

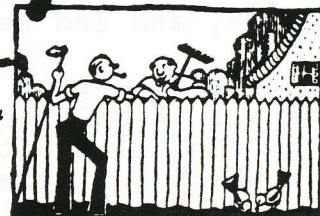


The Garden Spray

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

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

October 1989, Volume 47, Number 10



MGCM INDIAN SUMMER (We hope) MEETING OCTOBER 10

"Oh suns and skies of June,
And all of June together,
Ye cannot rival for one hour
October's bright blue weather.
Then, if ever, come perfect days..."
--Helen Hunt Jackson

The gardening season is over. We can sit back and relax--Or have we done that too often? Was our garden a shambles? Were we slothful gardeners? Webster's Dictionary defines slothful as "inactive; sluggish; lazy; indolent and idle". Many of us, no doubt, have had this kind of feeling, especially when facing the heat of summer or the weeds in our gardens. The slothful gardener not only has these feelings, but reveals them in his garden for all the world (or, at least, the neighborhood) to see.

Come. Join us on October 10th for a lighthearted look at the slothful gardener's garden as presented by Mary Maynard. Mary has written of gardening from her home in St. Louis Park for the MINNESOTA HORTICULTURALIST. Her view of the slothful gardener's garden will be revealed for all who attend.

Come! Bring your sense of humor. Join us for a delightful evening in the garden.

WHERE? Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th Street at Chowen Avenue South

WHEN? Tuesday Evening October 10th

TIME? 6 P.M. Dinner for \$6.00, Program 7 P.M.

RESERVATION TO GENE ACKLUND BY FRIDAY OCTOBER 6TH

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FRAGRANCE GARDEN AND DAFFODIL PLANTING SATURDAY OCTOBER 14TH

Keep October 14th open on your calendar. Kent Petterson will be organizing fall clean up at the Fragrance Garden. Bring your shovels, rakes and hand tools on Saturday the 14th at 8:00 AM. We would like to have 20 men turn out. Many hands make for easy work for everyone. Come see the Memorial Plaque installed.

Later in the morning several men will go to Elliot Park to work with Mary Lerman and the neighborhood people to plant daffodils. Our club donated \$300.00 to pay for these daffodils, (approximately 1000).

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR REPORT FROM KENT PETTERSON

Several MGCM members participated in shows at the recently concluded State Fair. Mel Anderson received a blue ribbon for his pettipaw squash. This year was the twentieth consecutive year in which he has won at least one ribbon in a fair show. Other exhibitors for various shows included Larry Bagge, Bob Churilla, Duane Reynolds, Bill Kanduth, Kent Petterson, Harold Gulde, and Ted LeBoutillier.

Entering a Group Exhibit in the Minnesota Horticultural Society Show on behalf of MGCM were: Duane Reynolds, Kent Petterson and Hilary Petterson. The exhibit entitled "Herbs and Fragrance" contained potted plants, some of which were transplanted from the Fragrance Garden. Those who were at the September meeting saw a sample of what was awarded a blue ribbon, section champion ribbon and Reserve Grand Champion ribbon for group exhibitors. Duane says, "We won because we had the most pots." That's true, but the plants were nice, too.

MINNESOTA GREEN REPORTED BY KENT PETTERSON

Minnesota Green's 2nd annual "Celebrate Gardening Day" was held September 10th at the College of St. Thomas. Activities of the day included a bus tour of gardens and Minnesota Green community projects. The tour was followed by an awards ceremony and a silent auction. This event capped another successful gardening year for this Minnesota Horticultural Society sponsored project. Our own Rick Bonlender coordinates this project. He has done an outstanding job implementing Minnesota Green since its inception in 1988.

The gardens of MGCM members Fred Glasoe, Kent Petterson and Harold Gulde were among those toured by Minnesota Green. Several other members have quietly contributed time, money and plant material to Minnesota Green. At a work day held on August 26th nine members of MGCM lent a helping hand planting day lilies near Cedar and Riverside Avenues in South Minneapolis. Those present were: Tom F. Hanson, Eldon Hugelin, John Moon, Sid Nystrom, Don Powell, John Regan (and his father), Reed Sonstegard, Kent Petterson and Lloyd Wittstock.

