. Overhead sprinkling was provided during the germination period and during dry spells with clean cultivation throughout the growing season. Lady-bugs were released four times during the season for insect and disease control. The carrots were harvested on October 24.

Results of the trial. See table, page 5. As indicated therein the highest yields were obtained from standard varieties, Danvers Half Long and Chantenay types. The quality of standard varieties Royal Chantenay and Scarlet Nantes was equal to the best hybrids, Pioneer Hybrid Emperor and King Emperor. There were varieties of all types which were equally good in quality for all uses.

Observations, Comments, and Conclusions. The main benefits of the hybrid varieties seemed to be seedling vigor and uniformity. While these qualities are important to commercial growers they are of relatively little importance to home gardeners. Therefore, I see no greater advantage obtainable from growing hybrid varieties of carrot. Both standard and hybrid varieties fit my needs and Royal Chantenay, Scarlet Nantes, Pioneer Hybrid and Hipak are regularly grown in my garden. My garden soil was suitable for growing all types of carrots; hence, I was unable to make comparison tests under different soil conditions.

This was my first year growing King Emperor which I was testing for Northrup King. It was an excellent quality carrot with good yield and shape. The big drawback to it was the difficulty in digging the long roots. A pitchfork did not go deep enough to remove the roots without breaking off the tips so I had to dig a trench on both sides of the row and pull each carrot individually. While the average length was 11 inches, many were 14 inches long.

The fifteen varieties tested represent only a few of the many standard and hybrid strains available. Carrots will perform differently in different gardens and under different soil conditions so it is necessary to experiment a bit to see which will perform the best for you. If I had to choose but one carrot to grow, it would probably be Scarlet Nantes because it is of top quality and adaptable to most soils. If you haven't grown carrots, Scarlet Nantes is a good one to start with. Go from there on in trying other varieties.

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Glenn Ray advises us that the Hort Society because of its great volu

1973 CARROT TRIAL

Comparison of Varieties

VARIETY	Seed From**	Row Feet	Average Size (Inches)	Average Weight (Lbs.)	Yield Lbs. Per Row Foot	Percent Deformed	Smoothness***	Eating Quality ****		
								Raw	Cooked	Juice
<u>CHANTENAY TYPE</u>										
ROYAL CHANTENAY	P	26	2-1/4x5-1/2	8.5	2.3	11	2	1	1	1
*COMMANDER	H	15	1-3/4x5	7.3	2.2	11	2	1	1	2
GOLDINHART	B	17	2-1/2x6	10.7	2.4	17	2	1	1	2
<u>NANTES TYPE</u>										
SCARLET NANTES	H	28	1-1/2x6	5.1	2.0	13	2	1	1	1
*PIONEER	H	28	1-1/2x9	5.6	2.0	14	2	1	1	1
SWEETHEART	P	14	1-1/4x5	2.7	1.1	0	2	3	2	2
<u>DANVERS TYPE</u>										
DANVERS HALF LONG	S	17	1-3/4x8	7.0	2.5	13	3	2	1	2
*SUNSET	F	17	1-3/4x6	5.7	1.3	6	3	2	2	2
<u>IMPERATOR TYPE</u>										
*HYBRID IMPERATOR	G	13	1-1/2x6	5.3	1.9	16	1	1	1	1
*EARLY CROSS	F	13	1-3/4x7	6.1	1.5	6	2	2	2	2
TENDERSWEET	P	17	1-3/4x7	4.6	1.5	2	3	1	1	2
IMPERIDA	S	14	1-1/2x8	3.9	1.3	9	2	2	2	2
*HIPAK	H	22	1-1/2x9	5.9	2.0	17	1	2	1	2
GOLD PAK	F	21	1-1/2x11	5.4	1.5	12	1	1	1	2
*KING IMPERATOR	N	20	1-1/4x11	5.3	2.2	18	2	1	1	1

KEY: \* = Hybrid Variety.

\*\* Sources were: B - Burpee; F - Farmers; G - Gurney; H - Harris  
N - Northrup King; P - Parks, S - Shumway.

\*\*\* 1 = Smoothest, most desirable; 3 = Roughest, least desirable.

\*\*\*\* Sweetness, flavor, and texture were considered when rating for eating quality. Highest rating is 1.

Rene' Dufourd showed up at Cortland to reminisce and to send greetings to all his old MGCM friends. For the past four years Rene' has been summering in Middleburgh N.Y. He winters in Mt. Dora, Florida.

NEW MEMBER (Clip and Paste in Roster)

Lambert, Leonard A., Jr. 941-3417

To the Editor: The matter of future Convention sites was commented u in the September issue of THE SPRAY. We wish to discuss the matter further and tell why we voted as we did. Convention dates are usuall set several years in advance. At either Tucson or Dallas, Hawaii put in a bid for the 1977 convention, the only bid. True, they were orga izing a club. The matter was talked over and when the chairman asked for a show of hands of those who would be interested some of us were surprised at the number of hands that went up. Accordingly those fro Hawaii felt encouraged to go ahead.

