

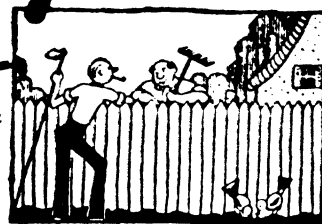


The Garden Spray

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

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

October 1975, Volume 33, Number 10



NEXT MGCM MEETING 5:45 PM TUESDAY OCTOBER 14

Back to MOUNT OLIVET CHURCH, 50th St. at Knox Av. S.
and those good Ladies' Aid dinners

SPECIAL ATTRACTION: HAROLD PARNHAM, MGCA national president
who will speak on "TREE APPRECIATION"

Plus, a PANEL DISCUSSION ON "WINTERIZING"

And all this will cost you only THREE DOLLARS

ZUCCHINI SERMON

In my garden a Zucchini
That had shaped up like a weenie,
Simply couldn't remain teenie,
So it grew!
And this deep green little felon
Kept a-swellin' and a-swellin'
Like a hidden watermelon
Out of view.

Came the day for Autumn raking
And good progress I was making
Bearing vines that I was taking
To compost,
When my toe caught that Zucchini,
And I did a quick Houdini,
Then I landed on my beanie,
Or almost!

Now the moral of my ditty
Is: That it's just a pity
Not to pick each little-bitty
Tender squash:
Growing squashes is like sinning:
Pluck each sin at the beginning -
'Stead of falling you'll be winning
Immortality B'gosh!

From the Broome Co.
MGC "THE SOWER"

THE SEPTEMBER VISIT TO BACHMAN'S

Our weather man, Vinton Bouslough, carried his raincoat and kept the rain from us. There were sprinkles as we bused to Bachman's growing range and downpours as we bused home but we ate outdoors at the farm rode around seated on hay bales on tractor drawn wagons and got into our cars again at the church parking lot untouched.

Imagine gazing on four acres of luscious green lawn while you picnic ("Luscious" because it looked good enough to eat.) The 770 peak-sea Bachman employees may do this on company picnics. They can romp and play on it, too. We didn't have time or, maybe, we're too sedate. lawn is part of the 250 acre tree farm area. The greenhouses are on contiguous 180 acre site.

The soil is a heavy clay which is very good for growing nursery stock since it holds the ball well. Most trees are started as whips purchased from various sources. (Bailey Nurseries a major supplier.) Bachman in turn sells wholesale to other landscape nurseries. Normally tree sold range in caliper from one to six inches. The demand for larger shade trees is ever growing.

Planting is done with tractor and auger. Manure is worked into new areas. An irrigation system assures adequate moisture. One man spends full time cultivating between rows with a tractor. A hook shaped device cuts roots which extend too far. Chemicals control the weeds close to the trees so very few weeds are anywhere to be seen.

Outside the greenhouses we noted a goodly number of trees growing in containers--part of an experiment in wintering over. These trees will be laid over on their sides after freezing and will be covered with tarpaulins held away from trees and containers by heavy steel mesh such as is used in concrete work.

AUGUST 1975 WEATHER SUMMARY

(For those who file weather records with their garden notes.)

August was warmer and wetter than normal. The average temperature, degrees, was 1.5 degrees above normal. There were three days with a minimum of 90 degrees or above. (The warmest, 91, on the 3rd and 23rd. There were 11 days with a maximum of 85 or above. The lowest temperature was 50 on the 27th.

Precipitation for the month, 4.92 inches, was 1.87 inches above normal. Two heavy rains were recorded, 2.03 inches on the 1st and 1.04 inches on the 22nd. There was a dry period from the 5th through the 19th when only 0.19 inch of rain was recorded. The summer dry spell ended about the 20th with rain on 7 of the last 12 days of the month. Total precipitation for the calendar year through August has been 28.01 inches compared to a normal of 19.34 inches.

There were 10 clear, 10 partly cloudy and 11 cloudy days.

