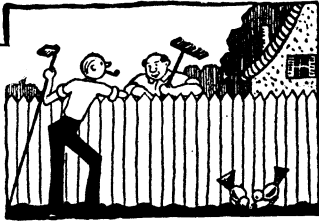


THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



MEMBER—MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA
MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Volume 7
Number 4
Jack Cohen, Editor

April, 1949
Associate Editors
Vic Lowrie, Ed Montgomery

A P R I L M E E T I N G

Date: Tuesday, April 12, 1949
Place: Park Board Greenhouse,
38th & Colfax Ave. S.E.
Time: 5:30 P.M.
Dinner: \$1.25 per person (home cooking)

PROGRAM

- 6:30 P.M. Short Business Session
William E. Swain presiding
- 6:45 50 Years Experience With Lilacs;
What to Plant in Minnesota (with
slides)
Mr. A. M. Brand, Faribault, Minn.
- 7:30 Chrysanthemums: New Experience and
New Varieties
Mr. Edgar Lehman, Lehman Gardens,
Faribault, Minn.

Questions & Answers

This is another meeting at which we hope to be specific, with varieties for your 1949 plantings. Bring your garden questions on any subject.

Officers

William E. Swain,
President
Cortis N. Rice, Jr.
Vice-President
Rene Dufourd,
Secretary
Ralph Sherman,
Treasurer
Stanley D. Lund,
Past-President

Office of the Secretary

5020 Second Avenue So.
Minneapolis 19

OUR BIG CLUB AUCTION - MAY 10th

This is a major undertaking. Let's put it over - BIG!

Always fun - always profitable to our Club and our members - this year it will be bigger and better than ever due to our convention of the M.G.C. of A. in August! And it will be - if each of us will:

1. Grow and/or secure material for the auction (we need large quantities of started plants, nursery stock, tools, fertilizers, insecticides, garden furniture, flats, fences, containers, vases - in fact anything pertaining to gardening and garden produce.
2. Serve well on auction committee to which you may be assigned.
3. Be sure to attend and get what you want and need at a reasonable cost to you and profit to our Club.

CHANGE IN ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS

Fred Paul, Walter Menzel and their committee finally got through the resolution they have been working on for some time. It reads as follows:

Delete all of Section B, Article III, Associate Members. Insert: (a) Commercial and professional gardeners; (b) Former ACTIVE MEMBERS who have moved from the district permanently but who wish to re-

tain membership; (c) Former ACTIVE MEMBERS who have been transferred to this group under the provisions of SECTION A; (d) ASSOCIATES shall be entitled to the privileges of ACTIVE MEMBERS except that they may not vote nor hold elective office in the Club.

Approved by the membership at regular monthly meeting, March 9, 1949.

REPORT ON STARTING TOMATOES FROM SEED VERSUS PLANTS

Bill Swain

Treated seed of early and mid-season varieties planted in greenhouse every two weeks from February 15, 1948 through April 1 yielded good healthy plants of a size which could be expected. The older plants were replanted several times to avoid root binding. Others were transplanted accordingly; hence, by May 25, when all greenhouse plants were transplanted into open ground after proper hardening off, some had root systems as large as a double fist and stems 1/2 to 5/8 inch in diameter and in varying degrees down to plants comparable to those normally obtainable (one dozen in a peach basket) with simple root systems and stems 1/8 to 3/16 inch in diameter.

In late April, treated seeds from the same packages and varieties were planted in the garden where they were to grow and covered with hot caps. In mid-May a similar planting was made and the hot caps were omitted. On May 20 the hot caps were cut on the south side, and all but two of the strongest seedlings were pinched off - not pulled.

On May 30 the hot cap seedlings were reduced to one strong plant by again pinching, and the open planting selected to two strong plants, and in five days reduced to one plant. The seedlings were not watered as were the previously mentioned transplants. The older greenhouse plants bloomed early, but failed to set fruit except in a few cases.

