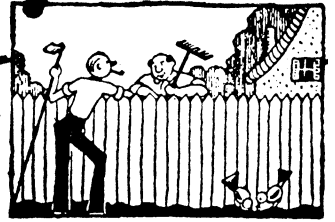




The Garden Spray

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

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



September 1972, Volume 30, Number 9

OPENING FALL MEETING - FINAL SUMMER FLOWER SHOW

JUDSON MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH, 4101 Harriet Avenue South

Flower Show 5:45

Dinner 6:00

Price \$2.50

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MGC member HENRY HALVORSON will discuss IRIS GROWING. Henry is a music educator by profession and does he make his flowers sing! If you want to know the secret of his success, come out to hear this talk.

The program will conclude with a Question & Answer Period conducted by Dr. Leon Sn

The flower show proceeding the meeting will be your final chance to try for one of the 1972 Summer Show Ribbons. There were 65 entries at the Arboretum in August. Now that we are back in town we look for more. Have your entries ready by 5:30.

OUR COMMUNITY FRAGRANCE GARDEN

Thanks to the great support of the Club members who have shared the maintenance assignments to date. Our Community Fragrance Garden has been gorgeous all summer; but with the "dog days" now upon us, perhaps a re-listing of the September-October assignments will not be out of place.

Garden Maintenance Schedule for September and October

Weed, cut off dead flowers and trim grass along planters and fence - Let's keep it the best looking garden in the metropolitan area. The work does not have to be done on the Saturday designated, but can be done evenings during the week. If you can't make it, please let Dave Johnson know or, better yet, get your own substitute.

Sept. 2	Roger Anderson	Bob Gage
9	Norman Johnson	George Smith
16	Tony Wick	Otto Nelson
23	Phil Smith	Dave Johnson
30	Bill MacGregor	Ralph Papermaster
Oct. 7	Ed Culbert	Bill Johnson
14	Bud Christenson	Vinton Bouslough

Roger Nelson - Keep the automatic sprinkling system working.

AUGUST TOUR A SUCCESS

August 8th, found us eating at the middle picnic shelter at the Arboretum instead of the intended Ordway Shelter which was deemed too windy and open with rain threatening. Most participants parked their cars at Mt. Olivet Church and rode the bus out. DeLaria's dinner, in addition to the usual "finger lickin good" chicken, featured barbecued ribs and fresh strawberry pie. A non-feature was the fact we ran out of cups and (plastic) silverware; but extra cups arrived and unused spoons were located at tables.

Following dinner, we toured the Arboretum by bus with Mervin Eisel and Leon Snyder as our tour guides. We stopped to walk through the new dwarf conifer garden and the education building under construction adjacent to it. This building, with its huge douglas fir beams is of striking design, was gift financed and involved not a single tax dollar.

On tour, we noted that more and more plantings are being grouped by type rather than variety, e.g. weeping trees instead of just willows, birches, etc. The whole Arboretum operation, amazingly, is handled by a full time staff of about eleven augmented by a summer staff of some 20 students.

Following the Arboretum tour, we visited the gardens of Leon Snyder, Bruce Johnstone and Peter and Aloyce Higgins, Bruce's neighbors. "How do any of these people find time to hold jobs?", we wondered.

At Leon's place, major attractions were his roses labelled, as well as, and bloom: better than those at Lake Harriet Gardens; his alyssum on the rocks; the creeping junipers beside the house; and the huge vegetable garden. Leon must also have a yen for high bush cranberries (my father called them "Them damned skunk berries" because of the odor when my sister-in-law cooked them for jelly) for we noticed that Bruce Johnstone's viburnums uphill from Leon were fenced off - the only fence between Leon and Bruce.

Bruce had flown off to the antipodes somewhere leaving Florence defenseless against the MGC horde so we tramped his railroad tie walks and steps at will. Bruce's huge garden of annual flowers was a skillful blend of many small squares and rectangles of different flowers. He must have taken a packet of every flower from one of the larger Northrup King seed display racks to plant. The many plots of zinnias, in particular, caught my eye. A hedge of hollyhocks screened a compost bin. There were a lot of cucumbers composting the night we visited.

A tall conifer hedge concealed and separated the Higgins garden from Bruce and the sole entry wasn't readily visible in the dusk. Those who located it found the same delightfully private lawn with garden on three sides we remembered from a past year. An innovation was the clematis screening the garbage cans from public gaze.

For those who rode bus 4, the evening continued all the way back to Mt. Olivet with the singing of old favorites (even some harmonizing) led by Harry Sova. When we hit upon "Du, Du, Liegst Mir Im Herzen" Al Mohr boomed out so lustily that a cry of "More, Mohr!" came from the rear.

