



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 1990, Volume 48, Number 8.



AUGUST GARDEN TOUR AND POT LUCK PICNIC

- DATE: Sunday, August 12, 1990
- TIME: 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- PLACE: Lake Harriet Church
4901 Chowen Avenue So.
Minneapolis, Minnesota
- COST: \$3.50 per person
- PICNIC: Bring hot dish, salad or dessert
(Please indicate below)

Welcome members, wives, sweethearts and friends - to a relaxing afternoon of visiting gardens, food and good company!! Tour agenda is tentitively set for first time visit to member gardens of Merle Pulley, Bob Redmond and John Regan, with special visit to Lois Carlson garden and picnic on the Jack Kolb gardens.

(NO STANDING RESERVATIONS LIST IN EFFECT)

Please reserve _____ X \$3.50 = \$ _____

I will bring: _____ Hot dish

_____ Salad

_____ Dessert

Please send check to:

MMGC
C/O Joe Stenger
5421 Girard Ave. So.
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Check must be received no later than August 9, 1990.

TOMATOES - FAILURE TO SET

Is your problem the total or partial failure of flowers to develop into fruit? This condition fruit set or blossom drop is most common in tomatoes in plantings which bloom late. The usual cause for poor fruit set is high temperature during the day or night. Optimum nighttime temperatures for fruit set in tomatoes is about 68 to 70 degrees. Nighttime temperatures above 72 degrees in combination with daytime temperatures above 90 degrees often results in heavy blossom drop.

A somewhat similar condition may occur during extended periods of cold weather. Under cold weather conditions, the problem may show as blossom drop, but may also be combined with abnormalities (misshaped, catfaced, etc.)

Other causes for lack of fruit set, or the development of malformed fruit include:

- (1) Unbalanced nutrition - including excess or deficiency of some of the major or minor elements.
- (2) Extended periods of warm, windy weather with low humidity.
- (3) Extended periods of showery, cool, overcast weather during the spring.
- (4) Insects and diseases.

**REMOVAL OF MUD/GRASS STAINS FROM CLOTHES (from N.C. State Univ.)

---To remove mud from washable fabrics, first let the mud dry thoroughly before treating the stain. Brush well to loosen and remove soil. Work a heavy-duty detergent or a heavy concentration of any detergent into the stain. Brush this into the stain. Let stand for 15 to 30 minutes. Launder using the same detergent. Repeat if necessary.

---On white or colorfast fabrics, liquid rust removers available at supermarkets may be effective on some difficult stains. Test first on an inside seam or hem.

---For grass stains, soak the stains at least 30 minutes in cool water with an enzyme pre-soak. Launder using detergent and the hottest water safe for the fabric. Rinse. If the stains remain, bleach with 3% hydrogen peroxide, then rinse the stains and launder again.

1990 MGCM Flower Show Report

National Vegetable	Mel Anderson
National Flower	Kent Petterson
Sweepstakes Flower	Bob Heiberg
runner-ups	Eldon Hugelen Duane Johnson
Sweepstakes Vegetable	Mel Anderson
runner-ups	Phil Peterson Merle Pulley
Rookie Exhibitor	Eldon Hugelen

Section champions and special awards were won by several club members.

Reed Sonstegaard - Lisianthus
Merle Pulley - Raspberry
Phil Peterson - Arboreal branch , Smokebush
Bob Heiberg - Mini rose

Francis de Vos, former director of 'U' arboretum



Francis de Vos

When Francis de Vos came to Minnesota 13 years ago to run the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, he said the relatively wild area "needed a nucleus."

And he helped find one. In the seven years that he was director of the arboretum in Chanhassen, the nucleus came to include a Japanese garden with a pool and waterfall, perennial gardens, herb gardens, a rose garden that's become a favorite spot for weddings and — his personal favorite — the home demonstration gardens.

"He developed approximately 60 acres of display gardens outside the Snyder building," said Peter Olin, current director. "I think the crown of that is aptly named the De Vos Demonstration Gardens. It's a series of gardens all clustered together that give people an idea what they might do in their own back yards."