The hot cap seedlings grew vigorously and blossomed about two weeks later than the older greenhouse-grown plants but ahead of the smaller greenhouse plants, and about the same as the medium plants; open ground seedlings were last to blossom.

By mid-July a good set of fruit was on all plants and very little difference in like varieties could be noticed. The mid-February and early March greenhouse plantings produced the first fruit, but only two days ahead in the earliest variety and 8 to 20 days ahead in the mid-season variety of hot cap seedlings.

The hot cap seedlings were sufficiently satisfactory to justify recommending this procedure as being as early to fruit as the best normally available plants of like variety, and the hot cap seedlings justified the use of the hot cap in the home garden, when compared to the open seedlings on all counts. No doubt open seeding might prove commercially practicable further south for canneries that have made such tests, but for the market grower who depends largely on an early forced crop, the yield from seedlings might be just enough late to rob him of the premium which he seeks in being first to market with this item.

NEW GARDEN GADGETS

Leonard Bies had the swell job of talking on garden gadgets - his own as well as those he could uncover among the members. Nearly a hundred gadgets were presented or talked about and they came out so fast that your reporter caught up on only a few of them.

Jim Cristman is our #1 gadgeteer according to the stuff he has in his greenhouse.

The trend is back to the old available standbys, particularly on small spades.

A flat marker was presented that needs to be soaked the night before use.

A split cane stake was shown to use in taking seedlings out of vermiculite.

An automatic ventilator, eliminating risk of burning up small plants uses the damper control of the old-time furnace with sprinkler.

Hubbard Sprinkler with spike at bottom to hold firmly; also with extension to spray over dahlia tops.

A Prince Albert tobacco can, with holes punched in bottom, makes a good seeder.

A 2" tube with funnel top makes good fertilizer tool for side dressing.

Four glass jars, set close together, will scare off rabbits.

Dust of sulphur or powdered blood or blood meal keeps rabbits away.

Best sprayer is small compressed air device that breaks liquid down into a fine mist that carries all around the plant.

Alyssum seed and sand in sifter will cover 600 feet in no time.

Weed wand kills weeds by touching with 2,4-D.

CHEF - PREXY - HERBALIST

Our President, Bill Swain, is just an all 'round able guy who seems to be able to do everything well. Just recall the March meeting; you came into the meeting hall and there was Bill in the corner cooking some of the most delicious roast ham with a delectable gravy bearing parsnips and carrots. Served with yams and all the regalia of a sumptuous meal, it was a dish for the gods!

Then Bill tipped his chef's hat to one side and conducted the meeting in a business-like, efficient manner. Herb Kahlert, for the Program Committee, then took over.

Tipping his hat to the other side and listening to what was going on - with sundry comments interspersed where needed - Bill started mixing his famed "Bill's Salad Dressing" in a big kettle. Tins, bottles, condiments appeared from nowhere, and oils, vinegars, peppers and herbs of all kinds went into the big kettle, with Bill keeping up a stirring of a gentle order over the hot fire until the meeting ended.

The mixture was then bottled in two sizes - 30¢ and 55¢ - sold to the members, and the entire receipts were turned over to the Club to be put into the fund for the entertainment of our guests who come to the convention of the Men's Garden Clubs of America to be held in August in St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Quite a gardener, too, is Bill. An acknowledged writer and authority on herb growing, and early seeding of tomatoes in the open; winner of prizes at the State Fair; and enthusiastic promotor of gardening by school kids - he has done well by his hobby. Quite a guy is Bill!

START GROWING GLADIOLUS

We were indeed privileged to hear Dr. Kenneth Britzius, president of the Minnesota Gladiolus Society give an inspiring, enthusiastic talk on how to grow gladioli. Some notes on his talk follow:

The ideal gladiolus - and one rated best - has a lengthy spike with a half-dozen flowers rather than one with a single bloom.

Glads are heavy feeders but do not overfertilize.

