

Announcing

1990

*Men's Garden Club
of Minneapolis*

Plant Sale
&
Auction

*May 8th
Lynhurst Park*

*Make Your Plans Now!
Members, Spouses and Guests Invited*

PLANT SALE AND AUCTION DETAILS

PLACE: Lynhurst Community Center, 1345 West Minnehaha Parkway, 50th Street at Humboldt Avenue South--(Same place as last year)

PURPOSE: This is our only money raiser of the year. Profits go to the Arboretum and to help subsidize other club events. Come join us in the fun.

COUNTRY STORE Opens at 5:00 P.M. Plant materials and gardening items are needed from club members. Please donate your extra seedlings and some of your prize divided perennials. Come early as some purchased items also will be available this year.

DINNER: Cost will be just \$6.50. We will start serving at 5:40 P.M. Agnes will be cooking and our menu will be upgraded for the event.

AUCTION: Starts at 6:30 sharp. There will be many top varieties requested by members--good for sun and shade--all growing conditions. Some rare items you'll have to bid for or watch them leave with someone else. Be alert and have your number ready! (Each person will be given a number to expedite record keeping.)

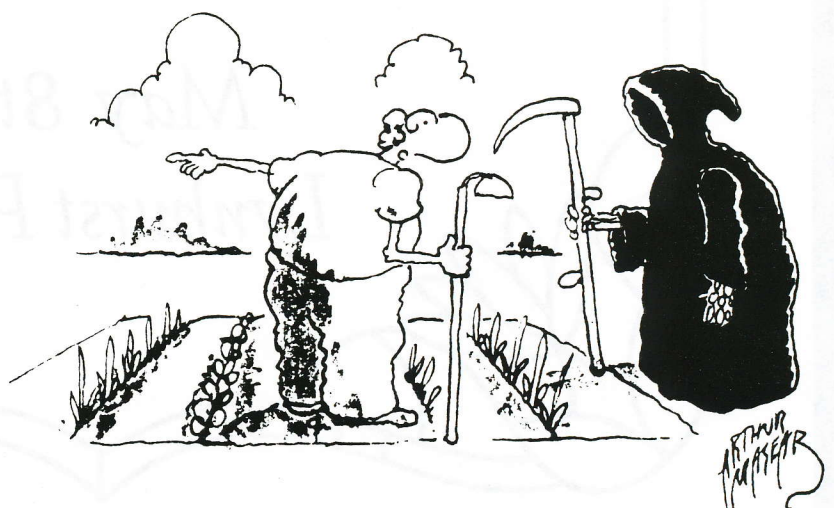
GUESTS Mail in your card for your own reservation and add as many friends, relatives and even strangers who look like they might buy something. If you are on the permanent list, call Reed Sonstegard to let him know how many guests you are bringing. They will have a great time and may even want to be a part of our great club.

REMEMBER: THE EARLIER STARTING TIME AND TO CALL DAVE JOHNSON IF YOU WANT ANY SPECIAL ITEMS AT THE AUCTION.

NOTHING--NOT ANYTHING--DAUNTS THE AVID GARDENER



.. "I'd say the last thing you have to worry about is a late frost."



.. "Before we go, would you mind whacking off some of those tall weeds over there?"

FLOWER & GARDEN

Every Member Sponsors A New Member

IN MEMORY OF DALE DURST

Many of us have lost a good friend in the death of member Dale Durst, who died in the early morning of April 9, at home, as he was arising to take his early morning walk.

A long-time member, since 1961, Dale and his beloved Lorraine, who preceded him in death in September, 1986, were very good friends of Carol and me. We had lived side-by-side for twelve years, had competitively gardened, I had sponsored him in our club, and we had a lot of fun seeing each other's children grow into adulthood. They had joined us in Marathon, Florida, for several winters, the last trip being at huge inconvenience for Lorraine.

Dale had walked his way out of bypass surgery, threatened years ago. But, in Florida he started long morning walks and continued them at home for years, with his cardiologist always postponing the bypass. Recently that doctor told him that he need not worry about the long crippling hospitalization that Lorraine had suffered through, that his demise would be quick and sudden - whenever it came. The only problem was that no one thought it would come this quickly.

