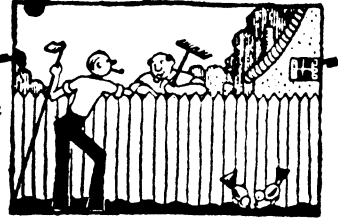




The Garden Spray

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

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



September 1973, Volume 31, Number 9

LAST CALL for our 1973 FLOWER SHOW, September 8th and 9th at
Pearl Park Fieldhouse, Diamond Lake Road at Portland Avenue

You still have time, but hurry. All entries must be registered and in place by 11 AM
Saturday, September 8th.

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OPENING FALL MEETING

We want to SEE YOU on the 11th, the second Tuesday in September
at

JUDSON MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

4101 Harriet Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota
(Enter basement at rear on 41st Street side)

DINNER at 6 P.M., \$2.50

PROGRAM (with slides) at 6:45 P.M.

SPEAKER: DR. LEON SNYDER...."THE ARIZONA DESERT"

Hopefully, President Carl Holst will be back to give us a few words about horticulture
in Europe at this same meeting.

GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Anyone who has the least interest in gardening must love Denmark. Flowers are every-
where from large plantings in parks to well kept little plantings, some no bigger than
a sidewalk block. Little spaces are planted, not littered. Most homes have small
yards but the lawns are well kept and the plantings are colorful and beautiful. Many
different flowers make an interesting garden that reminds me of Archie Flack's garden.
Many people live in apartments, both old and new. Most of these have window boxes
spilling over with color. Where there are no window boxes, every window has a plant
or two.

In Copenhagen many of the buildings are 200 years old. There is no urban renewal or
attempt to disguise age with a glass and chrome front. These old buildings are well
kept and they are proud and dignified. Small doors lead to cobblestone courtyards with
window boxes, planters and small trees and shrubs. Apartments behind or above business
buildings are reached from these courts and on nice days residents sit in these areas.
Doesn't this beat allies full of broken bottles and weeds?

Copenhagen is growing very rapidly and spreading out to take over farm lands. The
value of land in the inner city area is too great for many homes, so apartments are
everywhere. However, the city has done wonders in providing parks, walks, picnic areas
etc. so these people can enjoy the outdoors. They do, too. Many people of all ages
are walking or bicycling or just sitting on the many benches. Fewer cars keep the air
cleaner. People keep the litter off the ground. Life is more relaxed and I enjoy it.

Carl J. Holst, Randers, Denmark

THE AUGUST GARDEN TOUR

125 members, wives and guests (Wives aren't guests according to Bob Smith) including Otto and Thora Erickson all the way from Sun City, Arizona, assembled at Marlin Gihausen's on August 14 to admire his garden and eat Kentucky fried chicken and strawberry pie--Dwight Stone auctioned off the sole remaining piece to Bill Hull for a dollar.

From the street one sees only the house with its under the windows planting of evergreens, the garage and the high brown screen between. Once around the screen a huge outdoor living area encircled with a deep border planting of trees shrubs and flowers appears. The late afternoon sun is screened off by the trees to the west--a perfect picnic setting.

There are over 60 varieties of trees and shrubs in this yard. We were challenged to identify eight which bore numbers. If you had to give up, as I did, the answers were 1, Redbud; 2, Pachistima; 3, Viburnum Carlisii; 4, Tamarix; 5, Ilex verticillata (Black Alder); 6, Korean Barberry; 7, Forsythia; 8, Golden Elder.

And did you see that fuchsia perched on a tall block with other potted plants on 10 blocks encircling it and looking up to it like suppliants?

Darwin Price's garden across the street had an inviting approach along a blacktop edged with zinnas and ageratum. I slipped over ahead of the group, stepped in onto the concrete patio and sat on a bench to admire the neatly mown grass and the flower border. There was great variety but the zinnas, in particular, caught my eye because of the contrast of color against the house and because of the way they and the glorious daisies across the yard stood out in the evening sun. Later I found an equally attractive vegetable garden concealed from view by the garage.

The first stop with the bus was at Jim Lange's. There was a gorgeous display of geraniums against the house and also around the bird bath. A raised bed of cannas and dahlias concealed a planting of black eyed peas. "To satisfy my wife's Texas taste said Jim. His tomato plants were the best looking ones I had seen all summer so far. Vern Carlson and Jim Bezat came up with some equally fine ones later on tour.

Dave Johnson got our bus lost on a torn up, dead end street en route but Vern Carlson saved the day for long time MGCM members with his double impatiens, his asters, his tall tomatoes, his Burpless cucumbers growing over trellis and arch. There weren't really so many cucumber plants but were they productive! It looked as though all the ladies came away with samples and I saw one man snitch from the vines. Did you know that Vern transports that sphagnum moss he has around everything all the way from Lake Vermillion each year?

Jim Bezat's place was our last stop. As we passed the alley his dahlias came into view and elicited a chorus of "Oh's!", and "Ah's!" But when we entered the yard it was only the dahlias which showed his artistry. There was a 2 pound tomato lying beside a bathroom scale as if to challenge us to disprove its weight. Trays of dahlia petals lay waiting to be made into sachets. Luscious lettuce grew in abundance--the four-leaf clover planting and more just sprouted in a growing tray waiting to be picked out and transplanted into waiting soil next week. Jim even had a shade garden. No wonder he says he can't grow as many dahlias as he once did.

