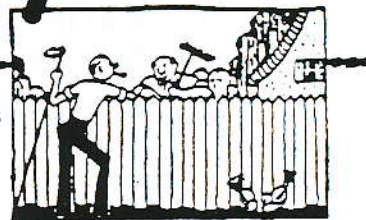




The Garden Spray

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

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



January 1991, Volume 49, Number 1

Happy New Year !

1991

Start off your gardening new year at the January meeting of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
4901 Chowen Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN.

January 8, 1991

6:00 P.M. Sharp

Guest Speaker: Paul Aarestad, Head Gardener
Lakewood Cemetary

Program: Mr. Aarestad will discuss planting methods and show slides of over 30,000 tulips, cannas and the new knot garden at Lakewood.

Members mini program: Fred Glasoe with talk about the do's and don't,s of ordering from seed catalogs.

Reservations should be sent in promptly to
Eldon Hugelen 7473 West 142nd. Street Court
Apple Valley, MN. 55124 (See Inside)

PLEASE NOTE

The current permanent reservation list for meals expires with the January meeting. If you wish to be on the 1991 permanent reservation list you must sign up on the sheet secretary Eldon Hugelen will pass around on January 8th.

DUES STILL NOT PAID? Then this is your last issue of the GARDEN SPRAY.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Henry W. Orfield
6124 York Ave. S.
Mpls. 55410

920-7018

Robert S. Voigt
4934 Aldrich Ave. S.
Mpls. 55409

823-4934

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

What fun it was. Isn't it always? From the time we picked up our name tags at the door the holiday spirit prevailed. The crowd around the punch bowl was so noisy they drowned out Elaine Horning, our accordianist, who kept valiantly playing none-the-less. The sherbet the basis for the punch was so thick by the time I got mine that I broke the plastic glass trying to squeeze it out.

Downstairs the parade of turkeys was led around the room by our accordianist Elaine. The food was piping hot and served expeditiously. Carvers, Todd Bachman, Russ Backes, Charles Benson, Bob Churilla, Walt Gustagson, Bill Hull, Duane Johnson, Andy Marlow, Bob Olson, Don Powell, Russ Smith, Dwight Stone and Clyde Thompson managed to get a bite themselves while keeping their tables supplied with turkey.

During the evening Bob Churilla gave away prizes galore. There were 152 persons present but strangely Bob was calling off numbers well above that. I heard that one prize winner drew a small box with a note saying it contained a gift which though it was always welcomed was sure to be the first to be taken back for exchange. The gift within turned out to be currency.

Finally came the awaited awards presentation. Russ Smith presented the Industrial Award to the Lake Minnetonka Men's Garden Club for its public plantings. Everett Clauson, Kermit Henrikson and Duane Reynolds accepted for the club.

Greg Smith called Bob Olson forward to receive the Lehman Trophy for best garden on tour in 1990. Bob had to turn his picture taking over to his father Ted for this one.

It was now Kent Petterson's turn to make an award. He awarded the President's Cup for outstanding service to the president to Eldon Hugelen a 1989 inductee who has been an all around helper in MGCM.

The Bronze Medal went to a man ever present, always congenial, always promoting the club who never turns down a task even when called upon at the last minute-- Russ Smith. President Kent Petterson made the presentation.

There was no formal program other than the awards presentation. Instead Elaine Horning with her accordian led us in a sing along. After more or less murdering the final number, The Twelve Days of Christmas, we adjourned permitting all to get home in timely fashion.

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Which do you think has more nutrients, the beet greens, or the beet itself? The greens have 200 times more vitamin A than the beet itself.



Grow With Us

The major social event of the year for MGCM, the Annual Christmas Party is now under our belts. The event was a great success thanks to the planning and dedicated efforts of Walt Gustafson, the Christmas Party Committee and help from many members including Charlie Proctor, Dwight Stone and Vinton Bouslough. Agnes and the catering crew did a fine job too. There were 159 dinners served and the party came in about right on budget.

The holiday season's passing signals the start of a new year and a new 1991 agenda for the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. A good deal of planning has already been done in regards to the activities and events to look forward to this year. Vice President Greg Smith is busy scheduling programs for the meetings, Kent Petterson is working on plans for the Community Garden and the August Flower and Vegetable Show at Riverplace and the President has done planning for 1991, including the Dayton's/Bachman Show (with an Italian Villa theme) on March 19th and the (are you ready for this?) Christmas Party for December 3rd of this year.

Some of the items on the "to do" list for this year include work on committee structures; new committees (including Publicity [standing] and 50th Anniversary [ad hoc]); planning for the 1992 50th Anniversary "Big Event"; growing the membership and program attendance; and fine tuning operations.

Today MGMC is 105 members strong. What ideas, concepts, suggestions, innovations or talents can you offer the club? Put your comments in a NOTE please and send them in. The President's desk is your suggestion box.

Best wishes for the new year.

Cordially,



M. T. Pulley, President

THANK YOU AGAIN and HAPPY NEW YEAR

Another new year. The start of another year of the Garden Spray. It's 49th, my 22nd. So many persons over the years to thank. And to be thankful for advice, articles, assistance, clippings, contributions, rides, sly needling (I enjoy it), suggestions from long-time members, new members, no longer members, members from A through Z. My cup runneth over.

E.C.C.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT FOR HOUSEPLANTS

Want to expand your plant growing area from the windowsill to include a basement, closet, or some other area? Fluorescent lights enable you to grow plants where sunlight never reaches.