THE MGCM BOARD AT IT'S SEPTEMBER MEETING

- Discussed what to do with the \$3000.00 CD which is about to mature. A consensus was reached to reinvest the funds in CDs.
- Discussed moving the Flower Show into a more central location next year. Several members who are active in the Flower Show indicated a preference for a more central location such as a shopping mall. It was decided that Reynolds poll the membership for opinions at the September meeting. (Members at the September meeting agreed but offered no specific sites.)
- Learned that the Minnesota Horticultural Society dues have been increased from \$10.00 to \$11.00. The additional \$1.00 will be passed on to the Horticultural Society District organizations to help fund District projects. (This will necessitate an increase in MGCM dues even though the 5th District--ours--is moribund.)
- Reviewed and approved the membership application of:
Charles J. Carlson Wife - Marion 571-0463
1001 Hackmann Circle, Fridley, MN 55432

* * * * *

The original Jack-O-Lantern was not a pumpkin but a turnip carved by a night watchman named Jack and the turnip was lit with a candle stub. The custom of carving Jack-O-Lanterns out of pumpkins originated in the British Isles but because the pumpkin was native to America, the tradition of using a pumpkin for Halloween did not come about until the early 1800s.

Notes from the President . . .

The musical term for the month of October is Coda: The final summary or summing up of the whole composition. The garden is blooming with mums and asters and some other flowers, too. Soon we'll be digging up begonias, dahlias, gladiolas and cannas. Oh, what a short growing season we have in Minnesota!



MGCM OCTOBER PERSON OF THE MONTH

This person has been a member since 1972. He is a Past President of MGCM. This year he is serving on the Christmas Party Committee. He acted as tour guide for the Edina Senior Citizens Center tour on September 7th. (Nine MGCM members gardens were on his tour.) Few of you know that he has a MGCA Garden Slide Show, that he presents to various groups. The money earned is given to our club. It is a pleasure to recognize CHET GROGER as MGCM Person of the Month. Chet thanks all for the help.

A TIME ALONE--A TIME OF REFLECTION

Think about your gardening experiences. You made it happen! Plant life came about. Isn't it rewarding to realize that with a little effort you can experience something meaningful to you and perhaps to others. Some of the expected and of the unexpected happens right in our own gardens.

Sit and meditate about your garden. Isn't it satisfying. Those deep shadows of September and October--don't they make the garden a new experience?

EVALUATION OF THE AUGUST PLANT SHOW

Duane Reynolds and his crew worked very hard to put on an excellent show. Over the past few years very few of our members have participated in this activity. Some say that having it closer to Minneapolis might encourage greater participation. At the September meeting it was agreed that we would pursue a joint show with MGCM and the fifth district of the Horticultural Society. We might be looking at a mall location in 1990. What do you think about this?

IMPORTANT NOTES 🎵🎵🎵

1. Passed at the September Board Meeting--Dues for 1990 will be \$33.00. If you are a Life member of the Minnesota Horticultural Society or MGCA you will not need to pay that part of the dues.

MGCA dues	\$15.00
Horticultural Society dues	11.00
MGCM dues	7.00
Total	\$33.00

Help us out and renew at the October meeting. We will have a December 8th deadline this year.

2. The Nominating Committee has been activated to provide nominees for election to the MGCM Board in November. If you would like a fun hard working experience or if you would like to suggest a person that would give full participation to the activities of MGCM call Duane Reynolds--537-6512.
3. A pictorial directory of MGCM members was put out by Archie Caple in 1978.--One member suggested it's about time for another photo directory. I think so, too. We will experiment to see if this is possible for 1990. If you have ideas as to how this might be accomplished, contact Duane Johnson at 824-0295. We do have enough money to provide a visual experience for members.

--Duane Johnson

MGCM SHOW REPORT

Eighteen members entered specimens in the 1989 show held at the Arboretum on August 19th and 20th. The court of honor included:

FLOWERS

Coleus Collection - Lee Gilligan
Dahlia, Muriel Fern - Harold Gulde
Aster, Burpeana - Tom Hanson
Flowering Cabbage - Bob Churilla
Diplodenia - Bob Churilla
Rose, Little Darling - Harold Gulde
Hosta, Green Gold - Andy Marlow
Stephanotis - Duane Reynolds

NATIONAL AWARD - Hosta - Andy Marlow
BEST IN SHOW - Stephanotis - Duane Reynolds
SWEEPSTAKES - Dave Johnson

VEGETABLES

Grapes, Fredonia - Tom Hanson
Paste Tomato, Nova - Kent Petterson
Potato, Kenebec - Dave Johnson
Red Onion - Dave Johnson
Spagetti Squash, Orangetti - Rick Bonlender
Fig Tree, Brown Turkey - Duane Reynolds

NATIONAL AWARD - Cucumber - Bob Batcheller
BEST IN SHOW - Fredonia Grages - Tom Hanson
SWEEPSTAKES - Kent Petterson

This years vegetable sweepstakes came down to a photo finish with four growers neck and neck as they approached the finish line. After a close re-examination, the final results reaffirmed the preliminary standings. Congratulations, Kent. Looking ahead to 1990, the vegetable section will be a highly competitive area with many new members giving every indication they will continue to be excellent exhibitors.