De Vos, 71, who headed the arboretum from 1977 to 1985, died of prostate cancer Wednesday at his home in Southern Pines, N.C.

He also built the Learning Center, where last year more than 15,000 children learned about how plants flourish.

He grew up in Boston and graduated from high school in Bloomfield, Conn. His father, a gardener, and his mother had emigrated from the Netherlands about five years before he was born.

He served in the Army Medical Corps for four years during World

War II, then completed a bachelor's degree in horticulture at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. He earned master's and doctoral degrees from Cornell University of New York.

He was hired as a horticulturist at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., in 1951 and was assistant director when he left in 1967. While there he made two federally sponsored plant explorations — one in 1962 to Nepal and one in 1965 to West Bengal-Sikkim — to gather specimens that could be introduced to the United States.

He also hybridized magnolias that he named for each of his four daughters and for Jane Freeman, wife of Orville Freeman, then the U.S. secretary of agriculture.

In 1967 De Vos moved to Chicago to become the first full-time director of 300 acres of swampland that became the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Ill.

Today it is visited by more than a half-million people each year.

"We think it's one of the best in the country," said Roy Taylor, president and chief executive officer of the Chicago Horticultural Society and director of the garden. "Many of the trees which he personally supervised have grown and are a living memorial to his efforts."

De Vos' wife, Martha Lillian Beam, said she and her husband toured the Chicago Botanic Garden about three

years ago and called it "a dream fulfilled."

He was diagnosed with cancer soon after he retired from the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in early 1985. He and his wife moved to Southern Pines in 1986.

He was attempting to propagate heat-tolerant azaleas for North Carolina, but had not completed his work, his wife said.

He was director of the American Horticultural Society and received its Professional Award in 1987. He was past president of the American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta.

Besides his wife, he is survived by a son, Peter, of Baltimore; daughters Ann de Vos of Germantown, Tenn.; Frederica Kraines, of Midlothian, Va.; Randall Bannentine, of Austin, Texas, and Judith Umberger, of Midland, Texas, and 14 grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Saturday in Southern Pines.

Friday/July 20/1990/Star Tribune

WAYS WITH ROSES

"What a splendid exercise it would be if people would only go round their places and look for all the ugly corners, and just think how they might be made beautiful by the use of free-growing Roses."

Gertrude Jekyll

— Roses in English Gardens, 1902

ED CULBERT APPRECIATION NIGHT.

We should have one...or did you even hear that our prize-winning editor of THE GARDEN SPRAY won an award for the best club bulletin in MGCA - at the Des Moines convention. Yes, yes, yes.

It was a pleasure to be there with Ed and have him go forward at a banquet to receive "Best of Show" type of award.

Ed has won many awards previously for editing our newsletter, all deserved, but it has been a long time since MGCA judges picked out just one newsletter and said it was the best - but this was the year and we are all proud of Ed.

Let's give him a big hand and a thank you.

Bill Hull
Reporter

P.S. There were some other awards. Our club was on the Gardening from the Heart Honor Roll for work with the Society for the Blind and Phil and Kent Petterson were so honored. I gave the tribute to deceased members at the Memorial Service - and we were all around observing and being active.

OFFICER PHOTO BOOK CLICKING ALONG

...but, boy, could I use your help.

Recently I received photos of a deceased former president of our club. His widow apologized that they were so old and admitted she was ashamed to have to use them ... but he had passed away without a recent photo.

There! How's that for guilt! If you won't do it for the Photo Book, then go to someone like Pro-X Southdale whom we have mentioned, and do it for your family. Don't wait until you're possibly very ill and no longer look your robust self. Do it now.

And remember I need a 3 X 5 inch print for each year you were an officer plus one more if you received the Bronze Medal. If you don't get us a portrait type photo (or photos), we may be forced to use the negative that Dr. Ted Olson took of you, whether it's flattering or not.

As a club, we need this book (actually there are four books) to recognize your input as an officer and to record it as an historical matter.

Please, get off the stick and have someone go click, click.