--Data for this summary was taken by MGM member Vinton Bouslough from records compiled by the National Weather Service at the Minneapolis-Paul International Airport.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

When you live in a city it's a thrill to sit on a bale of hay perched on a farm wagon pulled by a tractor. Along with the ride came a narrated tour of Bachman's growing range and a tour of their greenhouses. Our thanks to the Bachmans for a wonderful time.

In the fall our gardening activity tends to wane. However, for lily growers it is the time to get busy and plant new bulbs for next summer bloom. If you are interested in growing more lilies plan to attend the bulb sale of the North Star Lily Society at the Arboretum on October 15th. They will have a fine selection of bulbs and will give you advice on cultural requirements.

Our October meeting will be at Mount Olivet and Don Wilson has a panel of experts chosen from the requested speakers list obtained in the 1975 membership survey for our program. Save your tough questions and let us see if we can't stump these guys this time. It's soon time for the fall clean up and I'm sure we will get some helpful tips at this meeting.

Monday December 15th is the date of our annual Holiday Party so please make sure to reserve that night. Bob Gage is in the midst of planning. If you have any suggestions for entertainment call him.

The plans for improvements to the Community Garden are complete. On September 27th Carl Holst and MGC helpers put in some perennials which should be fall planted.

--Bob Livingston

P.S. We've just heard that our national MGCA president, Harold Parnham of Des Moines, Iowa, may be here as the guest of Sherm Pinkham about the time of our October meeting. If so, Don Wilson will get him for the program. Mr. Parnham is one of the organizers of the Men's Garden Club of America and its only living charter member. He has been in the nursery business all his life and is widely known as a gardening enthusiast and speaker.

--B. L.

NEW MEMBERS

(Clip and paste in your roster.)

Charles R. Baches	545-7703	Gordon W. Newton	
12907 April Lane, Hopkins	55343	4620 W. 63 St.	55434
Jerry L. Flora	929-2402	Stewart C. Wright	929-1770
5725 Hansen Rd.	55436	5208 W. 56 St.	55434

Fellow church members may be gardeners. Have you approached them about MGCM?

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

MGCM delegates to the national meeting in Kansas City September 26-30 were Paul Lindstedt, Fred Lang, Bill Hull and Ed Culbert. Sherm Pinkham as national director represented the North Star region. Bill Hull was on the program. The November issue of the SPRAY will contain their reports on the meetings.

Other North Star region clubs have community gardens, too. Last spring five members of the Minnetonka MGC worked together on a planting at the entrance to Excelsior on County Road 19 (from the west). In a 100 foot triangle, they planted 11 junipers, 30 roses, together with cannas, sweet alyssum and petunias. The Civic & Commerce Association in Excelsior provided the plants.

Watt Myers was displaying color pictures of his 14½ foot sunflower at the September meeting. He claimed the measurements were precise. Was the fertilizer PRECISE, too?

Art Johnson since he retired from the Pillsbury Co. has developed an avocation, travel arranging, which takes more time than his gardening. He organizes and runs an extensive program of senior citizen tours for his church, Diamond Lake Lutheran, and also handles a tour program for the Swedish Institute.

The item re the Mpls. Park Board tree planting program which appeared in the September issue of the SPRAY came to us via Gar Anderson. What have you to contribute, dear reader?

Speaking of readers--The background, training, keen eyes and quick wit of MGCM members keeps your editor on his toes. I have to be careful of my choice of words. I've had more recourse to my big dictionary since undertaking this job than at any previous time in my life. The first word which comes to my mind won't necessarily do. I have to watch the nuances of meaning. For example, in the report on the September tour I started to say Bachman's tree farm was adjacent to the greenhouse farm but finally settled upon congruent to the greenhouse farm as being more specific and less subject to challenge.

IF IT IS NOT ALREADY TOO LATE

Injury to garden plants due to frost may be temporarily delayed. It is difficult to protect plants from frost injury when the temperature is below 28° F., but above that reasonable success may be expected.

The simplest method is to cover plants to keep the temperature around the plants higher than the outside air. Overhead irrigation may also be used to protect plants. The system should be operating before the temperature falls below 32° F. in the evening and until it goes above 32° F. the next morning.