Dale was a worker in MGCM. For 29 years I have seen him always accept a job request; not one time did he beg off. No matter how menial, how demanding, Dale always took the bit in his mouth and did the job.

He was a director of our club, and a loyal supporter of our show. Years ago he first started winning ribbons. At each show he always had specimens to display, and he repeatedly helped other people prepare and transport their entries. For years he stored our display milk bottles, giving up valuable space to keep them secure. And he worked like the proverbial dog to support the show - year after year. This is just one example of what a loyal member he was.

A good gardener, he beautified his neighborhood by growing his own plants and not one of us could equal his display of African violets. Always experimenting, he found life a challenge, spending time with his adult sons and their wives and grandchildren. He was a good man, a good Christian. He became interested in visiting the sick for his church and always took along a miniature rose bloom in a specially designed vase he made himself.

Memorial services were held at Aldersgate Methodist church in St. Louis Park. Memorials are suggested to the Men's Garden Clubs of America, via the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

Help me mourn our loss of Dale, who sometimes called himself "Jacob" using his first name. He leaves family, including several grandchildren, one being an infant named Jacob Durst - of which he was very pleased.

Bill Hull, Historian.

Archie Caple and Great Gardens of England at April MGCM Meeting

reported by Andy Marlow

MGCM Past President Archie Caple provided the live entertainment and education at the April MGCM meeting, while "Great Gardens of England" provided a cinematic visit to Great Britain.

Archie is also a charter Master Gardener, having been a member of the Minnesota Extension Service's first Master Gardener class in 1977. He's one of only two members of that class still active in the Master Gardener program.

Over that time, Archie says he's seen a number of changes in techniques, especially in yard management and composting. Some changes are being forced on Metro area gardeners and non-gardeners alike this year, and the Extension Service and its Master Gardener program are doing their best to get people accurate and up-to-date information. The state legislature has passed a law banning the burial of yard waste in landfills beginning January 1, 1990, in the seven country metropolitan area and January 1, 1992, in the rest of the state. Some sources report that yard waste makes up as much as 20% of landfill volume. Grass clippings, plant materials and leaves do not decompose in modern landfills, but they do decompose into valuable compost if handled correctly.

The Extension Service has equipped the Master Gardeners with display boards, training aids and a whole host of new publications to help educate the public about the proper treatment of yard waste. Archie used a dandy display of several different types of composting enclosures to illustrate his talk, in fact. All the publications are available from your local county extension agent, as well as at Master Gardener information booths that will be popping up at garden centers any day now.

The simplest method of treating yard waste involves grass clippings. Just leave them on the lawn, rather than bagging them. Unless the grass is too long, they will decompose quickly and allow the lawn to reuse the nitrogen you've paid so dearly for at the garden center. In fact, leaving clippings on the lawn can save one round of fertilization each growing season. If you must catch the clippings, throw them on the compost pile or use them as mulch in the garden beds. Do not use this approach after using herbicides, however. You should leave the clipping on the lawn for at least three mowings following the application. More of the herbicide will stay where it will do the most good and you won't risk damage to other plants.

Composting requires some sort of container to hold the materials, which can include all yard wastes, except those contaminated by herbicides, and vegetables wastes from the kitchen. The container can range from a circle of chicken wire about 3-4' in diameter to a spiffy rotating drum. Yes, the compost needs to be turned, needs to be damp, and can benefit from the addition of a little nitrogen. It will build up an internal temperature of 140-160° if it's working properly. In just a few weeks you'll have what Archie called "brown gold."

For the extremely lazy gardener (I hope Mary Maynard was listening), Archie suggested filling a heavy duty plastic garbage bag with yard waste and leaving it in the garage. Kick it out of your way each day on the way to and from work. In about 4-6 weeks you've got an excellent mulch or soil amendment already in a bag in your garage.

The second half of the program consisted of a film distributed by Chevron, makers of many garden products, titled "Great Gardens of England. It took members on a visual tour of several, but certainly not all, of the famous gardens of Great Britain. The British collected new plants during their long period of global exploration and colonialism. Many native and exotic plants are displayed in gardens that exhibit what the film called "a seeming disarray." It was a lovely finish to a late winter/early spring Minnesota evening.

