

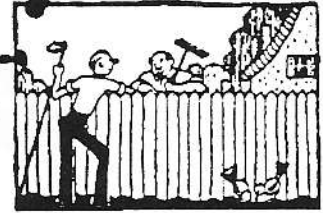


# The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

November 1993, Volume 51, Number 11

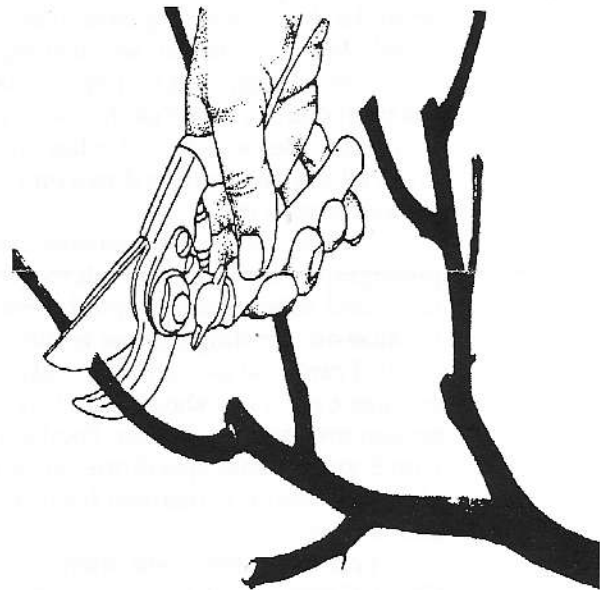


November MGCM Meeting

## Pruning Trees and Shrubs...

### The *Right* Way and the *Wrong* Way

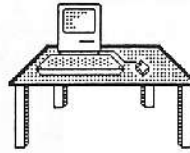
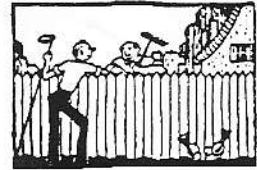
with MGCM member  
Jim Naves,  
professional arborist and  
President of  
Living Sculptures Tree  
and Shrub Care, Inc.



Date: Tuesday, November 9, 1993  
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting & Program: 7:00 p.m.  
Cost for Dinner: \$7.00 with reservation  
\$8.00 if you fail to reserve dinner

Send the enclosed reservation card back to Secretary Eldon Hugelen **TODAY!**

Now's the time to reserve places for you and your guests at the **MGCM Holiday Party**. Details and a reservation form are on page 4.



## The Editor's Desk

Andy Marlow

You will notice that this edition of the *Spray* is a bit heftier than usual. That's due to a number of things, all of which deserve thank yous.

The first goes to Mary Maynard for her very complete reports on what speakers at the dinner meeting have to say each month. We're treated to two such reports in this issue, beginning on page 5. Mary has been doing a super job for two years now. How she can take notes fast enough to get all the information down on page always amazes me.

Thanks, too, to the members of the photography committee for all the photos taken and submitted through the year. Because our printing process is still a bit crude, I can't use as many as I'd like. But on page 6 are a few shots of the July garden tour and the Flower, Food and Foto Show. Thanks specifically to Don Nybo and Dan Weatherman for their black and whites.

I can't say thank you often enough to Chuck Carlson, both for his monthly column – which I enjoy immensely – and his reports on fragrance garden activities. Check for the chestnut, the word and the tip on page 8.

This month, for some reason, has been less hectic than most. In addition to putting out a 12 page edition of the *Spray*, I have also found time to rake and clean gardens. And, for the first time in three years, I will not have to shovel snow and chip ice from my fishing boat before I'm able to store it for the winter. Most people would expect such things as routine, but for me it's a real accomplishment!

## Coming Attractions

**November 2 - 7:30 p.m.**  
MGCM Board Meeting  
Lee Gilligan's House

**November 9 - 6:00 p.m.**  
MGCM Dinner Meeting  
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

**November 30 - 7:30 p.m.**  
MGCM Board Meeting  
Clyde Thompson's House

**December 7 - 6:00 p.m.**  
MGCM Holiday Party  
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

**January 4, 1994 - 7:30 p.m.**  
MGCM Board Meeting

**January 11 - 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

# The President's Report

Lee Gilligan, President, MPCM



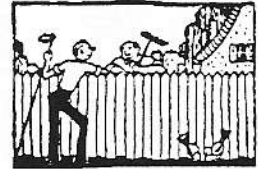
(photo by Dr. Bill Jepson)

Well, the roses are tipped, the lilies are planted and the compost bins are full. The light garden is in full swing.

