

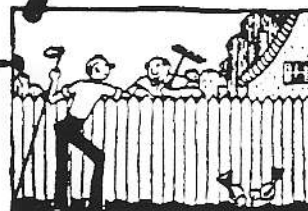


The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

April 1999, Volume 57, Number 4



April Dinner Meeting... Northern Lawn Care

with Catherine Schleicher

Catherine is in her fifteenth year as a Master Gardener in Anoka County and has worked in the horticulture industry for 22 seasons. She talk about everything we need or want to know about the basics and timing of lawn care in our northern climate.

Schedule

Date: Tuesday April 13, 1999
Place: Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Avenue South
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Business: 7:00 p.m.
Program: 7:30 p.m.
Cost: **\$9.00 if reserved in advance**
\$10.00 at the door
if extra meals are available

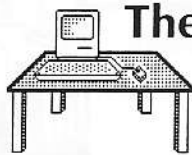
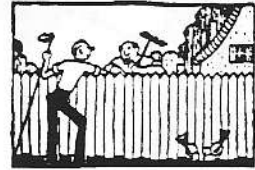


Important Note about Reservations

The permanent reservation list is in effect for this meeting. Check your mailing label. If it has a "p" or "pp" (one or two reservations) you are on the permanent list. If there is no "p" on your label, you are not on the permanent reservation list and must notify Kay Wolfe by Friday, April 9, to be assured a place at dinner. If you are on the permanent list and will not attend, you must notify Kay by the same deadline or risk being responsible for the cost of your dinner. Kay can be reached at 922-0762. Leave a message on her voice mail if you can't reach her in person or send her an e-mail at opperwolfe@worldnet.att.net. If you have reserved a dinner and on Monday or Tuesday you have an emergency where you find you can't attend, call Howard Berg. If the reservation can be sold to late-comers or drop-ins, you will not be billed.

May Preview

The 1999 Plant Sale and Auction will be held the first Tuesday of May (the 4th) at the Westwood Lutheran Church in St. Louis Park. Look for details in the May issue of *The Garden Spray*. Remember to bring something for the country store or the raffle.



The Editor's Desk

Chuck Carlson
Managing Editor

Most MGCM membership applicants cite their reason for wanting to join is to learn more about gardening. This is also one of the reasons for the existence of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis (MGCM).

A few opportunities for you to learn are listed in Coming Attractions in the next column. Please consider all of them, but let me call your attention to a few:

- April 10, Mid-America Region Conference in Mason City, Iowa. This is the kickoff meeting of the region. It would be nice if we had a sizable contingent going. If you want an application form, contact Clyde Thompson or me.
- April 17, Garden Fair at the Arboretum. This is the second year of this fair. It is a good way to introduce yourself to area garden clubs, see what they have to offer and attend a few classes. You can also promote MGCM. The only charge is the gate entrance fee.
- July 14-17, 1999 National Convention for the Gardeners of America at Green Bay, Wisconsin. It would be a good experience for any of us prior to hosting the 2001 convention. You'd also have a chance to visit Door County.
- Our club tours are in July and August. Why don't you volunteer your garden?
- Make sure you consider showing your flowers, vegetables, and photos at our show in August.

Here's my three word recommendation: participate, participate, participate!

Coming Attractions

Tuesday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.
Board of Directors meeting
Mary Maynard's house

Saturday, April 10
Mid-America Region Conference
Mason City, Iowa

Tuesday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th & Chowen Avenue South

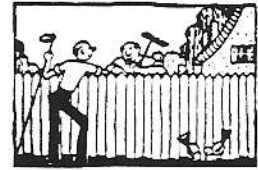
Saturday, April 17
Garden Club Fair
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Tuesday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.
Board of Directors meeting
Howard Berg's house

Tuesday, May 4
Plant Sale and Auction
Westwood Lutheran Church

The Garden Spray is published monthly by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc., for its members and friends. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity organization.