(Henry Bachman uses commercial fertilizer - Vigoro - and gets better results than without fertilizer. 100 lbs. of Vigoro to 6 rows, 500 feet long; 2 bulbs to a row for self-support. New ground gives best results.)

Thrips can be controlled by 5% DDT dusting.

Naphthalene for thrips gives good results. Lysol is recommended for scab. (Bachman's use a special chamber of ethyl bromide gas to prepare bulbs for growing.)

In storing glads, keep temperature around 40°.

A new virus disease attacks glads, usually when planted near legumes.

Different size bulbs and bulblets will extend the growing season between June 15 and September 1.

Cold water is best for watering and is also a good thrips control.

(Fischer, the famed glad grower of Minnesota, keeps a fine mist of water going all day long to compensate for evaporation loss during hot days. He thus gets straight-stemmed blooms right along.)

To have glads in bloom the third week in August, get most varieties in June 1 to 15

Cut as soon as first bloom appears to save strength in bulbs.

(Archie Flack plants bulbs in groups of 5 or 6 in a circle 15" in diameter to make ornamentals in his flower border.)

(Jim Cristman says a patch of 100 bulbs is good for one just starting out with glads since they don't take up much room.)

How to plant: Large bulbs, 6" deep but depends on soil; small bulbs, 3". A furrow 3" to 4" is what Henry Bachman advises.

Below is a selected list of proven glads for beginners as recommended by the Minnesota Gladiolus Society:

Tried and True Varieties

White: Snow Princess, Silver Wings,
Margaret Beaton

Cream: Leading Lady, White Gold

Yellow: Spotlight, Autumn Gold

Buff: Arethrusa, Susquehanna

Orange: Lantana, Rio Rita

Salmon: Blanche, Cornelia, White

Pink: Ethel Cave Cole, Rosa Van Lima

Red: Red Charm, Stoplight

Black Red: Black Opal, Black Panther

Rose: Burma, Miss Wisconsin

Purple: Purple Supreme, King Lear

Lavender: Elizabeth the Queen, Rose O'Day

Promising Varieties

White: White Christmas, Silver Court, Eureka
Cream: Oriental Pearl, Salmon's Glory
Yellow: Gleam, Golden Beauty, Gold Medal
Buff: Sunspot, Sunlight
Orange: Gratitude, Tocadero, Orange Gold, Daisy Mae
Salmon: Spic and Span, Dieppe, Butter-scotch
Scarlet: Red Wing, Tarawa, War Paint
Pink: Dream Castle, Phantom Beauty, Beauty's Blush, Heart's Desire

Red: Firebrand (Butt), Birch Red, Mid-America
Black Red: Black Cherry, Royal Robes
Rose: Evangeline
Lavender: Wedgewood, Poet's Dream, Siboney
Purple: Lancaster, Dorothy Armstrong
Violet: Better Times, Blue Lagoon, Blue Boy
Smoky: Dusty Miller
Any other color: Robinson Crusoe, Charlotte Ann
Miniatures: Twinkles, Atom, Red Button

HOW AND WHEN ANNUALS GERMINATE

Larry Corbett of Northrop, King & Co., certainly proved to us that starting and growing annuals out in the open with limited weeding, no fuss or spraying, no sprinkling except what comes from Mother Nature, is all that is necessary to grow masses of healthy, bright-colored annuals. No cold frame, no greenhouse - just good seed put into the open ground after it has been plowed, harrowed, etc.

Plants flower earlier if not transplanted but thinned out after seedlings appear.

Results of observation over a four-year period as shown below indicate how constant bloom is year after year and how easy it is to get annuals into early bloom.