VIEWS FROM THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

MGCM PRESIDENT KENT PETTERSON



VEGETABLES FOREVER

We started the Mentor Gardener Program last year. The list of mentors is shown on page 5 of your 1990 club roster. (If you have not received a roster, please let me know and you will receive one ASAP.) As I mentioned at the April meeting, this program is for anyone who wishes help with a problem, or perhaps a few tips on cultural techniques for a particular plant. It's up to you to arrange a meeting, or maybe just a phone call to one of those listed. Give it a try!

Our largest fund raiser is our annual Plant Auction. This year, once again at Lynnhurst Community Center on May 8th. Be sure to reserve your plant purchases for the auction. The country store will also be in operation before the meeting. The Committee, led by Dave Johnson and Bob Stepan could use strong men to help out with set up and moving plants etc. Let them know if you can help out.

I would like to echo Howard Berg's congratulations to MSHS 5th District for an excellent Seminar on April 7th. MGCM members played a significant role in the success of the event. At least nineteen of our members were involved in the organization, presentation or participation in the event.

The 1990 MGCA National Convention is fast approaching. Chuch Benson has volunteered to coordinate our efforts to provide information and encourage attendance. Delegates will be needed to bring the views of our membership to the convention. We must participate in decisions that Chris Christensen our National President and the Board of Directors consider a 'turning point in the existence of your National organization'. If you have any questions about ride sharing, room sharing, or costs, please get in touch with Chuck. The club has set aside \$600.00 to be divided among those attending to defray some expenses. You must let Chuck know you will be attending to receive this partial funding.

I've mentioned several times our goal of 25 new members for 1990. Several people have made efforts to invite new members to join. By far the most successful has been Lee Gilligan, our May MGCM Volunteer of the Month. Lee has brought us three outstanding new members already this year. In addition, Lee is serving on our Board of Directors, is a Mentor Gardener, and is active with the Community Garden and Tour Committees. Thanks, Lee!

Our woodland wildflower tour to Doug Smith's Trillium Lake Farm on June 1,2,3 is still open. See our registration form elsewhere in the Spray. Final payment is due to Joe by May 15th. We need approximately 30 participants to proceed with the trip. As of April 10th we had 16 reservations. It would be great to fill a bus. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Good Gardening to You,

Kent

Remember. 25 New Members for 1990!

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 1 - MGCM Board Meeting at Joe Stenger's
8 - MGCM Auction at Lynnhurst Com. Ctr.
12- Arboretum Auxiliary Plant Sale
19- Community Garden planting day 8:00AM
June 1,2,3 - Doug Smith Trillium Farm Tour
June 16-19 - MGCA Nat. Convention Des Moines
July 13-15 - MSHS Educational Conf. Eden Prarie
July 14-15 - MGCM Flower/Veg. Show Eden Prarie

SEARCHING FOR A MISSING FAMILY

So you probably think it's going to be easy to find all the photos we need to update the Officers' Photo Book? So you think that as a Historian I don't do anything? Why not think those things? But here is an example of why I need your help.

There is a past president of our club who was also a vice-president, treasurer for three years and a bronze medal recipient. So we need his photo in six places.

He's deceased so I tried to locate his widow. The people now occupying their house only have heard their name, don't know whether the widow is still alive, or whether any children exist, or where they are located. But they remember that a prominent church sent lots of people to help move the widow when she "moved out" but don't know what particular church.

I remembered another deceased members' widow who was very close to this couple. After about eight calls I finally located her in a care center. At eight-thirty p.m. I was told she had already "been put to bed" and please call in the morning. I did call the next day and learned this lady is in a unit for advanced Alzheimer's patients. She came to the telephone but had great difficulty remembering who I was. Finally she succeeded and eventually remembered the couple of whom I was speaking (who had been close personal friends) - but had lost all contact with the widow - didn't know whether she was even still alive. But a ray of hope! She gave me a name of a couple who would know about these people. She also thought they had been Episcopalians.

I tried to locate the names of Mr. and Mrs. Einer Kampss, to whom she had referred me; apparently they no longer exist because no telephone is listed, even to anyone by the same family name.

I also checked with the largest Episcopal church in the area. They never heard of the family I'm pursuing.

I telephoned the four other homes in their block, making several calls before reaching these families. No one ever heard of our friends. How quickly we fade into history!

