

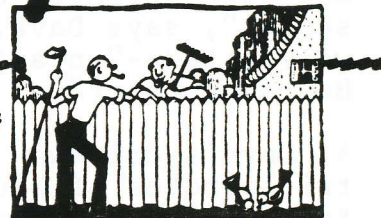


# The Garden Spray

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

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

August 1989, Volume 47, Number 8



## AUGUST GARDEN TOUR & POT LUCK

Wives, Sweethearts & Other Guests Invited

### -PROGRAM-

Garden Tours and Pot Luck Dinner  
at Bob Churilla's

### -SPECIFICS-

Date: Sunday August 6, 1989  
Location: Meet at Lake Harriet Methodist Church  
Parking Lot. 4900 Chowen Av. S. Mpls.  
Time: 1:00 P.M.--Return to parking  
lot 5:30-6:00 P.M.  
Price: \$3.00 per person.

### -BY RESERVATION ONLY-

Reservations must be received by THURSDAY AUG. 3, 1989

Automatic reservation list NOT in effect!!!

### POT LUCK DINNER

Please specify what you will be bringing

-----

For reservation(s) for MGCM tour-meeting August 3, 1989  
return this completed form to JOE STENGER at 5421 Girard  
Avenue South, Minneapolis, Mn. 55419.

I plan to attend. Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) for me  
(\$3.00 each ). We will bring the following item(s) to share  
at the pot luck \_\_\_\_\_.

My Check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_.

My Guests Will Be \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## THE JUNE MEETING

The meeting place wasn't inviting, DeLaria's food is better; and the bus air-conditioning wasn't but the visions and the refreshments at DAVE JOHNSON'S made up for it. Dave has one of those places pictured in glossy magazines but seldom seen. Nary a weed. Everything just so. Color co-ordinated, matching heights, everything at the peak of perfection. "Mulching is the secret", says Dave. He could have added--so could the others whose gardens we visited--"an artistic touch, careful planning, infinite patience, and Hours of Labor".

At Dave's driveway entrance were two rock bordered flower beds with concentric circles of blue lobelia, blue ageratum, red begonias around a small tree. Elsewhere we saw: sweet peas on a trellis pink monarda below; a solid mass of high pink petunias beside the house; low zinnias fronting a fine vegetable garden; a rock garden wall and flowers galore.

Our bus couldn't make it up the hill leading to PHIL SMITH'S driveway so had to back up and make a run for it. Phil has done a lot of garden improving since we last visited his hilltop home: more terracing, more flower borders, more delphiniums. No one grows better delphiniums than Phil. We haven't seen such a display of delphiniums on our tours for years. In addition Phil had beds of impatiens fronted by fibrous rooted begonias; solid beds of tuberous begonias, white, pink, red, yellow. There was even a striking clump of profusely flowering malva.

HERB NEBY had lilies galore; white lilies, yellow lilies, red lilies, pale purple lilies, spotted, upturned, down-facing lilies, even potted lilies. But that was only part of his show. There were pots and pots of everything from dahlias in bloom to you name it. And how can one ever forget that inviting vine-covered doorway with it's window boxes of geraniums and petunias, that red monarda against the white picket fence or the benjamina with it's entwined stems.

LEE GILLIGAN'S "Hidden Orchard" wasn't visible from the road. Instead we saw along the driveway a chip-mulched rose bed. To our right along a tall hedge was a border made up of alternating beds of coleus, some so dark as to be almost invisible in the shade, and impatiens. At the end stood a loaded highbush cranberry.

From here we could see lanes of apple trees stretching to where we would meet our bus. En route we found that Lee was in the process of developing several raised flower-beds within low flagstone walls. He, like Phil, had beautiful delphiniums. Pole beans in the vegetable garden were supported by branches cut from downed apple trees or from pruned trees. If beans are fruit those branches will continue to bear fruit for years.

At BOB STEPAN'S we stepped off the bus onto a soft, deep, green, carpet-like lawn recently diagonally mowed to be greeted by a rose border in June bloom extending around the house from the doorway to the fireplace chimney. In the backyard a brown mulch and a brown wide-board fence showed off more roses.

The pink impatiens under a big red leafed maple and the variegated hosta elsewhere were stand-outs in the late twilight. A clump of achillea millifolium rubrum brought questions. "Is that really yarrow?" as we took a quick look at other flowers before boarding our bus for a seemingly devious route home and to bed.