You can compare our August gardens with those of upstate New York if you attend the MGCA national convention in Cortland, N.Y. a year from now (it begins August 11). The Culberts, Pinkhams and Siegals are already planning to go. Are you?

SEEDS and SEED PRODUCTION

by L. W. Corbett

Seeds are one of nature's miracles. It is hard to conceive that each seed contains all the parts of a plant. Some seeds are quite large while others are so small one needs a magnifying glass to make out the details. Seeds, of course, are nature's method of maintaining or reproducing a species or type.

Seed can be produced in practically any area in which the plant will grow but this would not always be economically sound. Good seed must be viable, free of weed seed and foreign matter; true to name and not mixed; free from diseases; and, must produce a good type of product for the variety in question. This calls for specialty growing in the best adapted areas. One of the most important considerations is weather at harvest time. It should be dry and warm. Other factors are soil, water control, disease problems, available labor and "know how".

Many flower and some vegetable seeds are not harvested mechanically but are hand picked. Salvia, sage, impatiens and pansy are examples of hand picked seed since their mature seed just will not stay on the plant. This is nature's way of distributing them. Many of the F_1 hybrid flowers are hand harvested--notably petunias and pansies.

Some of the areas of best seed production are in our own western states of California, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Colorado. World wide Japan is foremost in certain types of plant breeding and seed production. In Europe the major seed producing areas are southern France, the Po Valley of Italy and southern Italy where cheap hand labor is available. Some seeds are grown in Great Britain and the Dutch and Danish seed trade has been outstanding for years. Prior to World War II Hungary and Rumania were important seed producers. They are now starting to come back into our trade area. The old German East Africa areas are now important for the production of bean seed for Europe.

Man and nature do not always agree. Man is always trying to change plant types. In vegetables market demands often are the controlling influences. We changed lettuce types to allow long distance shipping from California. Watermelon and cantaloupe have been changed by changing fruit sizes, shapes, and toughness of rind to fit shipping needs.

A recent development has been the demand for vegetables that can be mechanically harvested. Labor costs are very important and as minimum wages moved from 50 cents to 75 cents, to a dollar, to \$1.25 and are now looking toward \$2.00 the pressures build for a cheaper way to handle crops. Beans, peas, sweet corn, and cucumbers are all being mechanically harvested.

Cucumbers are a very good example of these changes. Cucumbers normally have 6 to 10 groups of male flowers before a fruit or female flower is set. With the new gynocious types we now set a fruit (pickle) at each joint. The plants have been "dwarfed" by shortening the distance between nodes. These two features help make a more practical cucumber for mechanical picking.

Beans are normally flat to thick oval in pod shape. Our markets want them round, fleshy and with slow seed development. Today most beans are mechanically picked. We have made the plant more upright, changed the pod type, concentrated the pod set and increased the yield by disease control.

The home gardener has benefitted through disease control and in many cases improved eating quality. However, there is a vast difference between varieties and the home gardener should carefully study the available information. Grow what is best in your area and what best suits your tastes.

BACKWARD, TURN BACKWARD, OH TIME....

Recipes using carrots in Isadora Nelson's "To the Ladies" page in the July-August of *The GARDENER* prompt us to repeat this receipt (sic) from *GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK AND MAGAZINE* for April 1864.

"CARROT SOUP.--Take six or eight full-grown carrots, scrape them clean, and rasp the outer rind, or soft red part, and if you have a ripe tomato, add it, sliced, the raspings, but use no other vegetable except onions. While this is being done, broth of any kind of fresh meat which has been got ready should be heated and seasoned with a couple of onions fried in butter, but without pepper, or any other kind of seasoning, except a small quantity of mace and a little salt; put the raspings into quarts of the skimmed broth, cover the stewpan close, and let it simmer by the side of the fire for two or three hours, by which time the raspings will have become soft enough to be pulped through a fine sieve; after which the soup should be boiled until it is as smooth as jelly, for any curdy appearance will spoil it."

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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Kolb, John L., 2970 Dodd Rd., St. Paul 55121
Warner, Bruce F., 6033 Penn Ave. So., Minneapolis 55419

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

With this issue we start a series of articles on seeds by member Larry Corbett, a veteran horticulturist, who has spent a lifetime in the seed business. A series on chrysanthemums by member Dick Lehman, widely known in the chrysanthemum field, is in the beginning stages.

Bruce Warner has been living in temporary quarters since he sold his home and moved August 1st. He hopes to move to his new address September 1st.

Harold Kaufmann writes, "We have been here since July 8 and, altho we have a comfortable 3rd floor apartment in Cedars-Edina overlooking a mini-park with a fountain, my dear wife and I miss our roses, our garden, our trees, our old neighbors and our old gardening ways."

Looks like September 1 is moving day. Jack Kolb's change of address came just as this issue was ready for the typist.