Managing Editor Chuck Carlson
Production Manager ... Andy Marlow
The committee.....H. Berg, M. Brummer, S. Curry, C. Cutter, D. Hendel, M. Maynard, R. Olson, and R. Van Sickle



Overall In The Garden

by Eldon Hugelen, President MGCM

At the time I'm writing this, my garden is a collection of plant-packs filled with "soiless" seed mix and moist paper towels, folded in plastic baggies. The baggies hold seeds large enough to handle and are kept either out in the unheated garage (40 degrees) or on top of a

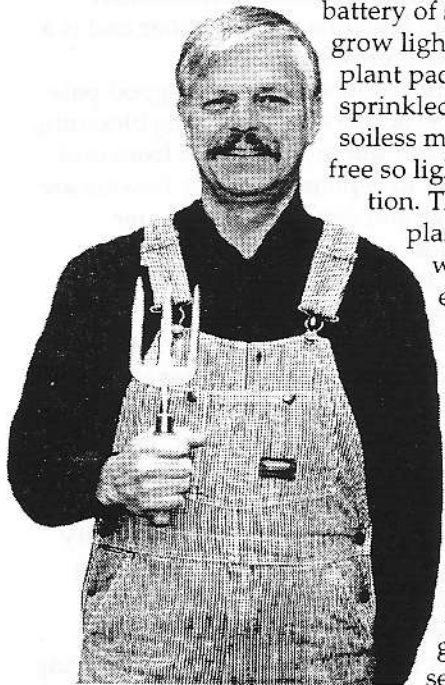
battery of shop lights I use for grow lights (70 degrees). In the plant packs, the finer seeds are sprinkled on top of moist soiless mix and covered, or left free so light can aid germination. Then I place a clear

plastic dome or plastic wrap over the top to ensure humidity. It's a fairly simple system until you start counting the flats and baggies.

Thirty-nine packs, twelve baggies, twelve more packs which will start today and five packs that have germinated and need separation / trans-

planting. (Sometimes I hope for poor germination, as space is limited since flat surfaces everywhere in the house have grow lights with developing plants under them). Of course, there are still a few special annuals I have to grow. I sure hope Helen doesn't say she needs that space.

It gets to be a lot of work and each year I say I won't do it again. But a friend gives me seed of a nice Columbine she grows, or I read about the Pearl Bush



(Exochorda) and I find seed out of Canada and I've started all over again. Then there are those not so Midwest plant names of Glaucidium, Isatis, Bruckenthalia, and Carthamus that get me on the discovery channel. These *new to me* plants get placed in the garden and have to prove themselves in Minnesota. It surprises me each year how it all comes together.

The garden is a lot like a Garden Club: Instead of plants, there are those people with diverse names and abilities, like, Kolb, Orfield, Monjak, Curry, and Brodersen blending with the cultivars and hybrids of the Johnson's, Olson's, and Anderson's. It is great to be part of such an ever-changing diversity.

Directory Changes

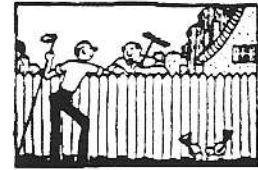
New Members

Joseph Mikoll
12708 Myrtle Circle
Minnetonka MN 55305-5028
Phone: 612-930-0738

Joseph and Barbara are both gardeners. Daylilies must be a passion since they hybridize them. Joseph also said he would be on the Photo committee, so we expect to see some entries in our Foto contest.

Duane Broderson
3060 Northshore Drive
Wayzata MN 55391-9355
Phone: 612-471-9807

Duane and his wife, Carol, come from a background of growing things. Duane is a retired farmer. He said he wants to learn but maybe he can teach us a thing or two about gardening.



Clematis

By Lillian Marousek
Edited by Eldon Hugelen

(This is the second in a series. See the March edition of The Garden Spray for the first installment)

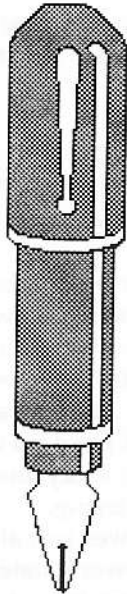
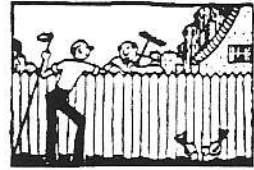
The Jackmanii / lanuginosa Group