Bill Hull

Every Member Sponsors A New Member

VIEWS FROM THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

MGCM PRESIDENT KENT PETTERSON



VEGETABLES FOREVER

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Aug. 7 Board Meeting at C. Benson
- Aug. 12 MGCM Tour and Potluck
- Aug. 16-18 Herb Symposium at the Arboretum
- Aug. 22-23 MSHS Flower Show at the State Fair

To be Announced - Apple Cider making at L. Gilligan's

It's been a great summer for gardeners and growing plants. Plenty of moisture and adequate sunshine have helped to produce many beautiful gardens locally. We saw wonderful gardens on the June Club Tour, and we'll be treated to several more this month. We want to thank the tour committee for their work in arranging these events. We had mini tours this Spring, a trip to Doug Smith's and the Hackensack area gardens in June, and the two summer tours too. Our Volunteer of the Month for August is Greg Smith, Tour Committee Chairman. All the arrangements for food, facilities, buses and sites to visit are the key to making these events enjoyable and successful. We wish to thank Greg and his committee for their work this summer.

How does your garden grow? We had very good luck with eggplant in our garden this year. Eggplant requires more heat than is usually available here in Minnesota. However, this year our started plants went under a 'mini-greenhouse' to maximize the heat. The plants were larger earlier with blossoms early enough to provide a crop. Did you have any interesting successes in your garden? Write up a short description of the details and send it to Ed Culbert. I'm sure he'll find a way to get it in the Spray.

The 5th District of the Horticultural Society will be organizing their Board of Directors following adoption of Bylaws recently proposed. As a garden club within the 5th District, MGCM is allowed one member on their Board. If you have an interest in this position, please contact me or one of our Board members.

The National Convention of 1990 is now history. Some might say it was a 'History Making' Convention. It may have been a turning point for MGCA, but 'History Making' remains to be seen. The Board of Directors received and adopted over thirty recommendations from the consultant hired to study the operation and activities of MGCA. The consultants used input from the member survey conducted this spring along with interviews and a workshop held with members in leadership positions. Much work remains to flesh out these recommendations to actual proposals for Bylaw changes or specific actions. Some of these proposals probably will be discussed and voted upon in November at the Board of Directors meeting. Others will come before the Convention next summer (June 23-26) in Raleigh, North Carolina. Our Region Director, Russ Smith, has a copy of the full consultants report and will be providing information and looking for your input.

You might wonder if it was a fun and worthwhile trip. Well yes we did have fun, but we also had dissapointments. We didn't get to see any private gardens and the weather was bad. The Convention was long on business and short on education and entertainment.

Good Gardening to You,

Remember 25 New Members in 1990

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kent".

DIRECTOR REPORT

The MGCA Directors met at the national convention in Des Moines, Ia. on June 16, 1990. The routine business and reports by the officers and committee Chair-persons was given to both the directors and the delegates. There were no surprising reports--Mostly-- the E&I fund continues to grow and payments are regularly made to MGCA from the earnings proceeds of the fund. The Dec. 31, 1990 balance in the fund was \$352,996. The payments to MGCA from earnings since the fund was created in 1981 totaled \$127,701.--also the calendar and other profit making committees created profits. MGCA operated with a balanced budget in 1989.

The non routine business was different. In 1989, MGCA employed Lawrence-Leiter, a consulting firm to make suggestions as to how MGCA could become a better organization. They, along with a planning committee of MGCA officers, directors and members, along with a survey taken of all members, came up with a number of recommendations which were presented to the directors, approved by the directors and presented to the delegates.

Thirty one recommendations were presented and are tentatively scheduled for action over the next three years. I think the two most significant items are a change in bylaws where the members have more voting power rather than as present where most decisions are being made by the directors--items like dues increases. The second is that once the bylaws have been revised, MGCA Dues will be paid directly to the national headquarters.

By publicizing the organization and the proposed changes, the anticipated growth is a 50% increase in membership. The local clubs will still operate basically as usual gaining new members by personal contacts plus from those joining MGCA without knowing of the local club. Other proposed changes are the hiring of an executive director, fund raisers, education, etc.

