

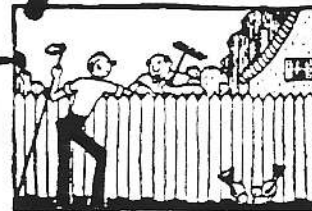


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

January 1998, Volume 56, Number 1



January Dinner Meeting...

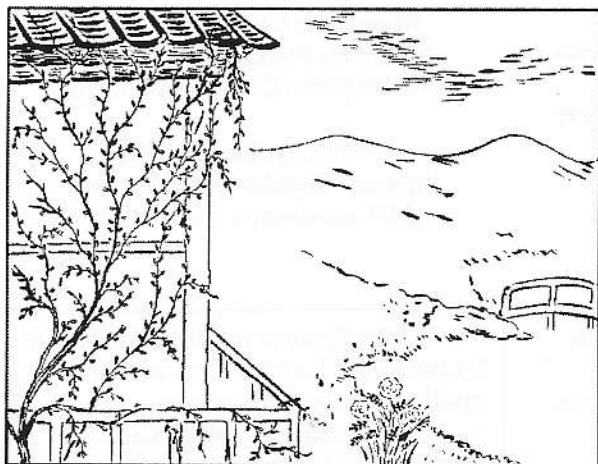
Travels To Taiwan With Joan Cooper

Our featured speaker in January will be Joan Cooper. Many of you know Joan as the cofounder (with her husband) of Cooper's Gardens. Joan is also a renowned grower and hybridizer of irises. Come and see Taiwan through the eyes and ears of Joan and her camera.

Presentation of Awards

Any award not presented at the Holiday party will also be part of the program, including Green Thumb and Rookie of the Year awards.

Installation of 1998 Officers



Date: Tuesday January 13, 1998

Place: Lake Harriet United
Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Avenue South

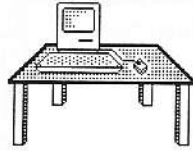
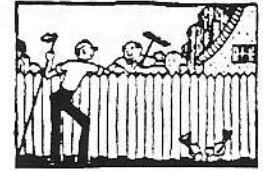
Time: Dinner 6:30 pm
Business 7:00 pm
Program 7:30 pm

Cost: \$7.50 if reserved in advance
\$8.50 at the door if meals are available

Important Note about Reservations

The 1997 permanent reservation list will remain in effect for this meeting. Check your mailing label. If it has a "p" in the corner, you are on the permanent list. If there is no "p" on your label, you are not on the permanent reservation list and must call Director Kay Wolfe by **Friday, January 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.com.

A sign-up sheet for the 1998 permanent reservation list will be available at the January meeting



The Editor's Desk

Chuck Carlson
Managing Editor

This is the first month of the *Garden Spray* after the reorganization. We want to thank Andy Marlow for his many years of service. My research found that Andy started in January 1992 and has done the total newsletter except for the writers' inputs since that time. Andy will still layout the newsletter and get it printed but all other functions will be done by other members. So far we have seven members working on various jobs plus 13 who have indicated they would write at least one article. So you can see that Andy did the work of at least seven people. Thanks again, Andy.

Now for my request. Each of you can pass on information to me that can be used in future issues of the *Spray*. This can be short articles that you have read, an editorial on something you want to get off your chest, a poem or saying about gardening, gardening tips or whatever you think will interest other members. Even a recommendation for a good gardening book you have read *Also, we can always use more writers to do a column or two.* We will accept Want Ads or For Sale notices of horticultural related items. These extra things will be used as they can be fit into the number of pages which we can mail for the 32 cent postage.

The *Spray* has always been a good newsletter and we want to continue that in the upcoming issues so *give us your help.*

Coming Attractions

Tuesday, January 6 – 7:30 PM
Board of Directors meeting
Mary Maynard's house

Tuesday, January 13 – 6:30 PM
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th & Chowen Ave. South

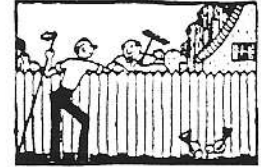
Through mid-January
Holiday Flower Show
Poinsettias & Kalanchoes
Como Conservatory

Saturday, January 17 – 1:30 PM
Dwarf Conifers for the Garden
Minnesota Chapter of North
American Rock Garden Society
New Brighton Community Center

Monday, January 19
Japanese Garden Serenity Tour
MN Landscape Arboretum

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
Staff Tim McCauley,
Mary Maynard, Margaret Hibberd
Howard Berg, and Bob Stepan.