Why wait another year for some fun singing? Would it be out of place at a regular meeting sometime?

New Address: Manley Jackson, 4360 Brookside Court, Apt. 117, Minneapolis, Mn. 551
Tel: 922-5070.

ROG'S REFLECTIONS

Just can't refrain from making some comment again about the unusual weather we are having this year. At the tour last month, I heard quite a few of the fellows remark about the cool moist summer, and the vegetable gardeners are wondering if the crop will mature. I can't remember a year when, by the middle of August, you haven't seen a burnt patch of lawn somewhere around town, but haven't come across one this year that's in bad shape. Maybe summer will be coming yet.

Bud Christensen came up with another fine tour last month, and in spite of the cool evening, all 125 members and guests had an interesting and enjoyable evening. Thanks, Bud, for your efforts in making the tours for this year a big success. Also, I want to thank Leon Snyder and Mervin Eisel for their commentary during the tour of the Arboretum education building and landscape. Sure have to give Leon a big pat on the back for the tremendous job he's been doing at the Arboretum. It continues to get bigger and better each time I get the opportunity to go out. Those of you who weren't able to make the tour missed something in not getting a chance to see the progress being made on the construction of the education building. This will really be a beautiful structure when completed and will be a useful facility to meet the increasing popularity of the Arboretum.

How about Les Johnson winning the Best of Show trophy at the National Lily Society Show in Detroit, Michigan last month. Nice going, Les. That's quite an honor.... keep up the good work!

A couple months ago, I mentioned the National's need for contributions to their landscape fund and that we would discuss the matter at a future meeting. Give this a little thought before the meeting and we'll see what the membership feels we should do in this regard. Note Sherm Pinkham's remark about this matter in the August Spray and also below.

Remember the change in our meeting place for September. We will be meeting at Judson Memorial Church instead of Mount Olivet. Also remember to bring your best specimens from the garden. You are going to need them if you want to ace out Henry Halvorson and Vern Carlson. They really put on a two-man flower show last month and I'm sure they built up a few points with their entries. This is also your last chance to let us see what you can grow.

Mark your calendar for September 12th. Carl will have a good, interesting program arranged for your enjoyment and garden interests. Let's have a good turnout.

- Roger Anderson

"BEFORE I FORGET IT"

This must be the shortest letter on record. It would be called a four word letter. It was received last week from our grand old friend, P. W. Young, 94, from California. Enclosed was a check for \$5.00 to help in our drive toward beautifying the grounds at our National Headquarters in Des Moines. This project has been mentioned in the past two issues of "The Spray". Rather than as a memorial to certain of our deceased members, it has been suggested that we have a specific planting of trees, group of shrubs or what have you, dedicated to all of the deceased members of the Minneapolis Club. There will be an appropriate plaque. The Des Moines fellows have agreed to do all the work. Remember, we are about the sixth largest club in National. We should be among the leaders. This is entirely free-will. If the spirit moves you, do something "before you forget it". Donors to date are: Ed Culbert; P. W. Young; Norman Steward; Bill Hull and the writer, a total of \$35.00 was received.

- Sherm Pinkham

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

by Ed Culbert

The Tyler, Texas, Men's Garden Club donated a Ginkgo, biloba spec. tree to be plant on ground of National Headquarters in Des Moines, Iowa in memory of L. Fletcher Lew late president of Southwest Region and member of Men's Garden Club of Houston.

On short notice members of the North Suburban MGC provided a display of 75 bouquets and/or houseplants for a senior citizens affair on July 9th.

Bill Hull has been named chairman of the national Awards Committee for 1972.

The United States Treasury has donated 25 pounds of used, shredded currency for experimental purposes, to determine if the material can be satisfactorily utilized as soil additives. Neil Sperry and Ed Landrum of the Dallas club will conduct the tests, with the results to be made as a report at the MGCA convention here next May. If it proves satisfactory, the supply is virtually unlimited and sells for \$12 per ton.

Daughter Kathryn contributes the following:

THE GARDENER

Father has a garden plot
out back by the alley
Of vegetables and such he grows
I tried to keep a tally
(it was exceedingly complicated).

Carrots, beans and cucumbers
he has them by the score
And planted in those very rows
grow multi-many more
(or so it seem although it's
very orderly).

High above those earthy plants
ascending toward the skies
Tomatoes, juicy, plump and red
and grapes and raspberries
(he also has an orchard of sorts).

A most unusual gardener
a seemly unique man
I saw him once grow strawberries
through holes in a can
(that endeavor lacked success).

He spent a thousand years or more
building his flower bed
Returning finally in at dusk
sporting a sunburned head
(hauled cement blocks for it when we
were kids and he just finished
it last year).