At Cortland the Miami club came in at the 11th hour and bid for 1977. There was considerable discussion pro and con. The national officers felt that they were more or less morally bound to the first group and that Miami could wait a year. A vote was taken and Hawaii won by a considerable margin.

It is true that Hawaii is a long ways off but the fellows on the west coast say that they can go there cheaper than to N.Y. or Florida. Be sides a "seed" planted there might be a means of establishing more cl on the islands. In light of all the facts, we voted for Hawaii in 19

We consider our national directors to be honorable men and we saw no evidence of "railroading" in the picture.

-- Sherm Pinkham  
Paul Lindstedt  
Nate Siegel

#### HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

The women turn out en masse when Albert Wilson, the Corona tools repr sentative appears at MGCA conventions to talk (title above) and demon strate pruning techniques. Wilson, a jaunty fellow sporting a navy b beret, comes with an arsenal of tools and huge armfuls of fresh mater which he claims to have purloined from overgrown hedges and plantings nearby. He talks steadily as he snaps, snips and answers questions.

"Espalier work is for retired people who have nothing to do. They st home and they tie and they tie and they tie"....(Re: spur fruit) "Do most of your cutting on new growth. (snip, snip) When you see there will be no fruit you can prune heavily." (snap, snap)....(Re: non-s fruits) "The section of the tree which has given you the fruit will never give you another crop. Head back (snap, snap) or thin out. (s snap) Keep the scaffold, of course."...."No, I don't think much of t golf ball pruning"...."Sure, you can move those hydrangeas but you ca expect the flowers to be the same color unless you make sure the pH i the two locations is the same."....

"Now that's a good question!" The latter is a tip-off that the quest er will be given the shears Wilson is using at the moment. Henry Hal son asked a "good question" at Cortland but at the moment received no reward. Later, after "Where's that man" Henry received a tree trimmi (pruning) shears sans pole. Now Henry has to find a pole to fit.

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"TO DESTROY WORMS IN GARDEN WALKS.--Pour into the worm-holes a strong lye, made of wood ashes, lime, and water. Or, if more convenient, us for this purpose strong salt and water."

## VICTORY GARDENS IN 1943 - AND OTHER MEMORABILIA

by Bill Hull - Historian

Being asked to be club historian labels me as an old man or as a long-time member; I hope the latter. If you want data, I'll try to disappoint you because I want to be more personal and less statistical. I've gone through five boxes of junkum accumulatum and have lots of material to draw from, including my own files of our club bulletin from 1952 to date.

It was in October 1942 that we were chartered by the Men's Garden Clubs of America, that charter being signed by Frank Rockwell, a highly distinguished garden editor and writer; we had an auspicious sponsor. There were 18 Charter Members, about half of whom I had the privilege of knowing when I joined the club in 1952. Of those men, only Walter Quist, one of today's Honorary Members, is still active in the club.

For the record (some of that desirable data), those men were: W.C. Addy, A.P. Brown, Jack Cohen, C. L. Comings, Charles David, Gardner Eustis, George Filbert, Oscar Gustafson, Tom Hughes, Herb Kahlert (later a national president of MGCA), George Luxton, Chris Mosberg, F.H. Olson, Fred Paul, Walter Quist, Elmer Smith, Upsher Smith and Ed White.

Immediately the first issue of THE GARDEN SPRAY was produced, with Upsher Smith being the first editor. He was replaced before long by Jacob ("Jack") Cohen, the man who employed me and brought me to Minneapolis.

Victory Gardens were the "in" thing to provide food for hungry people during these World War II days. Our parent group, MGCA, was credited with starting it, and we were active here. There were 18,000 Victory Gardens in Minneapolis in 1943 and 22,000,000 in the country. The scope of Victory Gardening was amazing. Of course the nation was emerging from "hard times" of the depression years and it was patriotic to grow your own. Of the 10,775,000 tons of vegetables civilians consumed in 1943, 7,940,000 tons (more than half) came from farm and non-farm Victory Gardens. The favorite crops were the usual ones we'd think of today, plus Swiss chard - that one surprises me.

One of our Charter Members, George Luxton, was a busy man that summer. In addition to heading the photography staff of the Minneapolis Star-Journal, George wrote 54 gardening articles, answered 600 letters and 900 telephone calls on gardening, talked to 88 garden clubs, visited 500 gardens, had his own Victory Garden, from which he canned 88 quarts of produce.

Club meeting talks naturally leaned toward vegetable growing. A University expert talked about using last year's seeds and approved using your own seed of beans, peas, lettuce, tomatoes and eggplant. Today few would suggest using your own tomato seed but there was probably a seed shortage then and also the hybrids weren't predominant. I don't really know; I had my first garden when we came to Minneapolis and bought our first house in 1948 - which was five years later after the Great Victory Gardening Year of 1943.