Mary's Meanderings

by Mary Maynard, President MGCM

Welcome to *Mary's Meanderings* — something that you'll have to put up with for the next twelve issues! Before wandering too far afield, let me say that I am very proud to serve as president of MGCM. I

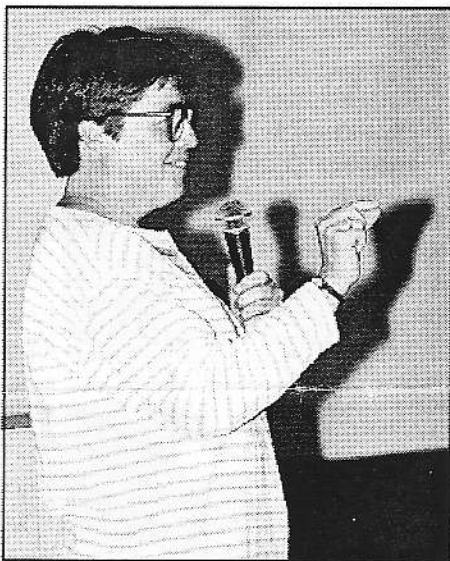


Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

doubt that I could ever express how strongly I feel about our club: It's the best group of its kind that I've ever come across. I'm sure I could never give back to MGCM what I have gotten out of it in these last nine years, but I intend to try!

We're going to have a good Board this year. Tim McCauley is new to the Board, but he's

not inexperienced, since he's been very active in the hosta organizations. And we're happy to have Walt Muehlegger back as Secretary this year after a short hiatus. (And we're very grateful to Margaret Hibberd for stepping in as acting secretary while Walt was out.) And Eldon Hugelen is back in the harness after a few years off the board. He's already coming up with great programs for 1998.

Thanks to Chuck Benson for his service last year. I think we'll miss Bob Stepan a great deal as he rotates off the board. Many of us have never served on a Board that didn't include Bob! He has always stood for intelligence, good judgment, humor and balance. It will seem strange without him, although he's probably looking forward to a few more

free evenings!

So, here we are in January, with much of the winter still ahead of us. You know, I used to bemoan the long winter, but I've begun to think that we need some wintertime for rest and renewal—time to plan for next year. Do I think we need six months of winter? Decidedly not! But a little is OK.

Of course, January is the time for New Year's resolutions. Like many, I've been giving some thought to turning over some new leaves this year. Here are some of my goals for 1998:

Have cultivated plants outnumber weeds. On a regular basis, not just once in a while.

Build a reasonable support for the old grapevine. This has been on my list for several years now. Maybe this year it will really happen.

Eradicate the creeping charlie in the lawn. Right. This will happen in my lifetime — not!

Be ruthless about the rogues. How many purple coneflower seedlings do I really need? Aren't they really weeds if they come up everywhere?

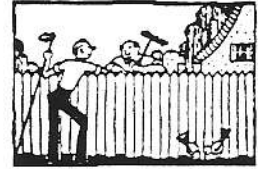
Share! Split up some favorite daylilies and perennials and bring them to the Plant Auction or the Flower, Food and Foto Show Sale. Or give them to friends and neighbors.

Aerate the lawn. (This is really a resolution for Phil, since he's the one who would have to run the machine!)

Use the compost. (I have a FINO compost system: First In, Never Out. There's some really good stuff down at the bottom, I bet!)

Think small. Remember that it is

(continued on page 9)



Monthly Program Report

by Mary Maynard

We had an excellent Holiday Party on December 9. The Holiday Party Committee, chaired by Marilyn Brummer and Nancy Jepson, put on an outstanding event. The decorations were exceptional this year, thanks in part to Clyde Thompson, who denuded his garden to supply trellises, arbors and lights to spiff up the stage!

After a short social hour and the invocation by Pastor Melvyn Budke of Lake Harriet Methodist Church, Bill Hull convened all the carvers for the traditional Parade of Turkeys. A few new members and guests were not totally prepared for

the Parade, but seemed to recover their appetites within minutes, demonstrating notable resilience.

During and following the meal, we were well entertained by the Coventry Carolers, who brought us all the familiar Christmas standards and led us in a short sing along. We sounded pretty good!

We also heard from



(Lynette Uzzell receives the Lehman Trophy)

two of our scholarship winners who were able to join us for the party.