Worn overalls and red sweatband
we called him "Sunday best"
An extraordinary man,

A FEW NOTES ON FALL TEMPERATURES IN THE TWIN CITIES AREA

by Vinton Bouslough

The following has been taken largely from two sources, (1) The University of Minnesota Agriculture Experiment Station Bulletin No. 243 "Climate of Minnesota" and (2) National Weather Service Climatological Records.

As fall approaches, the probability of a hard freeze becomes more and more certain. Although this event cannot be delayed, some knowledge of the timing can be helpful in prolonging the life of tender vegetation by protective means such as covering; or by helping in deciding when to bring in specimens that will be wintered outside; or by telling when to protect perennials that become dormant during the winter.

The daily weather forecast of night time low temperatures is the most useful means for short term planning but is limited to a period of no longer than 5 days. In using these forecasted temperatures it should be borne in mind that the forecasts apply to temperatures that are observed in an instrument shelter where the thermometers are about 5 feet above the ground. Frequently temperatures at plant level can be as much as 5 to 10 degrees lower than the forecast temperatures. So, on a calm clear night, and especially in low lying areas be prepared for frost even when the temperature forecast is in the mid or upper thirties.

For longer term planning a climatological prediction or probability of certain critical temperatures has been developed in Tech. Bulletin 243. This type of prediction is based on what has happened over a 30-year period in the past. It should be remembered that these are averages and in any one year the event may take place earlier or later than the average.

Following is a table giving the percent probability of certain temperatures occurring on or before a given date in the fall:

<u>32° F</u>		<u>28° F</u>		<u>24° F</u>		<u>20° F</u>	
<u>per cent</u>	<u>date</u>	<u>per cent</u>	<u>date</u>	<u>per cent</u>	<u>date</u>	<u>per cent</u>	<u>date</u>
10	Sept 28	10	Oct 9	10	Oct 18	10	Oct 28
20	Oct 3	20	Oct 14	20	Oct 23	20	Nov 2
30	Oct 7	30	Oct 19	30	Oct 27	30	Nov 5
40	Oct 9	40	Oct 22	40	Oct 30	40	Nov 8
50	Oct 13	50	Oct 25	50	Nov 2	50	Nov 11
60	Oct 16	60	Oct 24	60	Nov 5	60	Nov 16

IT'S TIME TO PLANT FOR SPRING

Do you have a spot in your garden for bulbs? Do you want a succession of spring bloom: This list of common varieties in the order in which they flower may help in your planting: snowdrop; winter aconite; crocus; iris; story of the snow; tulip (kaufmanniana, greigii, fosteriana) grape hyacinth; trumpet daffodil; single and double early tulips; hyacinth; large and medium cupped daffodils; triumph and darwin hybrid tulips; late-flowering tulips (lily-flowered, parrot, breeder); wood hyacinth.

The tulips alone in favorable seasons will put on a display for up to 10 weeks. Just plant some of each of the early-blooming, midseason and late-blooming types. You can have a wide choice of planting locations as tulips do well in shade or sunshine, though those planted in the shade will have a longer blooming life. (Scilla; also, thrive in partial shade.)

CHAT WITH THE EDITOR

Months ago Phil Smith sent us a clipping titled as above saying it was printed in a magazine twenty-five or thirty years ago and he had no record of which one. This seems a singularly appropriate time to reprint it for the benefit of MGCM members.

"I do hope I'm wrong, but sometimes I think I detect a body of opinion that regards those of us who like yard and garden work as a bit crazy, or even lacking in character. Could be self-consciousness, of course, but some of my neight seem to give me funny looks when they see me out in the summer heat happily copi with the lawn. And a friend who lives around the corner DID actually ask the other day, "You some kind of nut, or something" Why don't you play golf, or at least sit in the shade and catch up on your reading?"

"Well, here's my defense, and the defense of some other millions of home gardeners. We like to get up early on a beautiful summer weekend. We like to put on old clothes and then, having an appointment only with ourselves, get out and mow or dig or mulch or weed. At some point we will have an excuse to go to the hardware store. All this we can do without first attending an organizational meeting."

"Gardening is a reasonable form of exercise. A by-product is that the place looks good and this imparts a modest feeling of pride. Personal contact with the earth gives spiritual nourishment. Too much of modern life has lost this contact, and I suspect that many of us are so preoccupied with complicated political and social problems that we get fatigued and lose perspective. A few square feet of garden produce a sense of realism. And tranquility".

"We gardeners are an inoffensive breed, and may even be a minor civic asset."

WE'VE READ RECENTLY THAT....

Avid Texas gardeners often report more success with fall vegetables than with spring gardens.

A calcium deficiency may be responsible for blossom end rot of tomatoes.