Does this mean I'm ready for winter? No way! I'm never ready for winter—it goofs up golf and slows down gardening to just the light garden and seed catalogs. But I guess we all enjoy a break; just think, no weeding for six whole months.

We can look forward to our winter meetings and lots of gardening talk, and especially the MPCM Holiday Party that Mary Maynard and her committee are hard at work on.

A word to new members – don't miss the Holiday Party. It's one of our most enjoyable get togethers and the parade of turkeys is unforgettable. The reservation for the party is on page 4 of the *Spray*. Don't be late. Send in your reservation this week!



## Chuck's Chestnuts

Continued from page 8

### The Tip

Use color in your garden to create moods, draw attention, and shorten or lengthen the look. Here are some of the ideas from a National Garden Bureau release.

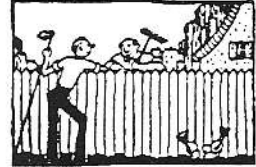
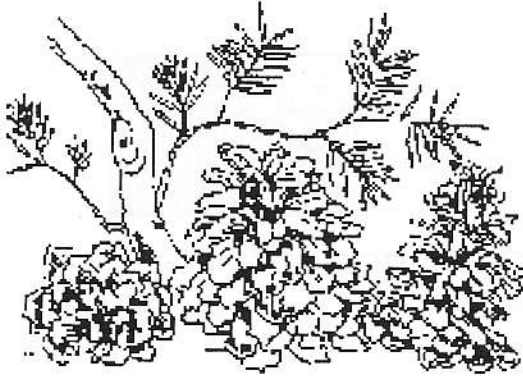
- To draw attention, use reds and yellows.
- To shorten the look, plant red in the rear.
- To stimulate people, have a lot of reds in view. Food tastes better and conversation will flow more freely.
- To soothe and calm, use pink.
- For a neat, precise look use a lot of white.
- To feel cool and calm, use blues. Blues also widen or lengthen an area.

(Ed. Note: Chuck's column also listed new vegetable varieties for 1994, but because of space limitations, you'll see the vegetable list plus Chuck's regular column next month.)

## Thanks...

to all the volunteers who planted, weeded, watered and cleaned up at the MPCM Fragrance Garden through this growing season. You did an outstanding job!

A wonderful color photograph of the garden appeared in the May/June 1993 edition of *Minnesota Calls* magazine. Though our garden was not mentioned by name, the picture, taken by Minnesota Green director and former MPCM member Rick Bonlender, was used to illustrate an article on community gardening in Minnesota.



**MGCM ANNOUNCES  
the  
1993 HOLIDAY PARTY**

Tuesday, December 7  
Lake Harriet Methodist Church  
Chowen Avenue South at 49th Street, Minneapolis

**Social Get-Together** 6:00 p.m.

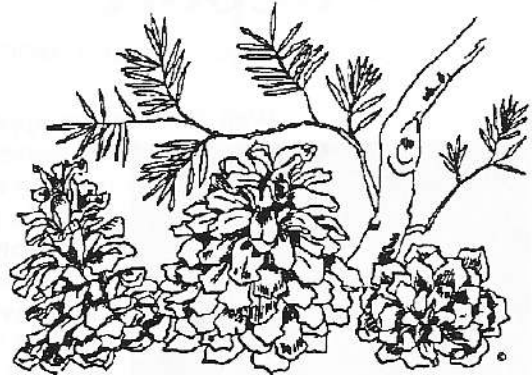
**Dinner, featuring the PARADE OF TURKEYS\*** 6:30 p.m.

**Entertainment:** The Dagle's

**Price:** \$14.00 per person

**Poinsettia** for each lady in attendance

**Free drawing:** Selected poinsettias and wreaths



**Reservations:** in by December 2. (Complete the reservation form below)

**Gifts:** The committee has again endorsed donations to food shelves and/or toys or clothing. Each member, on his/her behalf, and for each guest, is requested to bring an unwrapped gift of non-perishable food item for food shelves or a new toy or article of clothing. This is a good opportunity to help others in this holiday season.

\* **Be a Carver!** Call Bob Voigt to volunteer. His number is 823-4934.