So goes it. Does anyone have any knowledge of Mrs. Julie Haedecke, widow of past president Ev Haedecke? I'm up a tree.

And this is just one example of what we will be up against.

Bill Hull, Historian

**HELP STAMP OUT
"NOBODY ASKED ME"**

IT'S A LOT OF OTHER THINGS, TOO, BUT
GARDENING IS FUN

Gardening grows upon one, I've heard. I've grown up with it. Maybe, "It runs in the blood like wooden legs" to use an expression of grandmother Goldsworthy's. Grandmother fresh from Cornwall, England via Quinnesee, Michigan planted flowers beside their "company house" in Soudan, Minnesota in the 1880's. Miners on their way to work greeted her pessimistically with, "Mrs. Goldsworthy you can't grow flowers here. It's too cold."

Grandfather Goldsworthy more practically minded "took in a bit of land" near a spring in the nearby woods for a "potato patch". There in addition to potatoes and other vegetables he raised citron for preserves. The citron mistaken for watermelon by thieving boys netted them only an outburst of profanity. They might not have understood English but they understood grandpa.

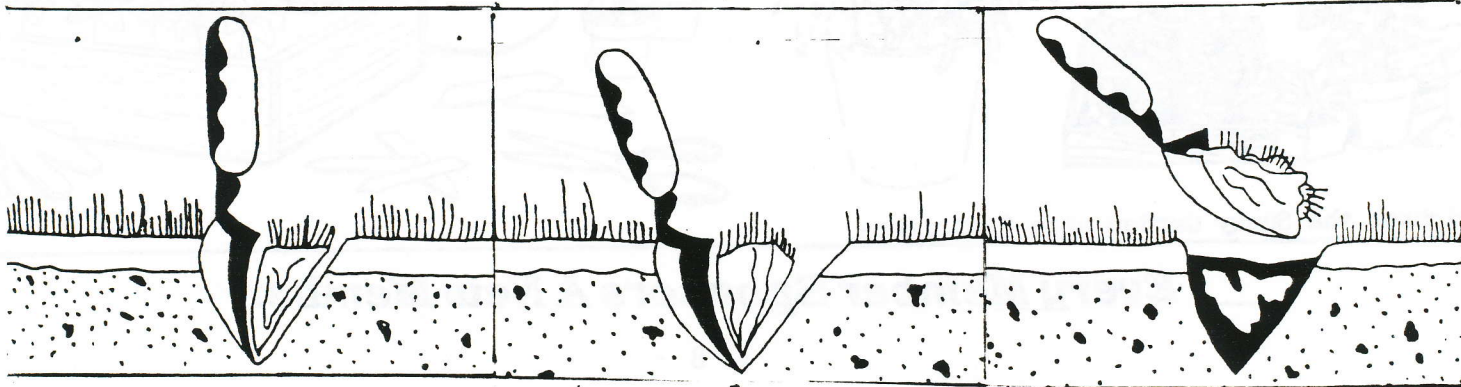
When we moved to Eveleth my father turned over the soil in our front yard and planted potatoes for a couple of years to get the soil "fit for a lawn." He prepared a small backyard vegetable garden (small because that's all the yard there was) whose heavy red clay soil mother attacked vigorously with the butcher knife every morning after breakfast. I don't know whether it loosened up the soil but it kept the knife shiny bright and sharp.

I know I share an interest in gardening--digging--planting--tending with a multitude of others. It's the "in" thing right now though not everyone gets too closely involved judging from the chap quoted in a magazine who said, "The garden is beautiful to me, not functional....The thought of the garden is as pleasant to me as having the garden."

I've read that gardening has been used since ancient times for therapy and relaxation. Work (therapy) for peons and slaves and relaxation for the nobility I take it. Recently gardening has become a medically acceptable treatment for physical and emotional disabilities. We are told an hour of weeding or raking can burn up 300 calories. Pushing a manual grass mower will burn up 500 calories. And, of course, fresh vegetables from the garden are nutritionally valuable for you.