The week of September 23-29 has been designated "Men's Garden Club Week" in observance of the 41st birthday of MGCA which was founded on Sept. 26, 1932. MGCA was born when ten representatives of four fledgling men's garden clubs met in Chicago and formed together a working national organization. Of the ten men who attended the first meeting, the only survivor is Harold J. Parnham, who was a delegate from the Des Moines Men's Garden Club. Mr. Parnham is now first vice-president-elect of MGCA.

MGCA membership as of July 1st was up 305 members over the year ending total for according to a report from the National office to directors and region presidents. The ten largest clubs are: 1. Akron, 188; 2. Des Moines, 177; 3. Austin, 170; 4. Portland, 165; 5. North Shore, 152; 6. Tidewater, 144; 7. Syracuse, 139; 8. Roanoke, 123; 9. Minneapolis, 123; 10. Tucson, 121.

Pot up some of your garden plants for indoor bloom. Marigolds, petunias, impatiens, sweet alyssum will brighten your windows for several weeks. Choose low, bushy plants with plenty of buds. Water well first so you can dig without disturbing the roots. Get them used to indoor conditions gradually - by open windows or on a porch - then indoors with plenty of light.

PERENNIALS FOR THE BORDER, PART 3

by Les Johnson

The following seven perennials conclude my listing, started in the July *SPRAY*, of perennials I have used to add variety to my border plantings.

EUPHORBIA *epitymoides* var. *Polychroma* (Spurge) is a very showy plant with its bright yellow bracts in late May. Spurge is a very large and diverse genus. *E. pulcherrima* is the well known poinsettia.

TROLLIUS (Globe-flower) whose lovely yellow ball shaped flowers come in late May and early June is easy and hardy and provides bloom early before most other plants in the border.

IBERIS *sempervirens* (perennial Candytuft) is a nice low-growing plant for the front of the border. Blooms in late May and June. The foliage is evergreen and needs a light cover for winter.

BERGENIA *cordifolia*. We used to call this *Saxifraga*. This, too, is evergreen. The leaves turn bronzy in the fall and are the arrangers delight. The flowers appear above the foliage in pink clusters. Foliage is about 8-10" tall and flowers about 15-18".

PULMONARIA *officinalis* (Lungwort) is a low growing plant for the front of a shady border. It has blue flowers similar to *Mertensia* and blooms at the same time. The foliage which is green mottled with light spots is attractive at all times. In this way it is superior to *Mertensia* that dies down after flowering.

ECHINOPS (Globe Thistle) var. *Taplow Blue* has a very attractive blue flower. Foliage is rather coarse. Grows up to 4-4½ ft. so needs to be used in the rear of the border as a background plant.

CRAMBE *armenica*, is another "eye-catcher" for the rear of the border. It takes quite a lot of room as it grows to 6 ft. tall and as wide, but for the back of a deep border it is a beauty. In June it covers itself with panicles of small white bloom in great clusters, a cloud of white. After flowering, the flower stalks are cut off and the plant remains green and nice all summer.

GARDEN LITERATURE OF VALUE

From Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Av., Brooklyn N. Y. 11225

Handbook of Garden Pests....\$1.50

(Tells you how to control plant diseases and pests with sprays and dusts, systemic cultural practices.)

The Home Vegetable Garden....\$1.50

(Features salad vegetables, the new mini vegetables, children's gardens, unusual vegetables and others.)

Tree and Shrub Forms--Their Landscape Use....\$1.50

From Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 2040

Transplanting Trees and Shrubs (G-192)....10¢

(Provides step-by-step instructions for digging up and replanting, root-pruning and care of the plant until it adjusts to its new environment.)

Landscape for Living 1972 Yearbook....\$3.50

(Includes chapters on landscaping around homes and in urban areas, good and bad insects, lawn-grass seed, searches for new plants. Discusses vegetable gardening, t

WE'VE READ RECENTLY THAT

At a research station at Long Ashton, England, scientists have come up with a dwarf apple tree. A single stem, apples larger than normal and uniform in size hang like clusters of tomatoes.

Geraniums planted among roses drive the beetles away; Larkspur when eaten by the b kills them. But how do you coax the beetles to eat the larkspur?

Marigolds and garlic will repel aphids. I don't know about the garlic but my mari haven't kept aphids off the gloriosas.

Singapore is a pageant of flowers because the government gives citizens a tax rebat they plant pretty blooms on their front steps.

There are more than six million pressed and dried plant specimens in the herbarium the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

Aspidistras (castiron plant) have lived to be 100 years old.

The National Park Service in Washington, D. C., has a plant ambulance, manned by a ticulturalist with 26 years experience in treating ailing flora, which will make a call by appointment, to visit a diseased lawn. The home visits, which are free, a part of a new \$100,000 plant extension service similar to agricultural extension s vices provided residents of the 50 states. Called the National Capital Parks Gree Service it will also provide telephone advice for residents needing instant help f dying plants and a diagnostic center where critically ill plants, or just their le may be brought for analysis by park service botanists.

The cattail because of its many uses is a veritable plant supermarket.

Return to
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TO

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