

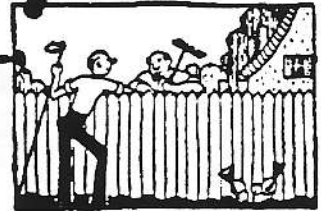


The Garden Spray

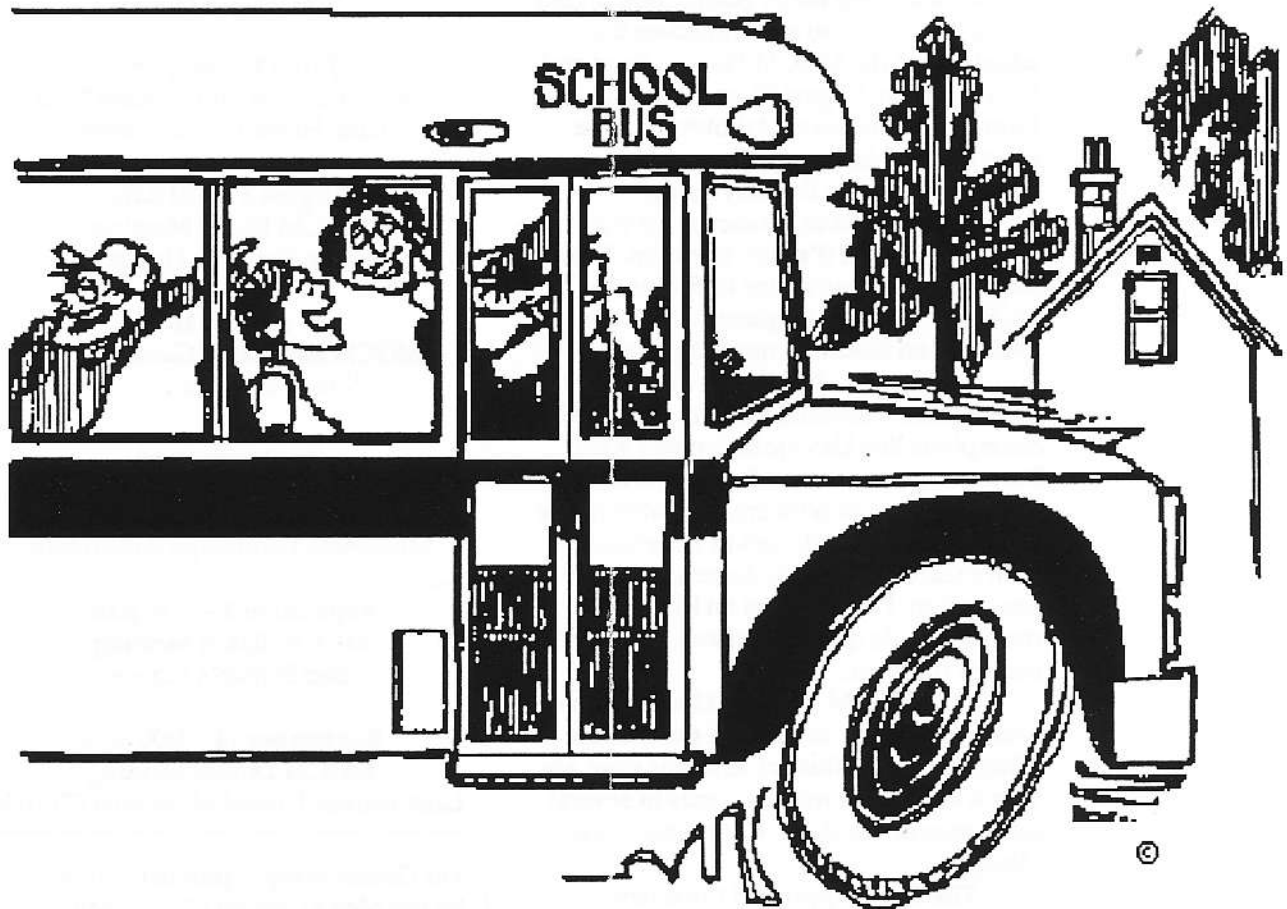
Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

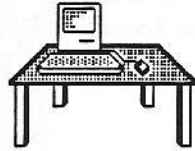
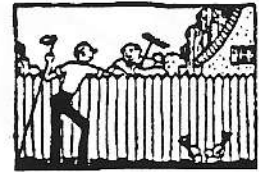
July 1993, Volume 51, Number 7



July MGCM Garden Tour



Board the bus at the Lake Harriet Rock Garden parking lot (41st and Emerson Avenue South) for the MGCM July Garden Tour on Tuesday, July 13, at 5:30 p.m. We'll tour the Rose, Rock and Perennial Gardens at Lake Harriet, then board buses for a box supper and the trip to the gardens of Gary Wiederhoeft, Dave Johnson, Phil Smith and Clyde Thompson. Cost for the entire evening is \$8.50. If you are on the permanent reservation list, you already have a seat reserved. If not, get your reservation card back to Eldon Hugelen TODAY!