1993 MGCM Holiday Party Reservations

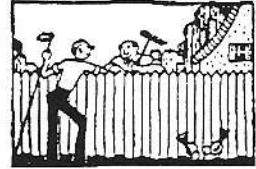
\*\*\*\*\*Tear off and return\*\*\*\*\*

Names of those attending	Member	Guest
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$14.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Check payable to MGCM)

Mail to : Mary Maynard  
4375 Dart Avenue South  
St. Louis Park, MN 55424

Telephone: 931-6372 (work)  
926-7506 (home)



# Monthly Program Report

by Mary Maynard

**September 14, 1993**

Larry Farr, from Bachman's, talked about "Thinking Spring" with bulbs. Here are a few notes:

- The Number One Question asked about bulbs is "Are all bulbs hardy in this area?". According to Larry, 99% of the bulbs sold by Bachman's are hardy in this area. Unfortunately, it's very difficult to get accurate hardiness information about most bulbs.

- There are basically two types of bulb gardens: formal gardens, and naturalized gardens. Daffodils and narcissus do well in naturalized settings. A good example of naturalizing is the daffodils planted on a hill on the St. Paul Campus of the U of M. These bulbs were probably planted 35 years ago, and they're still going strong.

- Sun demand. Most bulbs need full sun until about three weeks after they bloom. They often do quite well under deciduous trees that leaf out after the bulbs have bloomed.

- Sandy loam or peat soil is best for bulbs. Heavy clay is the worst.

- Use either a shovel or a heavy-duty bulb digger to plant bulbs. Get a good one. Lighter-weight bulb diggers break.

- Plant a LOT of bulbs — thousands of them! In large mass plantings.

- When planting, add about one tablespoon of bone meal for each bulb. Even though our soils in Minnesota are

naturally high in phosphorus, bulbs can use more phosphorus than we have, and providing it in the form of bone meal makes it more readily available to the plant.

- Planting depth should be roughly 2 1/2 times the diameter of the bulb. (When in doubt, plant deeper rather than shallower.) Planting deeper than this has mixed results. Generally, results are good the first year (but blooms are later), then not as good the second year, and by the third year very few are left.

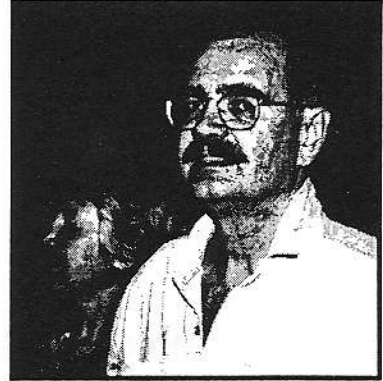
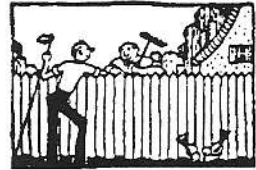
- Tips for forcing bulbs:

1. Use clay pot or terrabowl and good potting soil.
2. Choose a variety that's listed as "good for forcing", usually some of the shorter varieties. (Iris reticulata, daffodils, crocus, hyacinths, tulips all do well.)
3. Plant everything at pretty much the same depth, and plant bulbs pretty close together so that plants support each other.
4. When planting mixed bulbs, plant the tallest things in the middle and the shorter things on the outside.
5. Cover everything with soil about 1/2 inch above the pot line.
6. Refrigerate at 34-42 degrees for ten to twelve weeks.
7. Keep evenly moist, and don't cover while in refrigerator.
8. Some people keep bulbs outside in cold frame covered with straw instead of refrigerator. The key is to not let them freeze solid.
9. After forcing just throw the bulbs away. If you can't stand to do that, keep the foliage green for as long as possible, then store in cool dry place for planting in the fall. There's a 50/50 chance that they'll rebloom.

*Continued on page 7*

## July Garden Tour

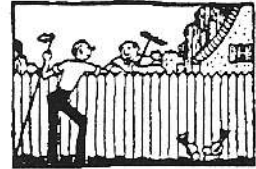
Members get a closer look at Wiederman's daylilies (below). Phil Smith (above right) and Clyde Thompson (lower right) hosted MGCM members. Photos by Dan Weatherman.



## Food, Flower and Foto Show

Harold Gulde (below) and Bob Churilla (bottom) prepare exhibits for scrutiny by the judges (below right). Photos by Don Nybo





## Program Report

*Continued from page 5*

### Questions:

#### **When should I plant my bulbs?**

Tulips can go in almost until the ground freezes. Daffodils need to be in earlier to establish their roots this fall.