Injury due to very light frost may be prevented by continuous air movement. Commercial growers often use aircraft propellers or large fans to stir the air around crops. A fan to keep air moving around prized garden plants may be helpful.

RAMBLING OBSERVATIONS

by Larry Corbett

The Everglades National Park bounded on the north roughly by route 41 from Naples to Miami encompasses a major portion of the southern half of the Everglades which in turn cover much of the southern tip of Florida. The area is very flat and level. Since the Everglades are the natural drainage areas for the lakes and swamps of southern Florida I had once thought the area to be muddy and swampy; but this is not so.

I have observed farming operations around Homestead, Florida, midway along the eastern boundary of the national park, for a number of years. At Homestead they talk about two types of soil - "glade" and "rock". "Glade" is a deep silt-like soil while "rock" is limestone or coral rock that was formed many years ago under water. Rock farming is a very interesting type of farming--Many tomatoes are grown on this type of soil which is widespread in this area.

Water is the most important ingredient in the Everglades. Under normal conditions there is a sheet of water ranging from a few inches deep to a few feet deep over this coral rock base.

You can walk anywhere without danger of sinking. Water supports the life of insects, vegetation, fish and animals.

This part of Florida has a wet season and a dry season. The rains come in July and stop in March. We were there in January and life was happy as there was water. White egrets were quite plentiful as were great blue herons. As the dry season develops the water birds leave and migrate north.

Years ago the Continental Oil Company came into this area drilling for oil. They dug a small canal to help move supplies and machinery. It looks to be about four feet deep. This is where we found most of the life. The canal supports hundreds of gar fish. We followed the canal for a few miles and were delighted to see so many alligators. Alligators are very important to the Everglade fish life for they are strong enough to wallow out holes which fill with water giving the fish a place to live during the dry season.

Coarse grass grows over the Everglades and can become a fire hazard. Wherever there is a hummock of soil above the water there will be tree growth--a haven for the birds.

The state and federal governments as well as real estate developers are putting in new canals and roads north of the Everglades park. There is real concern as you may have read in the press that these projects may divert water away from the Everglades thus causing them to dry up and become unable to support the normal life of the area.

IF IT IS NOT ALREADY TOO LAKE (Continued from Page 4)

Heed weather bureau frost warnings and remember that Grandfather always said that if there was a full moon and the sky was clear at any time

WE'VE READ R ITLY, THAT

SOON AMERICAN CONSUMERS WILL BE HEARING OF A PROMISING NEW CEREAL GRAIN crop, triticale, which holds great possibilities. A cross of wheat (Triticum) and rye (Secale) which gave it the name, it has higher nutritional content and yield potential than either parent. It offers more usable protein per acre than any cereal grain crop now known, and its protein is in unusually efficient form. Although scientists have known of this hybrid for 100 years or more, many obstacles stood in the way of using it until recently. Last year 20,000 acres of triticale were grown in the Southwest, and the harvest is going into loaves of "Tritibread": a bakery in Amarillo, Texas. Triticale Foods Corp. of Muleshoe, Texas, is heading efforts to develop other products and markets.

-- A new granular systemic insecticide called acephate may become available to home gardeners. University of Wisconsin researchers, who have tested it for three years, say it appears to be both effective and also the safest systemic insecticide yet developed. At present gardeners have only one granular systemic available -- disulfoton (Di-Syston), which is highly toxic and must be handled with utmost care. The Wisconsin worker confirmed that the granular types, worked into the soil, are an effective long lasting, easy way to control many harmful insects while sparing the beneficial ones...

A new broad-spectrum systemic FUNGICIDE called Topsin to be marketed eventually to American gardeners prevents and controls fungus diseases on plants. First use will be for controlling prevalent lawn and turf fungus problems.

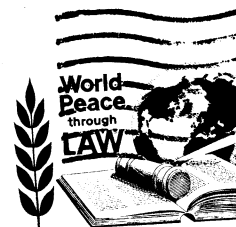
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Return to
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