To supplement a small amount of natural light, incandescent lamps are adequate. Incandescent lamps produce light in the red-range which if used as the only light source, results in elongated growth and possible distortion after several months. Incandescent lights are less efficient, produce a great deal of heat, and cost more to operate than fluorescent lighting.

Excellent plant growth can be obtained by using fluorescent lamps with one cool white and one warm white lamp together. "Grow" lamps are more expensive; however, they may enhance the beauty of some plants such as the African violet. These lamps give off a violet cast which makes flower and foliage colors appear brighter and richer.

The minimum size fixture is one that contains 2 tubes of 20 watts or 2 tubes of 40 watts. The easiest to use is the commercial fixture which consists of a long metal box to which the sockets are attached at either end. The ballast is contained within the box. This type of unit can be hung from any surface. Home gardeners can build their own units with combinations of fixtures. For a set up that includes not more than six 2 lamp, 40 watt fixtures one can safely use regular house circuits.

The lamps should be suspended 15-20 inches above the surface on which the plants will be grown. The height of the fixtures should be adjustable but if necessary, plants can be raised closer to the light source by placing them on inverted pots, etc. Place pots in a waterproof tray containing a layer of pebbles kept constantly moist to raise the humidity around the plants.

For most plants, lights should be left on for 14-16 hours per day. If plants do not appear to be getting adequate light, move them closer to the tubes, add more tubes, or increase the lighting time. Continuous light is satisfactory for some plants that may be far from the light source. Plant spacing also must be considered. Crowding results in weak stems and lack of sufficient air movement which can favor disease.

For most plants grown indoors, a loose, porous potting soil is ideal. Soilless mixes are especially good due to their light weight. Plastic pots are a better choice, too, since they are also light in weight. Unlike plants growing on the window sill which make little growth during dim winter months, plants under lights need frequent applications of fertilizer. Follow manufactures' directions carefully.

Plants which can be grown under lights include: African violets, lipstick vine, flame violet, exacum, gloxinia, lantana, slipper orchids, moth orchids, begonias, geraniums, goldfish plant, impatiens, peace lily, rex begonia, cacti and succulents, coleus, browallia, bellflower, carnivorous plants, fuchsias, gardenia, velvet plant, wax plant, and most foliage plants.

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSE PLANTS

<u>Footcandles</u>	<u>Inches beneath two 40 watt fluorscent tubes</u>
150	30
400	12 (Based from the <u>center</u> of the tube,
500	12 light intensity is diminished at
650	9 the <u>ends</u> and <u>sides</u> of the tubes.)
800	6
1000	4-5

<u>Footcandles Required</u>	<u>Houseplant</u>	<u>Footcandles Required</u>	<u>Houseplant</u>
500	Achimenes	1000	Jade Plant
500	African Violet	400	Norfolk Island Pine
400	Aluminum plant (Pilea)	650	Orchid
400	Asparagus fern	400	Palm
400	Avocado	400	Peperomia
500	Baby tears	800	Christmas pepper
400	Begonia	400	Philodendron
1000	Burro's tail	400	Piggyback plant
1000	Cactus (succulents)	800	Polka-dot plant
800	Christmas cactus	800	Poinsettia
800	Coleus	400	Prayer plant
800	Croton	800	Primrose
400	Diffenbachia	800	Scheffleras
1000	Echeveria	150-800	Snake plant
500	Episcia	400	Spider plant
150	Ferns	400	Swiss cheese plant
800	Fuchsia	800	Ti palnt
1000	Geranium	800	Velvet plant
500	Gloxinia	400	Wandering jew
800	Hoya	800	Zebra plant

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There are several crops resistant to insect, disease, cold, hot weather, and drought. Black Turtle Beans, (adzuki) or Royal Burgundy, purple pod, or the Blackeyed Pea, which was used to feed slaves on ships, are the hardiest of all vegetables to grow north or south. Millet is one of the worlds greatest sources of carbohydrates with 166 grams per cup.

Dragen Claw has been known to store 50 years without deterioration.

The Mayhaw, from the deep south, has been known to survive -25° F.

The Kuvi, hardy up to -50° F. A single plant will produce 100# of fruit and could very likely be the future cash crop of the north.

THE WINTER LANDSCAPE

Other than adding snow fences, we can't do much in January to enhance the winter landscape. However, if we have permanent plantings in mind for this spring we can search our catalogs for:

- Trees with green foliage year round -- arbor vitae, pines, spruces, yews, junipers are always good.
- Flowering crabapples bearing red or yellow fruit.
- Hawthorns with their vibrant colored berries.
- Yellow and red osier dogwood for interesting twig color.
- Bark texture, e.g. winged euonymus, paper birch.

Minneapolis is beautiful. Minnesota is beautiful. What sight is more appealing to the eye than the snow covered evergreens in yards and along roads? But the snow cover doesn't always come and when it does it doesn't linger long on the trees. Ergo it is up to us to add to our plantings those which add color and texture.

* * * * *

"The love of dirt is among the earliest of passions, as it is the latest. Mud pies gratify one of our first and best instincts. Fondness for the ground comes back to the man after he has run the round of pleasure and business, eaten dirt, and sown wild-oats...The love of digging in the ground...is as sure to come back to him as he is sure, at last, to go under the ground, and stay there. To own a bit of ground, to scratch it with a hoe, to plant seeds and watch their renewal of life,--this is the commonest delight of the race, the most satisfying thing a man can do."

--Charles Dudley Warner, "My Summer in the Garden," 1870

Return to
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