**How old are tulip bulbs when we buy them?** Most bulbs are third-year bulbs, harvested in the fall in Holland.

**Should I cover my bulbs in the winter?** Bachman's recommends some light covering — straw, leaves, etc. Daffodils need less protection than other bulbs.

**Does anybody propagate bulbs here in Minnesota?** Almost all our bulbs come from Holland. Holland has light, sandy soil (reclaimed seabed) where bulbs grow well, pull up easily. Don't know of anyone who propagates bulbs in Minnesota.

**How many tulips per square foot should I plan for mass planting?** Usually about six bulbs per square foot is good.

At the end of this lively discussion, we auctioned off a bag of "mystery bulbs" (bulbs selected from bulk bins at Bachman's but not finally purchased) and a bulb digger. I will report next spring on the exact nature of the mystery bulbs, (if they survive my careless treatment).

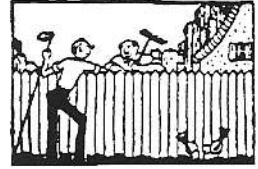
### October 12, 1993

First, Peter Olin, Director of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, talked briefly about closer ties between MGCM and the Arboretum. Some interesting points:

- The Arboretum currently has about 12,500 members. Membership is growing about ten percent per year, and retention from year to year is 80 percent.

- The Arboretum covers 905 acres, and has an annual operating budget of \$2.8 million. The University provides \$475,000 per year, and the Arboretum has to raise the remaining \$2.4 million. About half of the revenues come from gate fees and on-grounds sales. The rest comes from memberships, foundations, endowment.
- There are about 600 volunteers who work at the Arboretum.
- The Arboretum employs 40 to 50 people in the winter. In the summer, there are about 110 people on the staff.
- Recent new projects include (1) revitalization of the lilac collection; (2) reworking of the shrub rose collection; (3) Integrated Pest Management (reducing 70% on insecticides in rose gardens, 30% in apple orchard); (4) resurfacing of Three-Mile Drive.
- There are three main challenges facing the Arboretum:
  - Its boundaries. Growth and development are coming right up to the fence lines.
  - The budget. Need to stabilize, reduce the dependence on gate receipts (too dependent on weather, etc.)
  - Relevance. Need to make sure that Arboretum continues to be relevant to the University of Minnesota (addressing social, environmental issues, for instance).
- Some things that MGCM could work on with the Arboretum:
  - Horticultural Therapy program
  - Sponsoring international and national tours and trips
  - Working on specific garden projects (e.g. prairie, bog, wildflower garden).
  - Various research projects.

*Continued on page 10*



# Chuck's Chestnuts

by Chuck Carlson

## The Chestnut

If you are already planning your garden for 1994, here are a few new varieties to consider from a list distributed by the National Garden Bureau:

### Begonias

*Atlanta Series:* F1 hybrid, early bloomer, large flowers, good performance, colors red, rose, pink and white.

*Fortune:* Tuberous floribunda similar to Non-Stop, medium sized double flowers, white, yellow, cream pink, pink, rose, orange-red and scarlet.

*Prelude Series:* For landscape and mass planting, compact 10" plants, hold in rain and heat, 3/4" blooms and good in sun.

### Geranium

*Ringo 2000:* F1 hybrid, 6 bright colors, good for sunny location.

### Hibiscus

*Disco Bell Pink:* 9" pale pink flowers with a darker pink edge and a red center.

### Impatiens (F1 Hybrids)

*Blitz 2000:* 2" flowers, stands tall, six colors.

*Cherry Flair:* Show Stopper series, a creme-white flower with vivid carmine rose streaks.

*Deco Bronze Leaf:* Pink, burgundy, orange, red, rose and violet, all with bronze leaves.

*Spectra Series:* New Guinea type, easy start from seeds, pink, red, rose and salmon shades.

*Sun & Shade Sea Shell:* Light salmon pink with dark salmon eye, good in bright light to shade.

### Lisianthus

*Bridal Series:* F1 hybrid, medium sized, spray type bicolor flowers, colors: pink, lavender & violet.

*Mermaid series:* F1 hybrid, two new colors pink and white, extra dwarf 6" plants, blooms 2 1/2", makes a good 4" pot plant.

### Pansy

*Bingo:* F1 hybrid, large flowers, short stems, flowers look up, good bounce back after rains.