Annual awards and trophies were presented after the entertainment. Here are this year's winners:

- Bronze Medal, for outstanding service to the Club: Chuck Carlson (photo above right)
- Dr. Joseph T. Cohen President's Cup,

for service to the President: Marilyn Brummer

- Dick Lehman Trophy for Best Garden on Tour: Lynette Uzzell (photo at left)
- Photography Sweepstakes: Henry Orfield
- Tom Foley Trophy for Vegetable Sweepstakes: Bob Voigt (photo on page 9)
- Albert Blackbourn Trophy Flower Sweepstakes: Mary Maynard
- Robert L. Smith Trophy for Best First-Time Exhibitor at Flower, Food and Foto Show: Margaret Hibberd



(Chuck Carlson accepts the Bronze Medal)

- Giant Sunflower: Margaret Hibberd
- Giant Pumpkin: Bob Voigt

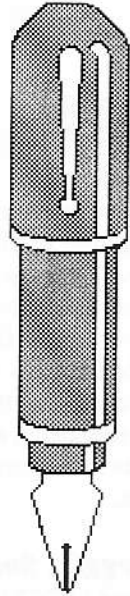
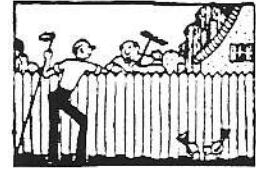
Traveling plaques were awarded for the second time this year for the pumpkin and sunflower winners.

Note: We did not select an Industrial Award winner this year. Nominations made in 1997 will be carried over and considered for 1998.

To round out the evening, we had a drawing for wreaths and poinsettias. Sometimes charm and luck go hand in hand, which might explain how Ted and Grace Olson both won poinsettias.

Thanks to the Holiday Party committee for giving us a great evening!

(All photos by Lloyd Wittstock)



Board Meeting Minutes

Margaret Hibberd, Secretary

December 2, 1997

Present: Chuck Carlson, Margaret Hibberd, Eldon Hugelen, Maury Lindblom, Mary Maynard, Tim McCauley, Walt Muehlegger, Bob Stepan, Kay Wolfe. Absent: Chuck Benson, Howard Berg, Ritchie Miller.

President Lindblom called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

The minutes of the November Board meeting were accepted on a motion by Chuck, seconded by Mary. Mary gave the Treasurer's Report and it was approved on a motion by Bob, seconded by Margaret. Eldon announced the February speaker will be Mike Heger of Ambergate Gardens, and April will be a program on vegetables by Erika Jensen.

Old Business

Committee Reports

Perennial Garden: The University professor responsible has taken another position. His replacement appears less interested. Chuck will call Mary Lerman and indicate our continuing interest.

Awards: The industrial award will be carried over to next year. The annual awards will be given at Holiday Party except for Rookie of the Year and Green Thumb.

Scholarship: Board passed a motion, made by Chuck and seconded by Mary, that up to four scholarships can be given in 1988.

Flower, Food and Foto Show: A motion made by Bob and seconded by Margaret passed to approve Chuck Carlson to buy 500 bottles at 25 cents.

National Convention: Duane Reynolds, Mary and Kay met, proposed dates of July 5-8, 2001, and sent the proposed schedule to Ron Heggen of Gardeners of America, which he rejected.

Meals: Bob moved and Margaret seconded a motion that passed in which the cost for meals starting in January will be \$7.50 for normal monthly meetings and \$8.50 for those with no reservations. Price for Auction, Tours and Holiday party may be different, as usual.

Committee chairs for new year were announced and approved on a motion by Mary with a second by Kay.

New Business

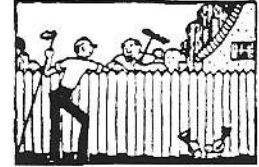
Eldon thinks we need a new brochure with a club contact listed. Kay has one and will bring it for review at the January Board meeting.

Privileges of membership to the Arboretum because of MGCM having a club membership may be something for dissemination to the membership.

New officers and board members were welcomed and departing ones thanked.

Bernadette Collins is restoring a historic house on Dean Parkway west of Lake of the Isles and is interested in beautification of the boulevard in front of the house. She wants help. The Board decided our current commitment to the Perennial Garden at Lake Harriet and the Steven's House is enough for now.

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn passed at 9:22 pm.