For those of you that missed the 1989 show, it was evaluated to be one of the best in recent years. Of course, the weather helped by not burning up the landscape, but I think you would have felt proud to be a member of MGCM when you saw the high quality specimens on exhibit.

Many thanks to the growers, volunteers, committee clerks and judges.

- Duane R.

LILIES. Plant lily bulbs as soon as they are purchased or delivered. If not able to do it soon, place bulbs in cartons or baskets in moist peat kept in a cool place. Lily bulbs can be set out as long as the soil is workable. When planting scatter a handful or two of sand, vermiculite, or perlite in the soil to aid drainage. Then insert a stake to mark the location of each bulb.

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER
by Ed Culbert

The success of any organization hinges on participation. What a joy to note the number of garden type projects in which MGCM members are participating. Now how about volunteering to run, or to be available to run, for a club office?

Burpees didn't ignore the Minnesota Attorney General's Office as they did me. Mr. Robert J. Marcroft of that office sent me a copy of Burpees August 28th reply to him. It was somewhat evasive, I thought.... "Order was sent to our supplier" April 13..."large backlog"..."cancellation requested July 7th"..."contacted our supplier and he returned the order to us August 2nd"..."refunded..on August 7th."

The robins are staggering around under my Dolgo crabapple. Mrs. C. couldn't begin to use all those crabapples. Now they are on the ground fermenting; but what a delightful cidery smell. Which reminds me. This is the time to lay in a supply of bird feed for winter. Not the store variety--that's available any time--but berries from trees and shrubs.

The following plants are good sources of berries for bird feeding--Mountain ash, pokeberry, dogwood, serviceberry and cotoneaster. Don't forget to save seeds from melons and squash--birds love them! Perhaps you know the serviceberry as Juneberry and think the fruit wouldn't last this long. Up to this year I would have agreed. Then recently I saw a tree with some of its large blueberry-like fruit still hanging on.

While you're at it collect a few shallow containers which can be discarded in spring. They will come in handy to hold water for birds once frost hardens the ground. Don't forget that birds require a water supply in the winter--especially when we have sub-zero temperatures. A brick warmed up in the oven can be used to warm the water in an outdoor water bath.

Insects can winter over without your help. According to another MGC bulletin--The Compost Pit:

CUTWORMS: Winter as partly grown larva in clumps of grass or in soil.
APHIDS: Winter either as eggs or adults. Eggs hatch into tiny aphids in spring. In a few weeks true aphids are mature and can give birth, without mating, to living young. Only females are produced during the summer. This fact combined with this rapid rate of reproduction, makes it possible to develop enormous numbers in a short time. Aphids invented "instant insects". (Discouraging isn't it.)

FLEA BEETLES: Spend winter as adults in soil or under rubbish.

GRASSHOPPERS: Overwinter in egg stage.

COLORADO POTATO BEETLE: Overwinters several inches below soil surface as an adult.

CORN EARWORMS: Several generations. Pupae of the last generation (each year) spend the winter in the soil and emerge as adults in the spring.

TOMATO HORNWORM: Overwinters as dark brown suttie-shaped pupae.

STRIPED CUCUMBER BEETLE: Adults hibernate under leaves and light trash.

SQUASH VINE BORER: Winters as a pearly white grub with a tough dark brown to black cocoon 1/4 inch beneath the surface of the soil.

MEXICAN BEAN BEETLE: The adult hides under trash and rubbish.

TARNISHED PLANT BUG: Full grown adult spends the winter under leaves, stone piles and garden refuse. This is one reason for cleaning up the garden in the fall.

* * * * *

The marigold is a flower of despair and grief, the French marigold in particular signifying jealousy. Marigolds were first regarded with distrust on account of their odor. Some early herbalists considered them poisonous.

WEEDS

From The Practical Gardener, Portland, Oregon MGC.

Some time ago, while weeding my garden for the 400th time this year, it occurred to me that there must be a better way to grow vegetables. I have read books on raised beds, the French double-digging method, and Chinese intensive gardening. If I had spent the money on vegetables, rather than books and magazines, I could have fed a Chinese family for ten years. Or my family for one. Or the Chinese family for a month for the cost of the Chinese gardening book.

It began with a yard that was mostly clay and subsoil, put there by an enthusiastic bulldozer who buried the topsoil when he excavated for the house. There is a part of my yard that has topsoil almost six feet deep, but I haven't found it yet.

Faced with the challenge to make a garden for our new home, I bought all the books. I talked to anyone who knew about gardening. I joined gardening clubs, and wasted a lot of time of the folks at Linnton Feed and Seed.

I followed every recommendation, except when they did not agree--in which case I used both.