*Fama:* Two new colors true blue and silver blue, very large flowers on upright stems, both pure colors and some with eyes.

*Premium Blue Beacon:* Enormous 4" blooms, thick petals excellent for pots and baskets.

*Sky:* 14 colors, improved fall performance, flowers until heavy frost, will survive severe winters and bloom in the spring.

### Petunia

*Celebrity Desert Sky:* New color red-salmon

*Celebrity Niagara:* cool blue or lavender shades and white.

*Freedom Pink Morn:* F1 floribunda, heavy flower show throughout the season.

*Horizon Flame:* F1 floribunda, scarlet-orange, early, large flowers.

*Madness Plum Crazy:* Light plum with dark veins, two other colors: burgundy star and rose star.

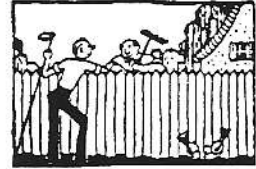
*Primetime Rose Frost:* F1 multiflora, bright rose with white edges, earliest multiflora.

## The Word

The word for this month is *Calyx*. During the judging at our flower show I heard the judges say a calyx showed some browning. Long time exhibitors probably made sure they were in good condition. The calyx is the outer protective leaves or sepal of a flower.

Continued on page 3





# Native Uses of Native Plants: Horsetail

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

**Common Names:** Horse-Tail, Scouring-Rushes, Joint Grass, Shavegrass, Bottle-brush, Pewterwort

**Scientific Name:** *Equisetum arvense*

**Native Name:** *gijib inuskon*, which means "it is round"

*Equisetums*, which rarely reach over one foot in height, can be found growing in a variety of sites ranging from oak woodlands and streamsides to road ditches and pastures. These plants are relics of a group of plants that were prominent in the primeval flora of the coal ages, long before the proven existence of man. Their relatives of the coal period were trees 20-30 feet tall with 4-6 inch diameter trunks.

In early spring, the young sprouts or heads of this plant resemble asparagus. It is known that back in the 7th century, the Romans boiled these heads or mixed them with flour and fried them for food.

Horsetails do not produce flowers and seeds, but rather spores on a fertile stem, normally in July. The hollow stems of this plant are jointed, with a whorled arrangement of "leaves" at these joints.

Some wildlife use *Equisetum* as a food source. Blue Goose, Snow Goose and Whistling Swan eat the rootstocks and stems while Black Bear, Muskrat, and Moose enjoy the plants.

In addition to its edible uses, *Equisetum* also has several utility and medicinal uses. The outer layers of the stem contain silica, making the plant useful for scouring

purposes. According to Edith Van Allen Murphey in *Indian Uses of Native Plants*, the "Washoes formerly used the emery-like stems of horse-tails to smooth bow and arrow. In Nevada, the red elderberry, "Koongibu" was used for whistles and for flutes, at Fort MacDermitt, and in the south, at Tonopah, Joint grass, horse-tail, (*Equisetum arvense*) was used for whistles, called 'Mujeranga' there."

An English herbal, *Potter's New Cyclopaedia of Medicinal Herbs and Preparations*, notes the following:

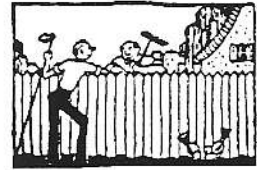
The variety known as Dutch-rushes was used according to Parkinson by country housewives "...to scour both their wooden, pewter, and brass vessels." John Hill, M.D. spoke of this variety being used by artisans for polishing hard wood, brass, ivory, etc.

Finally, there are several medicinal uses of horsetails. Edith Van Allen Murphey notes that the *Equisetums* were "dried and burned and ashes used on sore mouths." Potter's Cyclopaedia comments on both ancient and modern uses of *Equisetum*.

Culpeper states that this plant belongs to Saturn and recommends it to "staunch bleeding either inward or outward."

Gerard, quoting Dioscorides, says: "Dioscorides saith that Horse-tail, being

*Continued on page 10*



## Program Report

*Continued from page 7*

We handed around forms for ideas on ways to work with the Arboretum. Members can turn in suggestions to either Peter or Bob Voigt.