Profiles of 1998 Officers and Directors

Mary Maynard, President

Mary has been MGCM's vice president and secretary, and has served on many committees. She has been a member since 1989. Mary was one of the first women who joined the club and is still active. She enjoys collecting flowers, perennials and especially hostas. Mary enjoys exhibiting among other things. She won as a first time exhibitor at the MGCM's Flower, Food and Foto Show and was this year's flower sweepstakes winner. She also has won top honors at the Minnesota State Fair. She is employed at Health Partners in informational systems and lives in St. Louis Park

Eldon Hugelen, Vice President

Eldon served MGCM as Secretary for many years. He joined the club in 1989. He has served on many committees, was a cochairman for the Plant Auction and initiated plant sales at the Flower, Food and Foto Show. In 1996 he was awarded the Bronze Medal for outstanding service. Eldon is an avid grower of all plants but is an advocate of perennials. He pushes the zone requirements to see if some of those zone 5 or 6 plants will survive in Minnesota. He has exhibited many of his perennials at MGCM's Flower, Food and Foto Show and in 1995 won the flower sweepstakes award. He is a native Iowan (we don't hold that against him) but now lives in Apple Valley. Eldon is self employed as a landscape architect.

Howard Berg, Treasurer

Howard is starting his fourth term as Treasurer and has taken on many other tasks not directly related to the job, plus

he has worked on many committees. Howard was chair of the calendar committee for a number of years. A club member who volunteers at the drop of the hat, he has been a member since 1980. He has been awarded both the Bronze Medal and the President's Cup. He and Ruth are raised bed gardeners at their home in Minnetonka. Howard is a retired contractor who had his own remodeling business for many years.

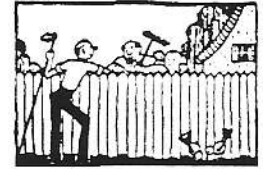
Walt Muehlegger, Secretary

Walt joined MGCM in 1993 and has worked on a number of committees. He has previously served as Secretary and is resuming the post for 1998. Walt has a nice garden in Eagan which is surrounded by pines. His unique garden is made of many plots each contained within nice brick work. Walt is a retired manager of the tool and die department of Hitchcock Industries. His tool and die work is reflected in his garden by the many hardscape conversational pieces he has made. These castings – brass and bronze sculptures – hide throughout the garden. Walt is a volunteer on the Rifle Squad at Fort Snelling Cemetery.

Maurice Lindblom, Past President

This is the start of his third year on the board, previously serving as vice president and president. He has been a mainstay on the Flower, Food and Foto Show and Perennial Garden (previously the community garden) committees. He grows what he calls "tough perennials" and native plants. He has been an annual exhibitor at the Flower, Food and Foto

(continued on page 8)



Talking from Under My Hat

by Kay Wolfe

"Who loves a garden
Finds within his soul
Life's whole....."
Louise Seymour Jones

"My garden is my comfort, a sacred place where my spirit is restored, my mind refreshed, and my body rejuvenated. Not everyone feels that way. Some of my friends tell me their gardens are a challenge. To them a garden is a place to be conquered, a wilderness to cultivate. I tell them my garden is soothing. It is a sanctuary in the fullest meaning of the word."

So writes Emyl Jenkins in her book *Pleasures of the Garden*. And here it is January, and where is that place that to so many of us is a sanctuary? A place to go for peace, rejuvenation, beauty. Maybe if we look hard it is still out there—in the form of "winter interest"!

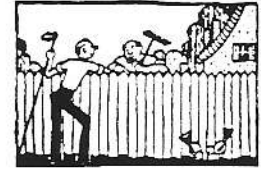
I began *serious* gardening a few short years ago—in the summer of 1991. I began with a small boomerang-shaped bed in the back. Now, only seven seasons later, the boomerang is a border garden 35 feet long and 10 feet wide. And it doesn't stop there—numerous other gardens surround my property. I first met MGCM members in 1993—after only two seasons of gardening. I called a phone number on a brochure and got Kent Petterson, who immediately had me call Eldon Hugelen and confirm my dinner reservation. I simply explained to them how my garden was growing by leaps and bounds and I couldn't stop being in it. They quietly and understandingly said, "Oh. It sounds like you've got the bug. Come to a meeting."

So what is this *bug* that can make

intelligent men of seventy years of age think they can work fourteen hour days in their gardens? What is this immense energy we all seem to have to turn our plains of green lawn into riots of colorful bounty? And why in the middle of January does it feel like we can hardly survive until April? On my block my garden stands out and the neighbors know who I am. If I lived on a block with fellow club members my garden would disappear—it's barely average by standards in this club! We talk a lot about how to grow specimens; share the latest cuttings and information. Meanwhile the garden is getting bigger and bigger.