Because of pollution damage it will be increasingly difficult to grow leafy crops like lettuce and spinach near large cities.

Injury to orchid blooms is usually the first evidence of ethylene, a product of vehicle exhausts in urban areas. Cattleya are particularly sensitive. Have you had any such problems, Bob Bryant?

The ethylene gas emitted by an apple enclosed on the vine with a tomato may speed up the tomato's ripening.

Earthworms like coffee grounds so dig them into the soil around plants requiring high humus, e.g. ferns.

A new biological control (Thuringiensis) for cabbage worms is coming on the market. It is a bacteria that attacks and kills the larva. You spray a suspension of the bacteria on your plants and the worm eats it along with the leaf.

It is often the "weedy progenitor varieties" that are most valuable in the development of disease and pest resistant plants.

NOTES FROM THE BERRY PATCH

by Bob Smith

Raspberries: Raspberries are very productive for time, effort, and space devoted. There are primarily two types: those that propagate by suckering, most red and some yellow and purple varieties, and those that propagate by tipping, black raspberries or "black-caps". Most varieties bear fruit biennially on wintered over canes but some varieties are of the everbearing type producing fall fruit on new canes and again the following summer on wintered over canes.

As for culture, S. B. Green writes. "The common varieties of the raspberry succeed admirably in any good soil but the suckering class produce rather better than black caps in moist heavy loam and the latter do best in a sandy loam. The suckering kinds may be planted in autumn or spring with safety but black-caps should always be set in the spring. Care should be exercised in buying plants. It is important to use only vigorous plants from healthy stock.

The best fertilizer is well rotted barnyard manure. Raspberries, especially the black-caps kinds, will produce very well on quite poor soil, but rich land and thorough cultivation is necessary for best success with any variety. Plants should be spaced at three feet intervals in the row. Black-caps should be set about the same depth in the soil as they normally grew. The suckering kinds should be planted a little deeper and be well firmed in. The soil should be kept loose and free from weeds. Not more than two shoots should be permitted to grow from each root the first year. The second and succeeding years the four or five shoots nearest the hill should be allowed to grow and the rest treated as weeds. As soon as fruit has been gathered the old canes which have borne fruit the current year, should be cut out and destroyed.

The first year no mulching is needed; but the second season, as early as the middle of June, the rows should be mulched for two feet in each side with hay, straw or other mulching material. Too much stress can hardly be laid upon the importance of mulching this fruit. The material keeps the land moist, the berries clean and kills out the weeds.

It is desirable in this climate to have the canes supported in some manner. In milder sections, where winter protection is not necessary, the bushes may be pinned to make them form little trees that support themselves but this kind of treatment is not desirable where plants have to be covered in winter, as it makes them so stocky they cannot be easily laid down.

As a rule, it is not safe to allow any known variety of raspberry to go through the winters of this section without some kind of protection not that they will always kill to the snow-line if not protected, but because covering them involves no great expense, makes them almost a sure crop and covered plants seem to have more vigor than those left exposed."

The above comments of Samuel B. Green, a teacher of Horticulture at the University of Minnesota, were taken from his book "Amateur Fruit Growing", one of the first practical books on fruit growing in this area, written in 1893. Basic cultural practices have changed very little since that time. Providing winter protection considered inexpensive back in the good old days with a plentiful supply of boy power on the raspberry farms is no longer an inexpensive item. The few remaining commercial raspberry growers around Hopkins, once the raspberry capital of the world still provide winter protection, however, for biennial varieties to insure a dependable crop.

The greatest changes have been in the development of new varieties, dependable everbearers such as Fall Red in particular. With everbearers, winter protection is no longer necessary to insure a good fall crop each year. Three options are available with regard to the summer crop: 1) Protection of canes for a dependable summer crop; 2) Taking chances on the summer's crop with no protection; or 3) Cutting down canes in the spring to put all the strength into a single fall crop.

Option 3 seems preferable to me since this will normally solve the bird depredation problem also. The patch of Fall Red Raspberries that I started last year will bear a heavy fall crop this year starting at the end of August using this option. The birds are not bothering my strawberries at mid-August so I should have no problems with the raspberries. If birds are a problem, the best solution is to completely enclose the raspberry bushes with netting.

In selecting varieties for planting consult the recommended list of fruit for Minnesota published annually in the Jan.-Feb. issue of the "Horticulturist". Fall Red and September are the recommended everbearing varieties. Fall Red bears earlier than September. With September, I have often found much of the fruit fails to mature by season's end.

If you obtain disease free nursery stock, maintain good fertility, keep your patch mulched, canes thinned, prune out old canes as soon as they are through bearing and destroy diseased canes promptly, a raspberry patch will provide you with a lot of delicious fruit for many years.

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