### Jerry Olson on Roses

The second part of our program consisted of a discussion and slide presentation by Jerry Olson. Jerry is a well-known rosarian, who has 400 - 500 roses, a library of 400 books on roses, and all the knowledge we'll ever need to grow perfect roses.:

There are several practical ways to protect roses from the cold, including the following:

1. Use the old hilling method where soil is hilled up around the canes
2. Cover with rose cones. Need to cut roses down, make sure they get proper ventilation, etc.
3. Cover everything with a lot of leaves.
4. The famous "Minnesota Tip" method, which Jerry recommends. Here's how he does it:
  - Keep roses watered right up to the end
  - Spray with a dormant spray like Acme. (Liquid lime sulfur).
  - Tie canes together with polyurethane twine—it doesn't rot.
  - Dig a trench of the base of the plant, then loosen the plant with a garden fork.
  - If roots are loose enough, only the roots should bend, not the shank between roots and bud union.
  - Bend rose down and fasten with a couple of clips or hoops. Then cover with two to three inches of dirt.

*Continued on page 11*

## New Members

Kay Wolfe  
2740 Florida Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55426  
home phone: 922-0762  
work phone: 922-0762

Elizabeth Johnson  
1525 Sumter Avenue North  
Golden Valley, MN 55427  
home phone: 546-4214  
work phone: 376-5672

### Remember:

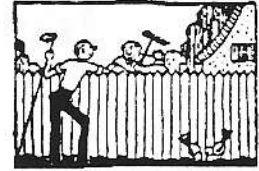
**pick up your 1994 TGOA/MGCA calendars at the November meeting. The cover photo is by MGCM's Henry Orfield.**

## Native Plants: Horsetail

*Continued from page 9*

stamped and laid to, doth perfectly cure wounds; yea although the sinues be cut asunder, as Galen addeth. It is of so great and singular virtue in healing wounds as that it is thought and reported for truth, to cure wounds of the bladder and other bowles, and helpeth ruptures and burstings."

In modern times, Horsetail has been used as a diuretic and astringent and is said to be of use in dropsy, gravel, and kidney complaints. The ashes of the plant are said to be useful for acidity of the stomach and dyspepsia, taken in doses of 3-10 gr.



## Program Report

*Continued from page 10*

- Remove hoops.
- Spread granulated diazanon over area.
- Cover entire area with a lot of leaves. (Jerry piles loose leaves, not bags. He says he wants his garden to look as tidy in the winter as it does in the summer.)

There has been a lot of emphasis on the new winter-hardy roses. Jerry cautions us to ask "Hardy *where?*". Meidiland, David Austin introductions will not survive here without protection. If you have any questions about winter hardiness, call Jerry!

The Explorer series are all hardy here. They have a large number of introductions, with more coming out all the time. Includes William Baffin, John Franklin (*has even survived in my garden - mjm*), Henry Hudson, David Thompson and many more.

The Morden roses are also very good. They can withstand extreme heat, cold and drought. The best, in Jerry's estimation, is Morden Blush.

Nearly Wild and Prairie Princess are also very good. Carefree Beauty is not all that carefree — needs some protection in our area.

### Jerry's Rose Tips

1. **Iron deficiency** Pale foliage with dark green veins. Use Sprint (powdered iron, liquifiable).
2. **Oxygen deficiency** Pale foliage, yellow veins. Caused by compaction of soil or smaller plant attempting to compete with older, more established plants. Loosen soil with fork.
3. **Crown gall** Many experts recommend

getting rid of plant, but Jerry has had some luck removing gall, trimming carefully around infected area, treating with 50% bleach solution in water.

4. **Rose root toxicity** Old rose roots left in the soil are toxic to new roses planted in same soil. When planting new rose, dig a big hole and put in new soil.
5. **Deer problems** Milorganite seems to keep them away. Don't use too close to vegetables.
6. **Water** This is the most important thing to roses. "Rain is a gift from God. Get in there and help Him!" Ground should be moist before fertilizing, spraying, etc.
7. **Fertilizer** Jerry uses a granular type in the spring (like Milorganite), then soluble crystals like Peters, Rapid-Gro, Miracle-Grow alternated with Liquid Fish through the summer. Make sure there is plenty of organic material for the roses to work with. Chemicals do no good without organic material.

Jerry concluded his discussion with a view on beauty: The most beautiful thing to see is a new rosebud with guard petals just unfurling, early in the morning, with a drop of dew on the petals. It's hard to disagree.

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## Congratulations

Congratulations to Duane Johnson who recently completed his certification as a judge for the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. Other MGCM members who are certified judges include Duane Reynolds and Mel Anderson.

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## MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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Return to:

# The Garden Spray

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