## Notes from the President . . .

The July letter by Bill Hill said that we had 88 men that led our Club from 1942 to date. This fits with the musical theme--what has 88?--That's right, the number of keys on a piano.--And the musical word for August is Maestoso--Dignified stately and majestic. This is the month the garden comes into full statement. Vegetable yields abound and flowers are doing their best. Enjoy this month's garden--Minnesota's gardening season is far too short.



### AUGUST MGCM PERSON OF THE MONTH

This person is involved in many facets of gardening. He not only is active in this club, he also involves himself with other agencies and with the State Horticultural Society to promote better gardening. He's always busy before the meeting setting up a display and preparing for the needs of the speaker.

He is actively involved in trying to bring the Center for the Blind into full participation in the Fragrance Garden. MGCM will take a more active part in People for Parks because of his efforts. KENT PETTERSON I appreciate everything you do for gardening and this Club. Everyone please recognize him as August MGCM Person of the Month.

### RAMBLINGS ON COLOR IN THE GARDEN

In winter, with a seed catalog in your lap, do you often think how the color of a special plant would fit into the scheme of things in a certain section of your garden? I find myself doing this often. The problem is that the color you see in the seed catalog is not the one you may get in your garden.

Then, too, there is the problem of color with the amount of light your garden will receive. Think how different a red will look in full sunlight as compared to a crimson plant in a shady area. In the last few years, I've been more aware of the effect of whites and greens as a way of providing transitions between major flower beds. Then, too, the white plants provide a nice contrast between the reds and the blues in a space.

Many people like the "carefree" nature of perennials. The problem with these plants is that they bloom only at a specific time. Mervin Eisel suggests six perennials for all season bloom:

1. Start with iris for two months of bloom.
2. Peonies give bloom from the middle of May until June.
3. Daylilies provide 3 to 4 months of bloom. Bitson and Stella A'Oro are named as excellent representatives of this group.
4. Lilies bloom from June to August.
5. Phlox have good fragrant bloom into August.
6. Chrysanthemums help finish out the season to frost.

Dave Johnson's and Jerry Shannon's gardens were featured on Good Company on Channel 5 on June 30th. They were described as the best gardens in the Twin Cities--Congratulations you guys!

-Duane J.

**Every Member Sponsors A New Member**  
**Every Member Sponsors A New Member**



## DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

By Ed Culbert

BEANS Those small, round holes occasionally found in beans probably were caused by slugs in the hours after dusk. That becomes a flashlight operation. Handpicking them at dawn in my lettuce is more productive than sharing my beer with the varmints says an exchange.

CUCUMBERS: Richard DeLano writes in Flower and Garden, "Cucumbers will continue to develop if fruits are picked before they mature and start to set seed...if even one cucumber sets seed it will generate enough aging hormone to cause quick death of the vine." That wasn't my problem last year. My Bush Pickle variety was a bed of yellow flowers all summer but nary a cuke. I think I got 4 gnarly little cukes--too small for any use.

PURSLANE and hot weather go together. The vegetable garden, the flower garden are clean today. Tomorrow purslane, that portulacca like weed, has taken over. I'm told purslane originated in India or Africa, arrived in Europe in the 15th century and was brought to America as an edible by early explorers. That's the domesticated salad variety, of course, but they say the wild variety has "the same pleasant flavor". Eureka! The solution. Eat that pig-weed. It'll be sure to quit bothering you.

SUNFLOWERS are in a group of plants that compete with other plants by secreting toxins through their roots (which) may explain why pole beans or potatoes don't do well near sunflowers but that is no problem for me. I haven't planted a sunflower in years; but I always let a few volunteers grow for the fun of watching the goldfinches ride the swaying seed heads as they peck away at the seeds. The ride must be too giddy for the squirrels. They cut off the still green heads and squirrel them away somewhere.

SECOND CROPS I've always been intrigued by the Fall Gardening articles which begin to appear in July. Not infrequently they suggest "quick maturing varieties 65 days or less" of leafy vegetables, cole crops, radishes. Less often do they suggest how to keep seed rows moist (boards, paper caps, shade, etc.) and the inherent danger of these methods. Never, it seems to me, do they say when to plant.

I thought I had the answer when I picked up the August 1989 issue of Flower and Garden and saw a bar graph on that very topic. Unfortunately the graph was for U.S.D.A. Zone 5. We are in Zone 4. So it's back to figure it out for yourself unless you possess a copy of Leon Snyder's Gardening in the Upper Midwest. There in a footnote to a chart on page 70 he gives dates for fall seeding of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, leaf lettuce, radish and spinach.