Plants in this group produce large flowers from early summer to fall. This group will respond to several pruning periods and techniques. If left alone without pruning, a glorious showing of large blooms will appear on the old wood in early summer. Later, at different periods during the summer, a generous showing of smaller flowers on new wood will appear. If pruning is done in spring, the early flowering period will be omitted but will be replaced by a massive showing of medium sized flowers in late summer. The following year a display of large blooms will appear early in the season. Examples of varieties in this group are:

- 'Barbara Jackman' has soft mauve flowers with crimson bars and white stamens.
- 'Daniel Deronda' provides a full season of large flower of pale mauve.
- 'Elsa Spath' produces large bright blue flowers with a dark center. It blooms on old wood early in the season and then on new wood later in the summer. Grows to about 8 feet in one season. A favorite for the smaller garden but not a great grower.
- 'Henryi' - A very good variety, best of the whites with dark stamens. Continuous blooms without pruning.
- 'King Edward VII' - Has large violet petals with crimson bar. Blooms again on new growth.
- C. lanuginosa 'Candida' is one of the

- oldest varieties and is the best pure white with yellow stamens, large blooms over 6 inches across. It will flourish where others just survive.
- 'Lawsoniana' has large rosy purple blooms of lasting quality. An excellent plant with repeat flowering.
- 'Lord Neville' is a choice variety with plum pudding purple flowers and ruffled edges.
- 'Mme. Le Coultre' blooms with giant white flowers that have yellow stamens. It blooms continuously from late June until October and is a strong grower
- 'Mrs. Cholmondeley' is a good pale blue. A free flowering long blooming variety that will produce from mid-May to September. Early flowers are large and lavender-blue. Later blooms are lighter in color and slightly smaller.
- 'Hagely Hybrid' - Same as 'Pink Chiffon' - The blooms have a very good deep shell pink color with pointed sepals and rose-beige center. This is a vigorous grower. Free flowering beginning early June.
- 'Prins Hendrick' is one of Europe's most outstanding Clematis. A very large, sky blue beautifully shaped and petaled flower. A good cut flower. Plant will require an extra year to develop strong free flowering vines.
- 'Prins Phillip' is a darker blue 'Prins Hendrick', a beauty with white stamens and brown tips.
- 'Romona' has a flower with a gorgeous shade of blue. Large blooms with rounded sepals. A favorite.
- 'Tillicum' - A pale baby blue with yellow center and contrasting dark stamens.

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Board Meeting Summary

Margaret Hibberd Secretary

March 2, 1999

Present: Howard Berg, Chuck Carlson, Dave Johnson (Fridley), Margaret Hibberd, Eldon Hugelen, Mary Maynard, Ritchie Miller, and Kay Wolfe. Absent: Tim McCauley

The meeting was called to order by President, Eldon Hugelen.

Secretary's and Treasurer's reports was presented and approved.

The Vice President reported that the Dayton Bachman Flower Show on March 23 is all set. The April meeting will be on turf care by Master Gardener Catherine Schleicher.

Committee Reports

Flower, Food and Foto Show: Picked snapdragon as the National Flower and the onion as the National Vegetable. The committee decided to try only one day for the plant sale (Saturday). Members will be asked bring plants for the sale. For those who can't get their plants to the Arboretum, someone's home will be a drop site. There will be another committee meeting in June.

Perennial Garden: Met with Mary Lerman of the Minneapolis. Park Board to resolve issues and make a workable plan. Neil Anderson is taking the Floriculture position at the U of M and may be a good resource to get the project going.

Auction: The auction will be "as usual".

Garden Spray: Inputs need to be received earlier. Deadline for inputs: April 11 or before.

Board Committee Liaisons: The following list of Liaisons between the Board and each committee was established: Arbor Day - Chuck Carlson, Calendars - Dave Johnson (Fridley), Community Service - Tim McCauley, FFF - Mary Maynard, Holiday Party - Ritchie Miller, Hospitality - Howard Berg, Perennial Trial Garden - Kay Wolfe, Auction - Eldon Hugelen, Tours - Margaret Hibberd, 2001 Convention - Eldon Hugelen.

Old Business

Final Calendar Report: We sold 505 calendars in 1998. There was discussion raising the price, but it was decided that we try to increase the quantity sold instead.