TO START HAVING GARDENING FUN we must first have a bit of land. It doesn't have to be big--better not be if this is our first attempt. In World War II days Dr. Hodgson of the U. of M. College of Agriculture wrote a book asserting a 9' x 12' garden could produce enough vegetables for a family. If you aspire to emulate Hodgson you won't agree with the therapist who said (When gardening) "you don't have to be as careful as you do when you are working with people." So let's take it easy, allow wide spaces, and grow easy plants..

If your chosen spot won't grow a healthy crop of weeds you may want to have a soil test to see if amendments are needed. A West Virginia extension bulletin shows how to obtain soil samples for the test.



Take small samples here and there in your garden. Then mix them together thoroughly before having them analyzed.

If you've already purchased seeds and started to dig stop right now and make up your mind to cut down your garden to half the size you think is workable. Turn it over. Rake and rake until it is smooth and fine.

Soil in good tilth is easily recognized. It is easy to work in. It can be dug without effort and without forming large clods. Water does not stand on it after a rain. It can be worked, cultivated or walked on the day after a moderate rain. It does not crack or bake hard, even if not scratched up after a hard rain. If sandy, it is in good tilth if most plants do not wilt despite lack of rain or watering for a week.

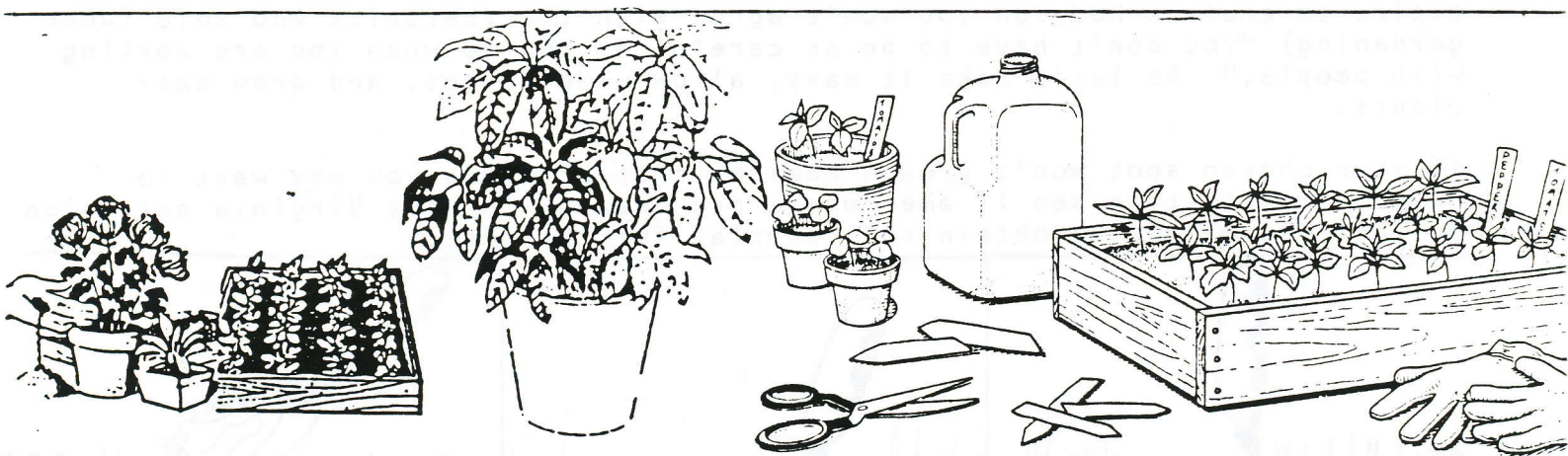
Problem soils should be corrected by improving aeration and drainage with the addition of sharp sand. They should be corrected by improving organic content through incorporation of manure, peatmoss, leaf mold or compost. The beneficial action of soil bacteria can then be encouraged through the addition of commercial organic plant food. Several seasons of working and turning the bed are also requisite.

Look

at those seed packets again. Read the instructions. Maybe even look in a garden book. You bought too many seeds? Everybody does--even old-timers.

This year ignore your fine seeds. They'll keep. Plant only the easy to handle big seeds like beans, beets, cucumbers. Skip the melons and squash. Plant in furrows at the recommended depth. Cover with fine soil. (Screen your own or buy a bag.) Keep the soil moist but not water logged until the seedlings show.