Me? I usually plan on a second crop of snap beans planted when my beets have been pulled for pickling. I used to plant winter rye in that spot. Now the beans have it. Don't ask me what date that is.

IT'S FOR THE BIRDS Rice Krispies that is. Have you studied the front panel of your Rice Krispie's box recently? It suggests hanging out a package for the birds while you sit back and watch them. (Presumably trying to perch on the cut out perch you have made half way up the box.) What happens if it rains?

-----

Marigolds were first regarded with distrust on account of their odor. Some early herbalists considered them poisonous.



## NOTES FROM THE POTATO PATCH

By Bob Smith

The potato is a highly nutritious complex carbohydrate vegetable that should be regularly included in our diet, grown in our garden and exhibited at our garden show each year. It is high in fiber, vitamins and minerals and low in calories when baked and served with low fat toppings rather than french fried. Current studies indicate that it may be best to avoid eating the skins and give up some of the fiber and nutrition that is concentrated there as there may also be some undesirable chemical substances concentrated there too. Potatoes that have turned green from exposure to light contain the toxic substance solanine which should not be eaten under any circumstances.

Potatoes are a member of the Solanacea family which includes, tomatoes, peppers and tobacco. Although this plant family is subject to a large number of diseases and insect problems, following a few simple guidelines listed below should help you to grow your own spuds free of chemicals and far superior in flavor and quality to commercially grown potatoes purchased in the supermarket.

- Grow in Acid Soil. pH 5.0 - 6.0. Scab disease may be a problem if grown in alkaline soil.
- Rotate plantings. Potatoes are heavy feeders and can have disease carry-over so rotate to fertile soil where potatoes and tomatoes were not grown the previous year.
- Provide good plant nutrition. Heavy feeders require lots of nutrients which for potatoes means primarily potash, some phosphorus and very little nitrogen. Good potash sources include sulfomag, greensand and muriate of potash. Avoid wood ashes as they are alkaline.
- Use certified seed potatoes available at local seed stores by the pound. Use your own seed potatoes only if you are sure they are disease free or for propagation of heirloom varieties for which no certified seed is available.
- Use single eyes. Cut single eyes with as large a mass of flesh as possible. Multiple eyes will produce more smaller potatoes. I prefer to control size of potatoes by the spacing of single eyes. For Kennebec 6" - 8", Anoka 12" - 14", others 10" - 12". Experiment in your garden as plant vigor and soil conditions will dictate spacing. Eyes can be cut and planted immediately without drying flesh.
- Plant resistant varieties if scab or blight are a problem in your garden.
- Plant early in the spring as early as the ground can be worked.
- Hill and mulch before the vines start to sprawl. This will help to conserve moisture, smother weeds and prevent surface potatoes from greening.
- Recommended varieties that do well in Minnesota.
  - White - Kennebec - Anoka
  - Russet - Norgold Russet - Burbank Russet
  - Red - NorlandThere are many other varieties with special characteristics that may be worth growing. Don't be afraid to experiment.

Having followed organic practices in my garden for many years I highly recommend this approach to gardening. I am experiencing no disease or  
(over)



insect problems that require any special treatment other than inspecting the potato patch daily during plant emergence and early growth to destroy cutworms that are working on the new shoots. Slugs, aphids, flea beetles and leaf hoppers are seldom seen and I have yet to see my first Colorado potato beetle. Using resistant varieties has eliminated the need for control of scab and blight. Sevin and Malathian are recommended for insect control by the chemical people if insect pests become a problem.

You may want to experiment with other methods of growing potatoes such as in hay above ground. Many favorable reports have been heard from this practice and there are probably as many ways of doing it as there are people who grow in this manner. The potato eyes are laid on the surface of the soil or on top of a layer of leaves or hay placed there the fall before planting. The seed eyes are covered with a thick layer of leaves or hay following planting. The potato vines grow up through the layer of mulch and the roots penetrate to the soil below with the new potatoes being formed in the mulch. These can be robbed easily at any time during the growing season without disturbing the plant. The secret is to keep the covering mulch thick enough to prevent any greening.

When I used this system many years ago in my garden slugs were a problem so the results were not favorable. I then went to a modified mulch system with such good results that I have practiced it to the present. I now plant early in April at a 4" depth, hill the plants at mid June before they sprawl and mulch with a 6" layer of leaves. This gives me all the benefits of an above the ground method but the new potatoes are formed in the soil with no slug damage.