Committee Descriptions: Howard and Maury Lindblom prepared a 2 page list of descriptions. This will be given to new members and possibly included with membership renewal.

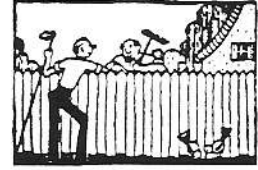
New Business

Letter from Joe Stenger: The Board received a thoughtful letter about deficits from Joe with suggestions for raising money for the club.

Mid America Region: Eldon Hugelen, Russ Smith and Clyde Thompson met with directors and acting officers of five clubs in Clear Lake, Iowa, to finalize mini-convention at Mason City on April 10, 1999. It was decided to hold the next regional conference in Minneapolis. Clyde has reserved the Heritage room at Bachman's for Saturday, October 2, 1999.

The Pumpkin / Sunflower Contest: The Board decided that the big sunflower and pumpkin contest will again be held. All participants can buy any seed variety

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(Editors comment: Come to the April meeting and see how the speaker will answer this question.)

Ask The Gardeners

First question:

What is the best procedure and organic fertilizer to use and maintain a healthy lawn?

Two differing solutions :

- Use a mulching mower and leave the clippings on the lawn. That way the clippings break down and provide nutrition for the grass plants. When you leave clippings on the lawn, you really don't have to fertilize much at all. It is good to do one fertilization in the fall and another in late fall. This will help give your lawn the boost it needs to get started in the spring. I have found Ringer to work just fine. It might be good to do a soil test to really know what your soil needs.
- The best and most environmentally friendly yard fertilizer is a chemical fertilizer. It is faster acting and less damaging to the water ecology than an organic. A high nitrogen chemical fertilizer applied at the rate of one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet about on Labor Day and on Thanksgiving is adequate fertilization for most lawns (except in sand). The reason chemical fertilizer is more environmentally friendly is that all fertilizers, to be taken up by plants, must be broken down to the chemical state. Organic fertilizers break down more slowly making them subject to more movement when it rains. Don't no or very little phosphate unless a soil test indicates it is needed.

Second question:

Some nurseries don't grow Vinca rosea (Catharanthus) because they say there is a big die off. Why?

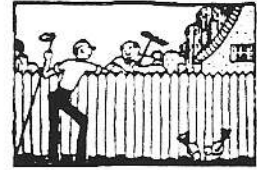
- I am not sure what is being said by the garden center. However, my experience with growing Vinca rosea is that I usually have poor germination and then a great deal of damping off. I end up with one or two plants, if lucky, out of a packet of seeds. I quit trying.
- Another answer was along this same line. The grower's statement probably refers to problems related to propagation. It is quite difficult (and time consuming) to raise this plant successfully from seed.

Effective April 13 Price Increase For Meals

The MGCM Board regrets the need to increase regular meal prices at monthly dinner meetings to \$9.00 beginning with the April meeting.

Over the past few years the meal and hall rental costs have risen and the price we charge or members for the meal has not covered all the costs. Basically the club has been covering the hall rental charges from the general treasury. In order to maintain a reasonable checkbook balance, the club can no longer afford the drain on its finances.

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Garden Maps

By Bob Olson

Each year as soon as the snow goes, I wander out into the garden looking for signs of spring. Often I inadvertently step on the tender crown of a just-emerging perennial in my headlong rush to view close up another more easily detected spike of green. If the trod-upon plant is one grown for foliage, such as a hosta or a pulmonaria, the first flush of leaves will be irreversibly damaged by this misstep. The first leaves are usually the largest and lushest, so if you are a perfectionist or one who just aspires in his Walter Mitty pipe dreams to emulate the garden success of the Dave Johnsons and Jerry Shannons in this world, the season is over for this particular cultivar.

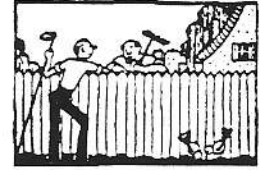
How to avoid this? Well, the best way is to keep out of the garden until it is safe to enter, but this is not an attractive option to Minnesota gardeners who have suffered months of cabin fever. They are like thirst-crazed cattle who smell a water hole. You just can't keep them out.