The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

This month's *Spray* probably looked a bit different when it emerged from your mailbox. The outside page got turned sideways and the entire publication folded down the middle to accommodate the schedule for the MGCM Flower, Food and Foto Show on August 21 and 22 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. (The rules for the photography part of the Show appeared in the May *Spray*.)

Now you have no excuse for not entering - even if it's only one item. Every single exhibit contributes to the quality of the Show. There'll be plenty of old hands available on Saturday morning to give you advice and helpful hints on preparing your exhibit. Remember, even perennial champions like Dave Johnson and Kent Petterson got started with a single exhibit.

Speaking of winners, be watching for news from the Gardeners of America/ Men's Garden Clubs of America annual convention. I understand an MGCM member made quite an impact in the slide contest this year.

And MGCM member Henry Orfield was a big winner in the rose show at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts this year. He won a number of major awards in several categories of the show. Congratulations, Henry!

The Board approved three new members this month. Some years we have really worked at recruiting and have not been nearly as successful this year, when our effort has been low key. Can it be that we are still seeing the results of our 50th anniversary tours? Or is gardening just becoming more popular? I guess we shouldn't wonder so much about the reasons as enjoy the results.

Coming Attractions

July 6 - 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board Meeting
Bob Voigt's House

July 13 - 5:45 p.m.
MGCM Dinner and Garden Tour
Lake Harriet Rock Garden

August 3 - 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board Meeting
Don Powell's House

August 16
MGCM Afternoon Garden Tour
Site to Be Announced

August 21 & 22
MGCM Flower, Foo
and Foto Show
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

September 7 - 7:30 p.m.
MGCM Board Meeting
Bob Stepan's House

September 14 - 6:00 p.m.
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist 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.

Editor.....Andrew J. Marlow
Staff.....Chuck Carlson,
Mary Maynard, Phil Smith



The President's Report

Lee Gilligan, President, MGCM

Well, this year is a test of patience; weather so cold and wet that the seed rots in the ground, fungus on everything and mud on the boots.



(photo by Dr. Bill Jepson)

We gardeners must be masochists because we still love to garden.

At this point we only have six gardens left to plant, so we're on the downhill side - you know, the side where you only have to weed, deadhead, water and fertilize.

Now we all get a chance to go out and visit gardens where someone else has done

all the preparation on our July and August garden tours.

Warning! Attending these garden tours can cause you to get ideas on changing or adding something to your own garden. If that happens, you will be a confirmed masochist, oops, I mean gardener. So enjoy yourself to the max by seeing all the beautiful gardens that are being primed for your pleasure (by someone else).



Meeting Notes

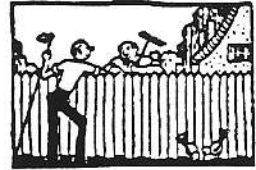
At their June 1 meeting, the MGCM Board of Directors:

- commended the Plant Sale and Auction committee for a job well done. The sale earned \$2,585.
- authorized Treasurer Mel Anderson to split MGCM reserve funds into two accounts, with \$3,000 invested long term and \$1,500 in a short term ready reserve.
- decided to refurbish MGCM traveling trophies at the rate of one a year to make them more desirable to win.
- discussed increasing our annual contribution to the Arboretum from \$350 to \$500 in light of the Arboretum's generous donation to the Plant Sale. The Board appointed Bob Voigt to discuss with the Arboretum some joint activities, perhaps including fund-raising.
- approved three new members:

Douglas R. Whitney
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Minneapolis, MN 55406
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Michael M. Menzel
5410 York Avenue South
Edina, MN 55410
home: 929-2694
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Robert R. Harrie
5924 Oakland Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55417
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work: 338-0701



Monthly Program Report

by Mary Maynard

The June 8 MGCM meeting was held in the Center for Northern Gardening in St. Paul, new home of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society (MSHS).

We had some significant discussion about the possibility of MGCM getting involved in improving the plantings on Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis. According to Mike Schwartz, who works on Nicollet Mall, many of the planters are missing plants, and many planters look like they were hastily and unimaginatively planted. Total planting area is 6,400 square feet. The Nicollet Mall Advisory Board would be glad of assistance, but many members were concerned about the size of the task. It *would* be an opportunity for visibility for the club, but not a task to be undertaken lightly.

This will be brought to the Board. Anyone who has any ideas or input should get them to Clyde Thompson.

Program Notes

Some general MSHS. Society news:

- The Horticultural Society maintains both a print and video library. Videos are available for checkout for a fee of \$5 for individuals. Groups, such as garden clubs, may check out videos free of charge. People may also come to the building and view tapes on site for no charge.