All in all, I think the proposals are for the best for the survival and growth of MGCA. I think the effects on our local clubs will not be great for our day to day operation.

—Russ Smith

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Jim Ralls, who attended the convention, reports a brief resume of the actions. The Executive Committee recommended that the Board of Directors approve the recommendations of the management consultants that were hired. (1)This included a change in bylaws to allow individual membership voting. (This has been a recommendation of the Southwest Region for some two years which National has more or less ignored. It has caused much dissension between San Antonio and San Marcos clubs on one hand and National to a point that the clubs have withheld payment of National dues - Editor.) This will allow National to be an organization of individuals instead of an association of clubs. (2)Written definition of purpose and objectives of National. (3)Review the Gardener magazine - make it profitable or at least break-even, or eliminate it. (4)Develop a competent professional headquarters staff. On the question of those clubs that have not paid their National dues, it was voted to suspend San Antonio, San Marcus, and a small New York club unless dues are paid within 60 days, if not, then their charters will be revoked

—YARDNER HOUSTON, TX. MGC

A FRIENDLY CRITIQUE OF THE DES MOINES CONVENTION

Editor Ed has requested I write a little something comparing this June convention with some of the other thirty I've attended.

It was a good convention with a lot of things being done very well. The hotel chefs did themselves proud, feeding us several buffet meals quickly and well. Chairman Ron Heggen did a masterful job of keeping things on schedule. Programs were shorter than expected, door prizes were handled almost as well as Big Bob did ours, and the banquet speaker was a great and surprising humorist.

Okay, so it wasn't as good as our convention, but that's not a fair spot in which to put me. You fellows were almost all involved, probably more so than most host club members have been. You did a good job of supplying and showing flowers on tables everywhere - better than Des Moines. You did a great job of maintaining and showing home gardens in a terrible drought year - Des Moines showed us none. To me that is a mistake.

We were treated well, with courtesy and consideration. The hotel rooms were great. The Des Moines hosts were truly good to us. Good people. Good friends. And we all enjoyed meeting and talking with them.

A familiar situation occurred at the opening reception. People let their appetites get away from them at these buffet events and wolf down everything in sight. It is not supposed to be a dinner but Carol and I can remember several conventions where people acted gluttonous at this event. Some people go back for seconds before others have made their first trip. We should talk to Miss Manners about that situation.

Like at Minneapolis, Des M provided good, modern buses for tours and went to some superb public spots. Just as Minneapolis provided unusual heat. Des Moines provided a gulley-washer early Saturday morning which nearly washed away the city.

I was disappointed that our registration fee of \$100 didn't result in a similar fee for Portland in 1989 or Des Moines this year. \$100 had been our goal and, after much hard work, we made it an actuality; we ended with a large surplus fund which we split with MGCA, as is customary. Both Portland and Des Moines ignored that precedent and went to \$175 and \$145 in that order. Now Raleigh (1991) has announced \$160. The resulting decreasing attendance proves that a lower fee and good publicity bring in people. We had 572 registrants (\$100); Portland had 352 (\$175); Des Moines had 322 (\$145) and now Raleigh has announced \$160.

You missed a good convention. Due to its proximity to us, it was an inexpensive one for us. But think seriously about Raleigh, NC in Late June 1991, Fort Wayne, IN in mid-June 1992, Akron, OH in 1993 and Jackson, MS in about Feb/March 1994. Those will be good meetings. MGCA has been to each of these places previously and they all know how to put on a good convention.

Bill Hull

One of your delegates

IMPRESSIONS OF THE DES MOINES CONVENTION

by Mel Anderson

I was at the Minneapolis Convention in 1988 shortly after joining MGCM, so some comparisons may creep into this. My first impression, as Dwayne and I arrived at the Fort Des Moines Hotel just in time for the first delegate session, was all the friendly, somewhat familiar faces. Many of these people were at Minneapolis and they remembered us. It was fun talking about the weather and garden problems in different parts of the country. You can learn a lot from those knowledgeable delegates.