Average Maturity Dates of Outdoor Plantings without Transplanting

	1944		1945		1946		1947	
	Plant	Bloom	Plant	Bloom	Plant	Bloom	Plant	Bloom
Alyssum White	5/23	6/20	4/30	6/20	4/30	6/24	5/9	6/28
Aster - Queen of Market only			5/9	8/3	5/14	8/1	5/15	8/3
Centaurea Bachelor Button	5/23	7/2	5/18	7/18	5/21	7/15	5/21	7/22
Carnation	5/23	8/19	5/9	8/20	5/10	8/14		
Calendula	5/23	7/20	4/30	7/8	4/30	7/12	5/9	7/13
California Poppy	5/23	7/15	4/30	6/26	4/30	6/24	5/9	6/28
Cosmos Sensation			5/18	7/20	5/28	7/28		
Cleome, Spider Plant			5/18	7/28	5/28	7/25		
Cynoglossum	5/23	7/26	5/18	7/28	5/21	7/27	5/20	7/29
Dahlia Unwins	5/23	8/3	5/18	7/22	5/21	8/1		
Dianthus	5/23	7/29	5/9	8/1	5/10	7/23	5/12	7/20
Gaillardia	5/23	8/3	4/30	7/30	4/30	7/18		
Gypsophila	5/23	6/30	4/30	6/26	4/30	6/23	5/15	7/1
Hollyhock Ind. Spring			5/18	8/9	5/28	8/23		
Larkspur	5/23	8/5	5/18	8/10	4/30	7/23		
Morning Glory HB	5/27	8/17	5/19	9/1	5/15	8/13	5/6	8/22
Marigold Small	5/23	7/30	5/18	7/8	5/21	8/3	5/21	7/22
Pansy	5/23	8/20	4/30	7/8	4/30	7/8	5/9	7/15
Petunia	5/23	7/30	5/9	7/16	5/10	7/10	5/9	7/8
Stocks Ten Weeks			4/30	7/10	4/30	7/15		
Verbena	5/23	7/24	5/9	7/28	5/10	7/20	5/12	7/25

PERSONALS

Archie Flack looks fit and is feeling wonderful. Glad to have you back with us!

We are sorry to have to announce the death on March 20 of our friend, A. M. Libbey. Mr. Libbey was an expert in the growing of tuberous begonias and our Club is going to miss him and his flowers. We extend our sympathies to his family.

Rene Dufourd, vacationing in Florida, wrote us: "We certainly pick the hard way to grow flowers in Minnesota. Lots of flowers here but they have their troubles too. No rain since November!"

Herb Spencer has been at Deaconess Hospital for some time. At this writing he is expected home and reports are very favorable. Herb seems to be doing fine.

MINIATURE DAHLIAS FOR MID-AUGUST SHOWING

Bob Bryant gave us an excellent exposition of growing prize-winning miniature dahlias if we only follow his instructions (and use good growing varieties). The somnolence created by too much of Swain's roast ham, yams, etc. didn't help keep us mentally alert to take detailed notes so that we could carry off some of the dahlia show prizes that so often go to Bob or Bill Holmberg or Bill Block or Harold Stephens or some of the other local experts in dahlia competition. Here's what Bob told us:

Miniatures hold up fairly well in hot weather, particularly from the last part of July to frost. Provide small amounts of shade for a small part of the day only. A group of miniature dahlias in a flower bed makes a wonderful show, particularly dis-budded and old blooms taken off in the morning. Do this by pinching off lateral buds. Stake miniatures with 1/4" lath. Put bone meal at bottom before dahlia plants are put in. Give all water possible.

Plan sequence of colors or colors in contrast - planting 2' apart. Below are Bob's suggestions for such groupings, which make good combinations to cut and use in the house:

Red and White
White Fawn 3'
Bloodstone 2½'
Little Sheik 2'

Pink to Rose
Pride of Berlin 3'
Baby Rose 4'
Pink Lassie 2½'
Bengali 2½'
Saint Therese 2'
Rosy Glow 3'

Yellow to Orange
Spencer's Miniature 2'
Tip 2½'
Myall Gold 3'
Roundkop 3'
Paraltje 2½'
Little Jenny 3'
Citroentje 2½'
Imp 18"
Guinea Gold 2½'
Baby Hale 4'

White to Pink or Lavender
Mrs. J. Telfer 2½'
White Fawn 3'
Morning Mist 3'
Pride of Berlin 3'
Ming 2½'
Spun Silk 2½'
Twinkles 2½'
Saint Therese 2'

Height of all varieties will vary somewhat, depending on amount of shade, but relative height should remain about the same as noted.