- The MSHS is looking for volunteer greeters for the reception area. They are open for business during "regular business hours."

- The MSHS maintains a Garden Line. (Russ Smith answers calls on Thursday mornings.)

- Merle Pulley is MGCM's representative on the MSHS Board. Kent Petterson is also on the Board, and Duane Reynolds is the Society's President-Elect. Fred Glasoe and Phil Smith are both past presidents of the Society, and Walt Gustafson is a former Board member.

Dorothy Johnson, MSHS's executive director spoke to us briefly about the Society and the new building. Here are some highlights:

- The MGCM Arbor Day committee arranged for planting trees at the new site. They planted a "fake" tree for publicity purposes on April 13, then returned on the first Saturday in May to plant trees for real. MGCM planted a ginkgo and a locust tree.

- MGCM made a matching grant of more than \$10,000 to the Horticultural Society. The money was used for visible things that can be seen in the building, including a writing board, podium, slide projector, cabinets, lighting, seating in the lobby, office furniture. Dorothy expressed her gratitude to MGCM. She said it was wonderful to be on the receiving end of so much goodwill from us.

- In addition to the *Minnesota Horticulturist*, the Society has published a *Judging and Exhibiting Handbook*, *Perennials A to Z*, *Flower Gardens*, *Container Gardens*, *Landscaping with Trees and Shrubs* and *The Good Gardener*. They plan eight more books, including four due out this year: *Sunny Wildflowers*, *Shady Wildflowers* and two vegetable books.

The meeting concluded with guided tours of the new building.



Fragrance Garden Notes

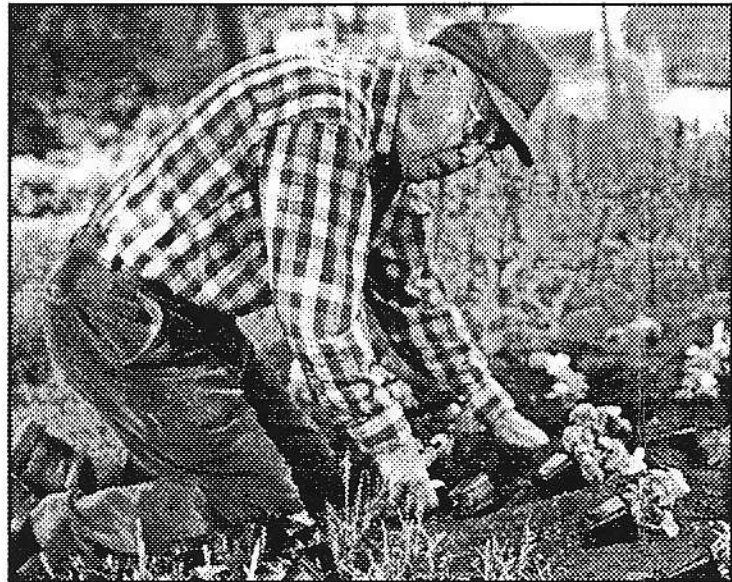
By Chuck Carlson

Planting day (May 22) was sunny and warm day. With the rain later in the day and on Sunday and Monday, the new plantings really got a good start. I wrote a note to Barbara Culbert telling her we would unveil the memorial sign to Ed. She came to see the sign and the garden and seemed pleased with the memorial. I have been back to the garden a few times in June and everything is growing well. The Fringe trees have fringed and the Japanese Lilac had some really nice bloom. The shrub roses were in full bloom the last time I was at the garden and looked great. Other plants in bloom are Dianthus, Pansies, Iris and one Clematis.

The remaining July garden maintenance volunteers are:

- July 10-16 V. Bouslough & K. Gormley
- July 17-23 M. Lindbloom & D.Kelly
- July 24-30 D. Powell & R. Kean
- Jul 31- Aug 6 Lloyd Wittstock & ?

We still need a volunteer for maintenance for July 31 - Aug 6 and the month of September is still completely open. We need your help. Call or see Chuck Carlson.





Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

The Chestnut

The column this month could be called "This and That". It's fragments of information that have no connection other than they are of a horticultural nature.

Do you know it is not illegal to sell or possess the opium poppy seed, but one cannot grow this beautiful flower without a permit? The seeds are used for poppy seed rolls and other culinary delights. It is the sap from the pods which makes heroin. Although the seeds contain no opium, those who eat them may test positive if they are subjected to drug testing.

The U of M is working on a process to eliminate weeds from food crops without the use of herbicides through the use of smother plants. These plants will smother out any weeds and die before competing with the main crop. They are testing this process on soybeans, fruit trees and grapes. Look for it to be in use in about 5 years.