So, there has to be another solution. For me it's *The Garden Map*. It is also a boon to those of us who are prone to move plants throughout the season and, despite our best intentions, can't remember where everything is in the spring. (That's pretty near all the gardeners I know). Haven't you said to yourself in the fall, "No need to write down where I moved the lilies and Solomon's Seal. It's pretty obvious and I'll remember."? Only to have to wait until almost the end of June before you recognize what those strange things are growing over by the garage—if you didn't mistakenly pull them out by their roots thinking they were weeds, or worse yet, spray them with Round Up. Perhaps you've rototilled half the soil in an area

only to find daffodil bulbs atop and amid the piles of dirt you've turned up. Well, I sure have. And it isn't old age. I did it regularly when I was younger. And it's not because we aren't very bright; even smart guys like Andy Marlow and Tim McCauley have done this sort of thing. No one is smart enough to remember where he impulsively moved things throughout the summer. And if you don't move things around a lot, what are you doing in the Garden Club in the first place? The Garden Club is a place where you go to get validation of borderline neurotic activity—and to be assured that it is well within the range of normal behavior.

Getting back to garden maps. The map is an indispensable tool. Do not be fooled into thinking you will not be pulling up those garden markers that you made last summer. Didn't your heart already sink a little last fall as you saw one in the pile of leaves and debris you were raking from the edge of the garden? Did you say to yourself, "Well, it's only one—in the spring I'll just have to remember where it came from."? Famous last words. In the spring you may not even be certain that you raked the leaves and debris. (Minnesotans are renown for their poor short term memory; if they could remember how bad the mosquitoes were from year to year they wouldn't keep building all those backyard decks that you can't sit on after sundown past the middle of June). And even if by some miracle the markers do remain in place, as likely as not you won't be able to read them. They say those pens are indelible and water proof, but they lie—it doesn't take much deterioration before you can't read my handwriting. (*Editor's note: Remember Bob is a doctor.*) Take my word for it: you won't remember, and you can't rely on markers in the ground. You have to write it down

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Clematis

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The Jackmanii / Viticella Group

This group is noted for having very strong, good growers. They are the real summer flowering varieties and will produce blooms during the heat of the season until September. Cut them back hard (down to 12 inches from the ground) in the early spring as they only produce flowers on new growth. Example of varieties in this group are:

- 'Comtesse De Bouchard' is a free flowering pink with large blooms with rounded sepals. A bushy plant growing 8 to 12 feet tall.
- 'Gypsy Queen' is a late flowering variety of rich velvet purple. Give it a southern exposure to enjoy the late fall bloom.
- C. jackmanii is the most famous and popular Clematis. It has masses of deep purple flowers with four to six rounded sepals, that are produced on vines growing to 15 feet or more in one season.
- 'Mrs. Baron Veillard' has large lilac-rose flowers and is a good reliable variety. It is of French origin and for the discriminating gardener.
- 'Mrs. George Jackmanii' is a strong grower and a late flowering variety with satiny white blooms of excellent quality.
- 'Ernest Markham' is the best red Clematis. It has a medium sized flower which blooms in the summer.
- 'Etoile Violette' has violet blooms with yellow stamens. Flowering occurs during June, July and beyond.
- 'Huldine' is tall growing and late flowering. It has smaller white flowers with mauve striping effect on reverse side of sepals and is very reliable.

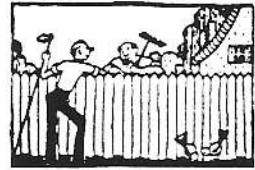
- 'Lady Betty Balfour' is a late flowering variety with deep violet purple flowers with yellow center.
- 'Ville De Lyon' has carmine red, medium sized flowers with broad and rounded sepals. It flowers on old wood and needs a sunny exposure. It is late blooming, but if left unpruned only a few large flowers will be produced early in the season. The vines grow 8 to 12 feet tall covered with emerald green foliage.