One important advantage of mulching beside the prevention of greening is the minimizing of hollow heart, a brown void formed in the middle of the potato. It is caused by uneven moisture supply which occurs more frequent with potatoes grown without mulching. Supplemental watering should be done with any system of growing potatoes to maintain an even supply of moisture throughout the growing season.

Potatoes for storage should not be dug until several weeks after top growth dies. They then should be dried on the surface for several days before placing in a cool dry area with no light.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### GARDEN TIPS (From GREEN SPROUTS Wachtung Hills NJ MGC)

Summer Squash--If your yellow and zucchini squash should suddenly develop a bitter taste, don't eat it! The flavor could be created by a toxin that can cause stomach cramps and diarrhea. The plants and fruit show no other signs of being infected.

Winter Squash--A few weeks before the first heavy frost, pick the small tender-skin squash, leaving the mature fruit on the vine. Slice thin and stir-fry the immature fruit, which otherwise will rot on the vine. This example of "wasting nothing" is brought to us by our Hmong refugees from Southeast Asia.

#### PRESERVATIVE FOR CUT FLOWERS (From the Avant Gardener)

The best preservative for cut flowers is made of 2 tablespoons of fresh lemon juice, 1 tablespoon of sugar, and 1/2 teaspoon of household bleach added to 1 quart of water. Remember to recut stems under water, and to remove all leaves which would be under water.

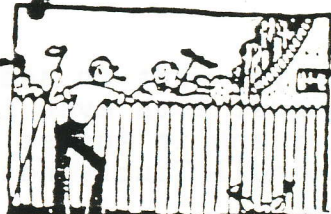




# The Garden Spray

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

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



## FLOWER & VEGETABLE SHOW

AUGUST 19th AND 20th ... AT THE ARBORETUM

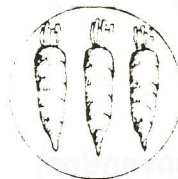
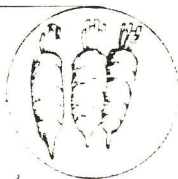
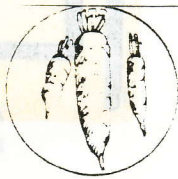
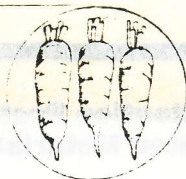


Merle Pulley, Andy Marlow and other members of Duane Reynolds Show have been busy getting the ribbons ready for you to win.

SO

PLAN TO BE THERE . PLAN TO SHOW

WATCH FOR A SPECIAL BULLETIN ABOUT AUGUST 12th  
(Registration forms will be included in it.)





CHANGE OF ADDRESS

G. Victor Lowrie  
1221 Mayfair Drive  
Watertown, S.D. 57201

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE

Do you want to see Harold Gulde's garden? You will have a chance on August 17th even if the MGCM board's July decision to visit only new members' gardens in August prevails. Phyllis Gulde as chairman of the Edina Garden Council Tour sends this information. (The Gulde garden is on the tour list.)

Our EDINA GARDEN COUNCIL is featuring a "RIOT OF COLOR" in our Gardens this summer. Mark your calendar for Thursday August 17th, 1989 and plan to spend the day to enjoy our Tour. Be sure to bring your neighbors or friends. We hope for a cool sunny day.

EDINA GARDEN COUNCIL TOUR

(Benefit for Arneson Acres Garden - 4711 W. 70th St. Edina, Minnesota)

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Open to the public Donation \$3.00

Refreshments 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. (At Arneson House)

Tickets available at all gardens and Arneson Park

Call 612-922-1302 for information

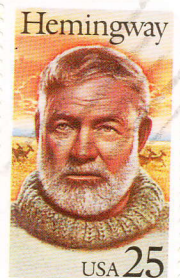
Tour Flyers and Maps will also be available on the day of the show.

Return to  
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, Inc.  
Edwin C. Culbert, Editor  
5315 Portland Avenue  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417  
\*\*\*\*\*

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Duane A. Johnson  
1226 W. 53rd St., Minneapolis 55419  
Vice-President: Kent R. Petterson  
908 E. River Ter., Minneapolis 55414  
Secretary: Gene M. Ackland  
4830 Pilgrim Ln. N., Plymouth 55442  
Treasurer: Joseph L. Stenger  
5421 Girard Ave. S., Minneapolis 55419  
Past-President: Duane A. Reynolds  
7116 - 39th Ave. N., New Hope 55427



To

Mr. Howard H. Berg  
10107 Lakeview Drive  
Minnetonka, MN 55343



August 16-19, 1989

Attention Postmaster:

**Dated Material. Please do not delay.**