This column (and columnist) will be asking questions of fellow gardeners. Why? What do you like best about gardening? What motivates you? What are the rewards? Do you have goals? What does your garden really mean to you? I will interview club members and find their answers and plan to share them here. If any of you have any ideas—let me know. Feedback is most welcome. *But don't get caught talking through your hat!!*

(Editor's note: A sketch about the author is found in the sketches of the 1998 officers of the club. I plan on having sketches of all columnists so we can get to know each other better. Also at our meetings talk with someone you have never met.)



Board Profiles

(continued from page 6)

Show, showing some fine blue ribbon winners, and has also won honor at the State Fair show. He is a physician and professor at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine. Maurice lives in Edina.

Chuck Carlson, Director

Chuck is starting his fourth term as a director. He joined the club in 1989 and has served on a number of committees. Chuck has served as chairman of the Community Garden for four years and cochair of the Photo committee for two years. He has been a regular columnist on the *Garden Spray* since October 1992. This year he was awarded the Bronze Medal. Chuck is a collector of plants. His interests go from shade perennials to sun annuals. He also has a small rock garden which peaked his interest in propagation. He always enters the Flower, Food and Foto Show where he has won best first time exhibitor and, last year, the Best of Show. Chuck is a retired Honeywell electrical engineer and lives in Fridley.

Kay Wolfe, Director

This will be Kay's fourth term as director of MGCM. She joined the club in 1994 and has been a very active member. She served as tour committee chair from 1995 through 1997, plus serving on the biennial tour committee. She is now volunteering as a columnist for the *Spray* and is working on the design of the back plantings for the new perennial garden project. She has a nice small lot garden in St. Louis Park, which stresses shade perennials. Her passion is garden design. Kay is self employed as an interior decorator and uses her artistic abilities for one of

a kind wall murals of flowers and other horticultural subjects.

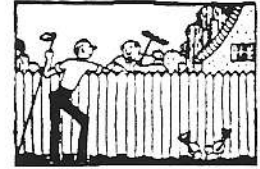
Ritchie Miller, Director

Ritchie joined the club in 1995 and has been a visible contributor to the plant auction. Ritchie filled in as a director in 1997 when a vacancy occurred in the middle of the year. He resides in Robbinsdale and has a small terraced garden with hostas being the predominant plants. He must also have some of those Geraniums, by George. Ritchie works for Malmberg's Garden Center as chief operating officer. Ritchie is an outgoing, personable individual you will enjoy knowing and we welcome him to the 1998 MGCM Board of Directors.

Tim McCauley, Director

Tim McCauley joined the club in 1994 and has been on the auction committee since that time. This is his first year as a director of MGCM. Tim and his wife Karen live in Chaska very near the Arboretum. They have been gradually landscaping their bare yard by adding trees, shrubs and flowers. Their hosta collection is getting a little too much sun so they are adding perennials, grasses and dwarf conifers. They also have raised beds for herbs and vegetables. Tim works for SCICOM Data Services as a programmer/analyst.





(Flower, Food and Foto Show Cochair Mel Anderson (r.) awards the Tom Foley Memorial Trophy as Vegetable Sweepstakes winner to Bob Voigt. Photo by Lloyd Wittsock

Meanderings

(continued from page 3)

impossible to try all the things that look cool in the seed catalogs — not in our lot, especially when you consider the next resolution, which is

Don't dig up any more lawn. At least this year. Try to control what you have already!

Sit down and enjoy the garden. For what it is, not what it could be, if we finished all the above.

You know, when I look at this list, I realize that it bears a striking resemblance to last year's list! Some of us are slow learners. Best wishes for a very prosperous New Year!

Classifieds

Wanted

Send or tell me about one or more of your successes in gardening. It can be a flower, a vegetable, some hardscape or whatever. If you had a failure you could send a warning.

Chuck Carlson

Wanted

A good used tiller.
contact Tim McCauley

Wanted

An apprentice to learn PageMaker page layout software and how to layout out the *Garden Spray*. Will need to visit my home and learn through watching/doing. Also need a computer of your own.

Andy Marlow

Let the Sun Shine

We all need some sunshine and that goes particularly for those who are or have been hospitalized. Delores Johnson is

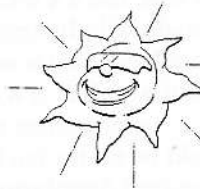
home recuperating in a body cast as a

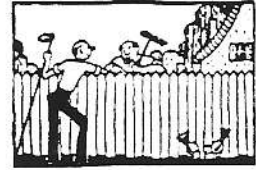
result of back surgery. Walt Gustafson should now be home after cancer surgery.