Dwarf Bush Varieties

These shrubby types are similar to the woodland varieties (small-flowering vines) in treatment, except the bloom appears on new growth. Needs no pruning as they are semi-herbaceous and die down to the ground each winter. Old growth can be removed to tidy the garden in fall. After new growth has reached three inches, the plant will grow a foot or more per week. Some examples are:

- C. heracleifolia has beautiful large bright green foliage and blue tubular, bell-shaped flowers that are fragrant. The bush grows to three feet in height. (C. h. davidiana)
- C. integrifolia This is a herb type variety with interesting large pendant blue daylily-like flowers having twisted petals from June to August. It grows about two feet tall and is great for flower arrangement material.
- C. recta mandshurica, as its name implies, is a Chinese Clematis. It is very hardy, fragrant and grows to three feet. The blooms are in clusters or masses of lovely white flowers lasting over a long period during midsummer. It is another variety ideal for flower arrangements.
- C. recta , Ground Clematis, is an

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Maps

(continued from page 7)

and keep the record indoors.

Now, what sort of map do you need? Well, if you mainly grow vegetables in the sun and have only a small border with a few perennials between the annuals, perhaps just a simple list will do. But if your garden is any more elaborate than that, you need to have a map with the name and location clearly designated with their relation to reference points—like a fence, or a large tree or shrub. Ideally you will make a to-scale map, but an approximation is usually good enough—especially if you include several good reference points.

Some day I hope to be computer literate enough to do the whole thing on my Macintosh, but for now it's pencil and paper. When my garden was small, I used to put it on a single piece of paper and write very small. Now with a large garden I make several small partial maps, and write larger (despite what Chuck Carlson may say, the fact I use bifocals has nothing to do with it).

An important point is to make the map at the right time. It has to be late enough in the year so that you aren't going to be doing any more "plant moving." If it is too late you may not be able to recognize all the dying back (or completely gone) perennials. You have to do it in a timely fashion—usually some time in mid to late October. Unfortunately, it gets dark fairly early and it is cold. A Saturday is a good time to do this if you work during the week, because you can do it in the early afternoon. Even then it is likely to be cold and damp, and you may have to use a pencil rather than a pen—ballpoints don't work reliably in 40 degree temperatures. For the past few years I've taken it a step further and used a hand

held tape recorder. I go around the yard describing where things are—then retire to the kitchen table with a hot cup of coffee and make the map at my leisure. Sometimes this requires making an occasional second reconnaissance trip to the garden if anything on the tape is unclear. This is a far more civilized way to make a garden map.

Of course when spring comes you have to remember where you put the map. I immediately file it with the tax records so I'll find it in April even if I can't remember where I put it. Now in the spring when I go out armed with my Garden Map only sometimes do I step on the choice cultivars in my zeal to detect the signs of coming life (usually when I'm paying more attention to the map than to where I'm going).

Price Increase

(continued from page 6)

As a little background, our financial philosophy is:

- Summer tours, the Dayton's-Bachman's Flower Show, dinner meetings and the Holiday Party are expected to break even (charges to cover the actual costs).
- Our club dues (\$10.00 per year) is intended to cover newsletter expenses only.
- All other expenses are covered by calendar sales, the plant sale and auction and slide show income.

This past year the dinner meetings and the Holiday Party both lost money. Plus, newsletter expenses exceeded the intake from dues. The board's solution has made known to each chairman the extent of budget and raised the dinner price to \$9.00. With these actions, we hope to stem the tide of deficit spending.



Flower of the Month

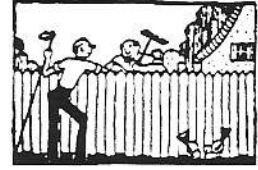
By Sher Curry

The Flower of the Month is ornamental grass. All ornamental grasses are in the family Gramineae. Gramineae includes lawn grasses, bamboo, cereals, and ornamentals such as *Festuca*, *Miscanthus*, *Panicum*, and *Pennisetum*. It is a very large family with about 700 genera and 7,000 species of perennial and annual grasses. Members of the family are distinguished from other families by certain characteristics in their foliage, inflorescence, seeds, and fruits.

Ornamental grasses have become much more popular in the 1990s. They have a lot to offer any garden or landscape. They can be incorporated into almost any spot and serve as a focal point or accent. Grasses are available in an amazing array of shapes and radiant colors, from blue to silver to fiery red. Grasses can add the wild feeling of nature to your landscape with its freedom, vitality, stillness, and movement. Unlike perennials, grasses provide interest in the garden, lasting the entire growing season and continuing into winter. This winter interest is invaluable in enhancing the appearance of a snowy, barren garden. Furthermore, grasses thrive in environments where other plants cannot.