The delegate meeting was impressive, in that it was conducted in an efficient manner, yet everyone was allowed to speak in turn. The biggest decision among many was the "environmental statement". The various luncheon and breakfast meetings were impressive, also, in that awards were given for the best in each program. Some of these programs were new to me. (Youth Gardening, Gardening from the Heart and Scholarships) I am not sure if our club is into some of them. It is good to know that these programs do exist and that instructional help to start and to maintain them is available. Of course, we would do all the actual work in our area, and each program would take time and volunteers.

At one of the luncheons, I was especially proud as our editor, Ed Culbert, won the top club bulletin award! Headquarters recognized--what we all know--that the GARDEN SPRAY is the best club bulletin in the Men's Garden Clubs of America. One thing I didn't know was that there is an official MGCA song, not a great song but not that bad either. Certainly worth a stretch and a try every other meeting or so.

There were several tours offered: The Des Moines Botanical Society, Family History Farms, Master Gardens Demonstration Plot, the Capitol, the Historical Building, etc. The Des Moines Botanical Building is outstanding. Anyone going to Des Moines should take time to see it. It is not very large but is very well maintained and has an excellent collection of plants. The annuals and perennials outside and the foliage and cacti inside are tremendous.

One negative note on the convention. No tours of member's gardens were made. I asked several members of the Des Moines club about it. They said there are 250 members in the club and many fine member gardens. They did not know why none were scheduled.

All in all, though, it was an impressive convention and an enjoyable three days. The seminars (Pruning & Rose Culture) were informative and the 3 C's (Coffee, Cookies, Conversation) in the Hospitality Room were excellent. I met lots of friendly people who are very dedicated to better gardening and the ideals of the Men's Garden Clubs of America.

I also talked to people from Raleigh, North Carolina. They will host the convention in June, 1991. They seem to be way ahead on their plans and say they will have plenty of members' gardens to tour. On the way home we talked favorably toward going, but it's a long while until then.

THE ADVANTAGES IN JOINING A GARDEN CLUB

1. We share a common interest in gardening.
2. We increase our social life.
3. We can share with others our knowledge of gardening.
4. We encourage good health.
5. It gives us a purpose to live another year longer to do the things we want to do next year in our gardens.

--Richard Knowles, Spokane, WA MGC

TWO SEMINARS, GOOD AND NOT SO GOOD, PER ED. CULBERT

Albert Wilson, botanist, columnist, TV and radio personality is a teacher. Before his talk on Management of Plants and Answers to Questions he wrote a list of plants on the blackboard. Behind the blackboard he had a pile of specimens. As he pulled questions from the audience he delved into the pile and came up with just the right sample with which to demonstrate.

The first questions related to gardenias. Bud drop?--overwatering. Growing needs?--Heavy black, highly organic earth, ample water, a warm sunny window.---It blooms on new wood. At this point when it appeared one woman was going to monopolize the questioning Wilson shoved his potted gardenia into her hands. "Here. I'll give you this." "Next question."

"Now that's a good question. I have the answer right here in my book." He holds up a book then thumbs through it. "Yes, right on page 76. All you have to do is read it and follow the directions." "Next?"

Geraniums?--Let callus form on cutting before planting.--An old stem laid on the ground will form roots at the nodes.--To bloom keep it on the dry side. Water hanging geraniums once a month.

Citrus plants in containers?--Full sun and water plentifully.

"I have brown spots on my old rhododendron.." Albert hands her a long handled lopper. "Good luck." (Wilson gives away his Corona tools. His books he sells after class.)

And so it went on past quitting time. The audience was kept in stitches as it learned. Duane Johnson put it best when he said, "If you haven't heard Albert Wilson it is quite a treat. He uses the audience's questions and personality to influence how he should proceed."

Another seminar I attended, Environmental Concerns in Vegetable Plots by Patty Peterson was essentially a repeat of the talk Ann Hanchek gave at MGCM's January meeting but with a different set of slides. Ms. Peterson seemed not well enough versed in her topic for an MGCA audience so dodged all questions.