You'll want some annual flowers, too. Zinnias and marigolds are easy. Handle them as you did the beets. Better yet buy some at our plant auction. Buy impatiens, petunias and tomatoes, too. If they come in paper or peat pots the soil sampling drawings show how to use your trowel to plant them. If they are in plastic pots or in flats ease them out with a small putty knife. Insert in already prepared holes. Firm the dirt around them and water. You're on your way.



Brighten the Sunny Garden with Containers

Every Member Sponsors A New Member

THE MARCH MEETING

Our meeting held in conjunction with the Dayton-Bachman show was well attended. The number of children present indicated the wisdom of providing a reduced price dinner for them.

Speaker Todd Knaeble told us among other things that this Spring Flower Show required 10 months of planning. Bulb stock was planted six months prior to the opening. (Some had to be refrigerated to slow growth before being planted.) More than 60 types of plants were used.

It took more than 70 people over 4000 hours to put the show together, including the scenic designer; a landscape designer; a lighting designer; a sound designer; 7 scenic carpenters; 10 landscapers; 2 electricians; 7 painters; 2 carpenters; 6 general laborers; a driver; a plumber; a millwright; an animator; a sculptor and a costumer.

Two hundred cubic yards of soil were moved into the auditorium. Over 4000 square feet of flowers and plant material were used--approximately seven semi-truck loads--yet this year's show was installed in just 14 days.

The temperature is kept from 60 to 65 degrees in order to maintain the flowers and plants throughout the show's duration. Plants are watered and cleaned each night.

Unlike last year when the store closed early because of the storm we weren't the only ones "ooohing" and "aahing" when after dinner we toured the show in the 8th floor auditorium. Never once in the 10 years our group has held it's March meeting at the show has there been even a semblance of duplication. How can they do it?

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Donald G. Nybo 537-7676
7700 - 64th Ave. N. 493-1561
Brooklyn Park 55428

Kevin L. Olsen 920-2310
4924 Washburn Ave. S. 296-8284
Minneapolis 55410

DISAFFECTION At the Southwest Region Board meeting the San Antonio club reported they are unhappy with National, and voted overwhelmingly to withdraw from National, but also voted to withhold any action until a later date, and at same time to withhold payment of their National dues. Many of the regional members want to eliminate the costly magazine, "The Gardener", but retain the "Newsletter" as a means of communication. Most of those present recommend that clubs stay with National to get things corrected, rather than to withdraw which corrects nothing.

--From THE YARDNER, Houston Texas MGC, April 1990

1990 MGCA CONVENTION--DES MOINES, IOWA

Did you notice the MGCA convention schedule in the April GARDENER? Registration deadline is approaching rapidly and plans need to be secured by May 15th. We would like to know:

- Who is going?
- How they are travelling.
- Who are to be delegates and/or alternates?

Please call Chuck Benson 944-1083 with your intentions or questions. LET'S PLAN FOR A GREAT CONVENTION.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Community Garden Committee (FIGS) has planned for Saturday May 19th as our annual planting day. All interested members should plan on being available between 8:00 AM and Noon. The garden is located at 19th and Aldrich Ave. South which is between Hennepin Ave. and Lyndale Ave. and just one block north of Franklin Ave. Bring your hand tools and lend a hand. Reed Sonstegard is assembling the Summer maintenance schedule. If you did not sign up at the April meeting, give him a call, or if he calls you, please try to fit yourself into the schedule. We received some publicity in the Horticulturist this Spring, so we plan to maintain a beautiful and top notch garden throughout the summer.

— Kent Petterson for the FIGS

MGCM TOUR TO DOUG SMITH'S TRILLIUM LAKE FARM

Please make _____ reservations for the wildflower tour to Doug Smith's and Deep Portage on June 1, 2 and 3. Total cost for transportation, food and lodging is \$90.00 per person. I have enclosed full payment or a deposit of \$25.00 per person to hold my reservation. Final payment is due May 15th. After May 15th the first \$25.00 per person will be non refundable unless my reservation is taken by someone off a waiting list.

Return to: Joe Stenger
5421 Girard Ave. South
Minneapolis, Mn. 55419

_____ persons at \$90.00 each = _____
Deposit or full payment enclosed _____

Checks to MGCM

Signature

Date

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, Inc.
Edwin C. Culbert, Editor
5315 Portland Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417

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