Have you ever heard of Vetch Tomatoes? The tomato bed is prepared in the fall and planted with hairy vetch. It is left over winter. Then just prior to planting the tomatoes the vetch is cut to 1". No tilling. After a few days the vetch turns brown and provides a mulch for the tomatoes. A test of this method provided 45 tons per acre, 35 tons for plastic, 34 for paper and 19 for no mulch. This sounds like it could work in the south but I am not sure the vetch would winter over here.

One might want to take a look at using Antitranspirants (AT's) for fungus and powdery mildew control. Some tests

on zinnias using Cloudcover and on roses using Wilt-pruf and Vapor-gard showed a 95% protection rate. One must keep the concentration low because AT's can be toxic to the plants and decrease yields, so try it with caution. The tests on zinnias used a 20% concentration (1 cup in a quart of water) of Cloudcover, whereas the tests on roses used a 3% emulsion (1 TBS in a pint of water) of Wilt-pruf or Vapor-gard.

The Word

The word for this month is *strike*. I know you all know the strike in bowling, baseball, labor negotiations, fishing, the striking of a snake, gold or oil discoveries, the striking of bells, military strikes, the plate on a door jamb, to strike dumb, to strike it rich, to strike up a conversation, or to strike up the band. Now think botanical. The botanical strike is to send out roots. It is most commonly used when a "cutting" forms roots. The cutting is said to "strike."

The Tip

Have you ever made your own rooting hormone? Just find a willow tree. Cut some of the stems into 1 inch pieces and cover with 2 inches of water. Let this stand for 24 hours. Remove the willow stems and use the liquid as a hormone by letting your cuttings soak in it overnight or for 8 hours before planting them in rooting medium. This subject came up in a conversation with Bob Churilla. He uses willow liquid as a stimulant. He makes it in 50 gallon batches using 6 inch bundles of willow stems. The liquid is then used to water his roses in the spring. He claims you can see a dramatic difference after its use.



Native Uses of Native Plants: Sumac

by Mary Maguire Lerman
Coordinator of Horticulture Programs
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

COMMON NAMES:

Staghorn Sumac - Lemonade tree
Smooth Sumac - Vinegar Tree, Scarlet Sumac

SCIENTIFIC NAMES:

Staghorn Sumac: *Rhus typhina*
Smooth Sumac: *Rhus glabra*

The native Sumac shrubs that delightfully color our fall landscapes have many uses. There are two native sumacs found growing in our area. Staghorn Sumac can grow to a height of 30 feet and the stems can attain a diameter of 6 inches. It is easily distinguished from Smooth Sumac because of the velvety hairs that cover the branches. Smooth sumac lacks the hairs and generally only reaches a height of 5-15 feet. The wood of sumac is orange streaked with green and the sap is milky. The compound leaves can have anywhere from eleven to thirty-one leaflets. The leaflets are usually dark green above and pale beneath. Yellowish-green flowers appear in June and the berries formed ripen to a red color in the fall. In general, sumac spreads by roots as the seeds are very difficult to germinate.

Sumac has medicinal uses. A decoction made from one root and one blossom in a teacup of water, strained and cooled can be used for teething children. This decoction is put on something soft and the child's mouth is washed with it to help heal the gums quickly. In addition, the following medicinal information comes from Charles Millspough's *American*

Medicinal Plants:

The berries, when dried, form an article of trade in Canada known as *sacacomi*, this, when smoked as a substitute for tobacco, is said to antidote the habit; the Western Indians make a preparation of equal parts of the roots, leaves, and of tobacco, which they smoke under the name of *Kinikah*.

A cold infusion of the berries is often used as a cooling drink in fevers; it is also claimed to be of benefit in diabetes and stranguary. The bark of the root is claimed to form an antiseptic dressing for ulcers and open wounds; while the infusion of the same is considered an excellent astringent for use in aphthous and mercurial sore mouths, diarrhoea, dysentery, gonorrhoea, and leucorrhoea, and to be anti-syphilitic. I have known the juice of the root to remove warts, I have also known these strange growths to disappear from the use of various innocuous "charms," such as a neighbor's potato surreptitiously obtained, rubbed upon the growth and cast over the left shoulder without noting its fall, etc. Both yellow and black dyes can be obtained from sumac. A light yellow dye is made from the inner bark and pulp of the stalk. An infusion of the berries produces a black dye.

Along the edible line, a berry juice or lemonade can be made from the red ripe berries. The berry juice from Smooth Sumac is a substitute for lemon juice as the berries alone are very sour. The lemonade from the berries is consumed cool in the summer. During winter preparations, it is served warm and flavored with maple sugar. The berries are a good source of provitamin A. In winter songbirds and gamebirds (grouse, pheasant and quail) depend on the berries for a food source. Rabbits and deer also will feed on the bark and twigs in addition to the berries.

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