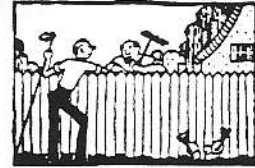
Most of the grasses I have tried and really like are in the group of *Miscanthus*. They like a fair amount of water and do not do as well in drought conditions as some other grasses. They are excellent to use around or near ponds and water settings.

Varieties of *Miscanthus* that I have used in my gardens:



- ***Miscanthus sinensis* 'Morning Light'** Common Name: Silver Maiden Grass Silver Maiden Grass has a very finely textured foliage — the leaf blades are less than a quarter inch wide. They are strongly channeled and show a silvery midrib and edging. The growing habit is upright and strongly arching. A zone 4 grass that is best propagated by division.
- ***Miscanthus sinensis* 'Zebrinus'** Common Name: Zebra Grass. Zebra Grass grows in upright narrow clumps to 7 feet and has arching green leaf blades that are banded with white or yellow. It has foliage which turns buff-colored in winter and remains upright all winter. It produces pale yellow to beige flowers from mid September to October. It can be used in zones 4 - 9 but with some difficulty in zone 4
- ***Miscanthus sinensis* 'Variegatus'** Common Name: Striped Eulalia Grass. This striped grass has a very graceful appearance and has a pendulous, fountain like shape. This upright characteristic reaches to a height of 4 to 6 feet and grows in open clumps. It has vertical stripes of yellow, green and white. This grass flowers in late September to October in pale pink panicles that turn beige. It makes a dominant element in your garden and grows well in partial shade. This cultivar may not flower in Zone 4 and also needs winter protection.
- ***Miscanthus sinensis* 'Strictus'** Common Name: Porcupine Grass. Porcupine Grass has spiky foliage with horizontal yellow banding. Dense, upright and stiff growing habit. Similar to *Zebrinus* but is

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A Little Gossip

By Flavus Baptisia

Who should show up on one of Rebecca Kohl's TV shows, but our own Duane Reynolds. He was a judge in a Dahlia Show and even had a speaking part. He did a great job, as always.

The news is out: Jerry Olson's book *Growing Roses in Cold Climates* received a first place achievement award from Mid-West Independent Publishers Association. The companion book *Growing Perennials in Cold Climates* by our friend, Mike Heger at Ambergate Gardens, came in second. We congratulate both of them. Also, look for an article on tree roses by Jerry in the May *Minnesota Horticulturist*.

If you know any good gossip send it to me "Flavus" in care of "CJ" the editor.

Clematis

(continued from page 8)

erect herb growing from two to five feet high. Hardy everywhere. Flowers are white, fragrant, about one inch wide, in many flowered clusters and blooms June to August. There are several varieties, one with double flowers.

- C. douglas (C. hirsutissima) is an erect herb, 12 to 20 inches tall. It's flowers are solitary, about one inch long, tubular, purple inside but paler outside. Blooms May to July.)

(This Clematis series will continue next month with cultural information.)

Board Minutes

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they desire.

New Members: the board voted to accept two new members: Joseph Mikoll and Duane Broderson.

Next meeting: April 6 at Mary Maynard's.

Flower of the Month

(continued from page 10)

supposed to be more hardy. A good one for zone 4.

- *Miscanthus sinensis 'Purpurascens'*
Common Name: Flame or Grass
Flame Grass has medium green arching blades with silvery plumes in autumn. Will obtain a purple burgundy cast if in full sun. Lays down flat with snow cover, therefore is not good for winter interest. This is one of my least favorites but it would be good as a solid green medium height background filler. Zone 4 hardy. *(Editors note: I have this one in my garden and is standing tall even after our 16 inch snow fall.)*

A good place to see a large selection of ornamental grasses is the trial area at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. It is best to visit that garden (on the perimeter drive) in late summer or autumn to see the grasses mature form.

Confessions of a Lazy Gardener will return in future editions of *The Garden Spray*

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