IN JULY THE MGCM BOARD

- Approved a new committee, The 50th Anniversary of MGCM, for the next sign-up.
- Authorized Merle Pulley to design a general purpose folder to highlight our 50th anniversary.
- Learned that 930 MGCA 1991 calendars have now been received (to be sold at \$2.00 each).
- Considered providing a new board position for someone who would serve as a long-time MGCA liaison person.

Accepted as NEW MGCM MEMBERS

Rand A. Sibet 560-8103
7434 Aldrich Court N.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444-2675

R. Keith Monjak 724-8774
3101 - 40th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55406

PRUNING FRUIT TREES A LA ALBERT WILSON

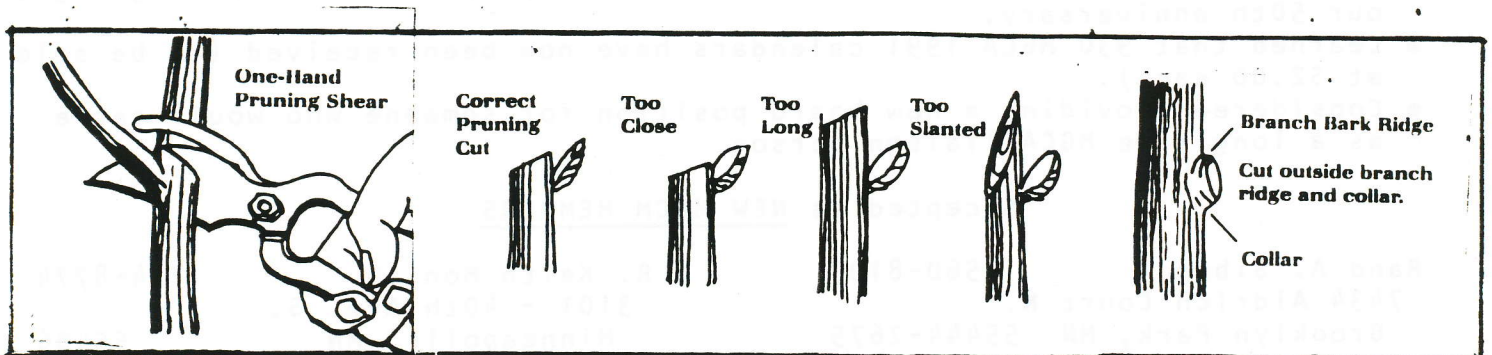
1. Prune early in life of the tree so growth goes where you want it.
2. Begin your visual inspection at the top of the tree and work downward.
3. Identify the best leader and lateral branches before you begin pruning. Remove defective parts before pruning for form.
4. Don't worry about protecting pruning cuts. It does not prevent or reduce decay.
5. Keep your tools sharp.
6. When you prune back branches too small to have formed a collar they should be cut close.
7. If the branch is large enough to have formed a collar, cut just outside the branch ridge and collar and at a slight down-and-outward angle. Do not leave a protruding stub.
8. When shortening a small branch, make the cut at a lateral bud or another lateral branch. Favor a bud that will produce a branch that will grow in a desired direction. The cut should be sharp and clean, and made at a slight angle about 1/4 inch beyond the bud.

Generally speaking, light pruning and the removal of dead wood can be done anytime.

Pruning during dormancy, winter, is the most common practice. It results in a vigorous burst of new growth in the spring and should be used if that is the desired effect. It is usually best to wait until the coldest part of winter has passed. Some species, such as maples, walnuts and birches, may "bleed" when the sap begins to flow. This is not harmful and will cease when the tree leaves out.

Summer pruning slows the development of a tree or branch. The reason for the slowing effect is that you reduce the total leaf surface, thereby reducing the amount of food manufactured and sent to the roots for their development and next year's growth of the crown.

Because decay fungi spread their spores profusely in the fall and healing of wounds seems to be slower on fall cuts, this is a good time to leave your pruning tools in storage.



A red tulip given is a declaration of love, as is a bud of a moss rose.