Don Powell is still

fighting cancer. Keep these people in your thoughts and prayers, and give them some words of encouragement.

Please call Phil Peterson at 949-3433 if you know anyone being hospitalized. We can only give a little sunshine if it is reported. Don't leave it to someone else to report





Earthy Wisdom

from the Dirty Green Thumb

My favorite subject is the design and building of gardens for small residential areas (this includes front, side and back yards). Garden preparation in the spring is another favorite subject I hope to write about.

The first and foremost tidbit of design wisdom is to keep it:

- Simple in design
- Manageable in construction
- Have a plan for the plant contents

Design can take almost any form: square, rectangular, circular or serpentine. The first two can use any form of edging—brick, wood beams, logs, 2x4's, concrete blocks, flag stone, or field stone.

The height of the wall will have an impact on the material choice. Up to a foot high it can usually be made of beams, stone or blocks with little forward support. Walls which run higher need an interlock with a lower layer or by using a deadheaded "T". If the wall is over four feet, use a 4 inch by 10 inch footing made of light aggregate. The first layer of wall material is set on this footing. If the wall is of a light concrete material, a vapor barrier of landscape film should be on the backside of the wall to prevent discoloring of the blocks.

In building a dry wall of country or flag stones be sure each layer is set back into the earth to give at least 3 inches of setback per foot of height. Also make sure each stone sets firmly on the stone underneath. The top layer should be of such a height and set so the drainage is off the front of the wall in order to avoid washouts. One can also slope the dirt to

accomplish this. Having said all this, get a wall construction book before beginning a wall project.

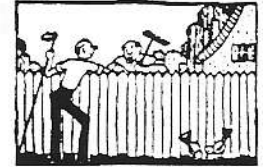
In the design of circle, kidney or serpentine gardens the choice of edging material is more limited. If the garden edge is block get the kind that are trapezoidal, about 3 inches wider on the front than the back. Model Stone has one and so does Walstone. Varying the leading edge of the garden is accomplished by using alternate front and back edges of the blocks.

A bed only four inches high can be edged with five inch vinyl. This is pegged down after any sod is removed. First lay out the garden form with a garden hose, next cut the grass following the hose with a square nosed spade or at my age, use a troy built small rototiller and a edging blade. Now get yourself a sod cutter. You can rent one or get one for Christmas. I have hinted for 50 years and am still renting. Lift the good sod from the yard for the garden. This is the world's hardest job.

That's all for this installment except to say "Save the sod until next time" when I will tell you where to put it.

The Dirty Green Thumb.

(Editor's Note: You probably have read Ann Landers' column and know many people write in with questions, etc. The Dirty Green Thumb will gladly answer any questions about this article, take praise or comments, even answer questions on life in general—but under no circumstances will the DGT take any criticism on the column or any other earthly dilemma. Address all inquires to the Dirty Green Thumb at the Garden Spray—address on the back cover.)



Flower of the Month

by Chuck Carlson

Cyclamen

Yes, certain varieties of cyclamen are hardy in Minnesota! Just give them a little protection in the winter.

This is a low maintenance plant and grows well dry shade. Its root structure is in the form of tubers, some of which have grown for a 100 years. These plants are native to central Europe, the Mediterranean and on to Iran. It can be propagated by seed or by using the tubers.

Seed germination is hypogeal with first the formation of a corm and branching root system and followed, after 1 or 2 months, by the emergence of a true leaf.

Don't plant tubers too deep,—the top of the tuber should be just at soil level. It is a nice under-the-tree plant and the leaves are a garden treasure. The flowers are a bonus.

Some varieties which are hardy to around -20 degrees are: *Cyclamen hederifolium*; *C., cilicium*; *C., repandum* and *C., purpurascens*.

Try some. You may like them.

January Saying...

Old florists never die, they just make other arrangements.

January Garden Tips

Start seeds that require a long germination period like geraniums and begonias this month.

Keep the indoor water can full for a day in advance of using. This serves two purposes: It brings the water to room temperature and reduces the chlorine in the water. Rain or melted snow will work better than tap water, but don't store too long.

When ordering seeds make sure you have some for the national flower (cosmos) and national vegetable (summer or winter squash) award competition. You can't win the flower show award if you don't grow it!

Meal Price Increases



The MGCM Board of Directors has voted to increase the price of meals at the monthly dinner meeting effective for the January 1998 meeting. The cost of meals reserved in advance will go from \$7.00 to \$7.50

and of unreserved meals from \$8.00 to \$8.50, provided there are additional meals available the night of the meeting.

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