DINNER NOTES

Herb Kahlert reported that 50 hours of manpower were put in on the dinner served March 8th.

Some of Swain's helpers were Andy Nyberg, in charge of ice cream; Leonard Bies on general arrangements; and a host of other good fellows who helped in the service.

Sixty complete sets of stainless steel "silver" were donated by Tom Regan, sales manager for Joesting & Schilling, restaurant supplies. Not only did Tom make this magnificent gift but he even agreed to take the knives, forks and spoons home and clean them in his electric washer.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Here is the list of the men in charge of the Special Interest Groups. If you wish to join any of these groups, give your name to the chairman.

Plans for the year's activity were put in motion by Vice President Rice Jr., a few days ago. The program for each group will be outlined by the chairman at group meetings to be held soon.

<u>SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS</u>	<u>CHAIRMAN</u>
Annuals (New Varieties)	A. R. Blackburn <i>Lawry</i>
Chrysanthemums	H. R. Kaufman
Delphiniums	L. Bies
Dwarf Apple Trees	A. H. Flack
Garden Photography	G. S. Titus
Greenhouses	R. A. Phillips
House Plants	J. T. Witmer
Hormones	R. J. Dufourd
Lawns (Crab grass and weed control)	C. E. Doell
Perennials in General	A. G. Dewars
Perennials (New Varieties)	G. G. Cerney
Primroses	G. S. Titus
Roses	S. D. Lund
Shrubbery for Minnesota	A. H. Flack
Sweet Peas	Dr. J. T. Cohen
Tuberous Rooted Begonias	L. E. Cristman
Violets (Garden)	R. J. Dufourd

These group chairmen will act as advisors. If you have questions or problems call the chairman of the group involved. He will get the answer for you.

The success of these groups depends on the work we put in and the interest shown. Here is an outline of the procedure.

1. Plan the year's work
2. Each member develops his part of the plan
3. Keep contact with each other during the season (summer & winter)
4. Keep written records when necessary
5. Report to your chairman in October
6. Chairmen report to Vice President Cortis Rice

Join one or more groups now.

The Tuberous Begonia group will meet on Thursday evening, April 14th, at Jim Cristman's home, 4302 Branson Street - Time 7:30.

IMPORTANT!! TO AVOID CALLING A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AUCTION COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN KAUFMANN REQUESTS THAT THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE APPOINTEES MEET WITH HIM FOR A FEW MINUTES IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ADJOURNMENT OF OUR APRIL 12th MEETING.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT EACH OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTEND THIS SHORT MEETING!

1949 AUCTION COMMITTEE MAY 10th

Harold R. Kaufmann, General Chairman

AUCTIONEERS:

Wm. Swain*
Frank Janes
Wm. Holmberg
Herb Kahlert
Tom Regan

BOOKKEEPERS:

Cortis Rice*
E. C. Culbert
Ralph Sherman
Harold Stephens

CASHIERS:

Jim Cristman*
Rene Dufourd
Glenn Cerney
Milan Evans

ASSISTANTS
RECEIVERS and
HANDLERS

Gordon Ballhorn*
Howard Bishop
George Germain
H. C. Spencer
Harold Wright
Bill Brooks
Harold Stephens
Glenn Cerney
Greg Lucking

CONTACTORS:

Jim Cristman* - Tubers, Bulbs, Roots
Archie Flack - Nursery Stock
Geo. Titus - Fertilizers
Glenn Cerney - U. of M.
Ernie Lindquist - Elec. Appliances
Stan Lund - Insecticides, etc.
Leonard Bies - Tools, Gadgets, etc.
Wm. Swain - Vegetables, Herbs, etc.
Joe Hradecky - Commercial Specialties
H. R. Kaufmann - Florists