MGCA SEMINAR ON ROSE CULTURE
Reported by Duane Johnson

Jim King MGCA Past President from Santa Rosa, California was the speaker. He suggested in pruning roses look for strong new canes. Shorten the canes to 12". Make sure the centers are open for good air circulation. With miniatures you don't have to be so careful as they have many leaf nodes.

When caring for roses in the fall Jim uses dormant oil spray with lime sulfur. This will prevent diseases the next spring. (He reminded us that the most common diseases of roses are rust, mildew and black spot.)

King like some MGCM members uses osmocote fertilizer a controlled release type 17-6-10 which promotes continuous blooming. It has added minerals.

OTHER ADVICE We need to be aware of nutrient "wash out" in roses kept in containers. We will have to fertilize more for container grown roses.

When buying roses one should be aware that:

- Grade 1 - has 3 canes
- Grade 1½ - has 2 canes
- Grade 2 - has 1 strong cane.
- When we pay more for roses that the 17 year patent period has not elapsed.

When preparing roses for show cut the rose stem under 115° F. water to prevent air spaces from developing. In conclusion Jim pulled out of his pocket an artist's brush which he used to open up the rose's petals.

THE JUNE TOUR THAT ALMOST WASN'T

It was a late spring, a late June when we met at Pershing Park fieldhouse. The skies were lowering. The clouds opened up while we ate our Kentucky Fried chicken. The rain poured a deluge after dinner while we waited apprehensively for our bus. The rain eased; our bus arrived and we ran for it hoping against hope that the gardens would not be washed out. We knew darn well they couldn't be weed free considering weather, work demands, and our own garden situations.

On this score DR. BOB OLSON really fooled us. He had hostas, hostas, hostas. One plant was so large it threatened to crowd the lower branches of an overhanging small tree and to cover all his heavy brown weed-smothering mulch. Some hostas filled the garden with fragrance. Hosta montana aurea marginata stood out. Hostas may have been the mainstay of Olson's garden but accenting the lush green grass of his lawn he had marigolds, petunias and even hanging baskets of white fuchsias.

HENRY HALVORSON never fails us. He has everything. His grass wasn't cut short. It just looked that way. He had huge iris still in bloom. The expected Christmas cactus was summering under the trees, caged raspberries, pie-plant, azaleas, pink roses, a fern glade, a tree circled with hostas and much, much more. Henry admits he still has trouble combatting those pesky volunteer tree seedlings.

GREG SMITH beats the weeds with a heavy leaf-mulch. It's brown color sets off his hostas and the ferns on his hillsides. The vegetable plots ascending the hillside to the rear are similarly mulched. Peas on an 8' fence were in flower. More surprising potatoes in Doug's potato patch were starting to bloom.

TOUR - from page 11.

RUSS SMITH is changing his hillside lay-out again. He is building 2" x 12" plank beds up his steep rear hillside and making woodchip paths. One path extends to the front yard level. Russ has found that an incline beats steps when pushing a wheelbarrow. He also has built a little shanty part way up the hill--a substitute greenhouse for plants, a storage place for tools, he explained. Dick Lehman had a more pretentious structure but he admitted it was primarily a place to rest. Russ had a lot of planting left to do but already there were delphiniums, pansies, daisies, pink geraniums, decorative lettuce on terraces and in beds to greet us.

Andy Marlow would have made a better report had it been his responsibility-- which it wasn't. Just be thankful I was able to decipher this much of my notes. I don't mind taking them. Reading them after they get cold is the problem.

--Ed. C.

SOIL TYPES

Sandy soil feels very coarse and grainy. Water drains through it very quickly. As a result, sandy soil dries out rapidly.

Clay soil is very thick, like putty. It holds water like a sponge. It does not dry out as fast as sandy soil. When it does dry out it becomes hard and very solid, making it difficult to break the surface with a shovel.

Silty soil is between sandy and clay soil. It holds water well but does not dry into a hard, solid mass.

Loam is the ideal mixture of sand, clay, and silt. With organic amendments, it becomes the perfect garden soil.

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, Inc.
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MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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FIRST CLASS