The result of this program, after three years, is a very healthy soil. My tomatoes have mashed the fancy cages I put in for them, the squashes are hanging among the grape vines, and the potato plants are eight feet wide. This is no longer a garden, it is a jungle. My grandson spent a night camping out in the one clear space remaining and he told me there were lions and tigers roaming about.

I believe him. The slugs are as big as leopards, but, happily, a lot slower, and he got out of the jungle in time.

While this garden has grown vegetables very well, it has also grown weeds. These weeds are very healthy. Tonight I noticed a patch of onions which I had neglected all summer. All that could be seen was grass and weeds, but I knew that I had planted onion sets in the spring.

In order to test my idea that weeding was unnecessary, I dug up all the onions and weeds and after cleaning, weighed them separately. I had 20 pounds of weeds and 24 pounds of onions from 20 square feet of garden. I then dug up 20 feet of an onion patch which I had weeded continually and weighed these onions. They came to 26 pounds.

My conclusion was that the extra labor of weeding pays off poorly. The only reason for weeding is to make the garden look neat. But how to get away with not weeding?

The answer to this question is to make people believe that you INTEND to grow weeds. A tall patch of grass near the peach tree was adorned with an elegant sign which said "MEADOW". Other really healthy weeds had smaller tags such as you see at the arboretum, with the latin name inscribed. If I didn't know the latin name, I made one up. It impresses many people and saves a lot of work and considerable criticism.

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

--Dave Cameron

* * * * *

Thoughts are represented by the pansy, from the French penser, to think. The zinnia speaks thoughts of absent friends.

FALL GARDENING DISCUSSED AT SEPTEMBER MEETING

Reported by Andy Marlow

Gardening, as most of us are aware, does not end in the fall until the ground freezes completely. There is a lot that can be done in addition to planting bulbs, and several of those were discussed by a trio of MGCM members at the September meeting.

Kent Petterson

Vegetables are Kent's primary interest and he's constantly on the alert for ways to extend the all-too-short growing season at both ends. He brought with him a sample of a sheet of spun polyester, which he uses as a floating row cover for crops he wants to protect from early frosts. Kent says it adds about 5 degrees of frost protection by trapping ground heat around the plants. He covers his entire bed of spinach, for instance, with enough excess to account for growth and buries the edges in the soil (so it won't blow away). Enough sunlight gets through that he can leave the cover on until a hard freeze does in the planting.

The covers are made from several different materials and generally last about two years in the garden. They are relatively inexpensive and available under a number of brand names. Kent has found it advertised in a number of catalogs as Reemay, Visipore and Agri-Net.

Lee Gilligan

Lee's tips for fall gardening were really aimed at next spring. Lee has an extensive collection of coleus and impatiens. He has found a number of varieties that especially suit his needs and he preserves them by taking cuttings in the fall and propagating them through the winter. By spring, he will have several thousand plants of exactly the right varieties. All this from only a couple of flats of cuttings made in the fall. In fact, this fall's cutting and rooting process took only a few hours.

Lee cuts (with a razor blade) tender growing tips, usually from the axil of a leaf stem. He says to make sure the tip is not going to seed and to leave at least two leaves as big as your little fingernail on the cutting. He does not think rooting hormone is necessary for coleus and impatiens. He puts them six or nine to a pack in a mixture of 1/3 perlite and 2/3 peat. When a flat has been filled, it is soaked in water until all the mixture is damp. He puts a plastic "greenhouse" cover over the flat and puts the whole works under lights. In about six weeks, the plants are ready to yield their own cuttings. Lee keeps cutting every six weeks all winter and says the plants "multiply like rabbits."

Lee also says fertilization of the new plants is not necessary. He only fertilizes the oldest rooted plants which he keeps for new cuttings.

(concluded over)

Doug Madsen

Fall, Doug says, is the most important time to be feeding your lawn. In the spring, grass plants consume food with the sole object of reproduction (going to seed). In the fall, plants consume food in order to store up energy for the spring growing season. The last fall feeding should come in late October. By then, the grass leaves have stopped growing, but the roots are still active until freeze-up. Delay your first spring feeding until mid-May.

Before you go out to spread your fertilizer, Doug cautions, you should get a soil test. Your lawn service or county extension agent can help you arrange for one. Until you have a soil test, you really don't know what kind of food the lawn needs. You run the risk of wasting expensive fertilizer or even doing damage to your lawn.

Fall is also an excellent time for weed control, core aeration and spot seeding. Doug says buying your own seed in a large bag is economical and allows you to make sure your lawn has all the same mix of grass from year to year.

R E M E M B E R !
DUES EXPIRE DECEMBER 31st
RENEW N O W !

Return to
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