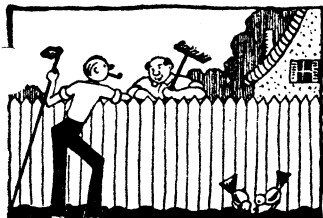


THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



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

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December, 1945

Jack Cohen, Editor

Ed Montgomery, Associate Editor

DECEMBER MEETING

Ladies Invited

Date: Tuesday, December 11, 1945

Place: Fountain Terrace, Medical Arts Bldg.

Time: 5:30 p.m. Price: \$1.50 each

Program: 6:45 p.m.

A. Speaker - Franc P. Daniels, Horticulturist
Long Lake, Minnesota
Author of "Live At Home & Like It"

B. Sound Moving Pictures - In Color

(1) "Modern Roses" by Jackson Perkins
Newark, New York

A rose pageant featuring millions of
blooms, hybridizing, arrangements,
Newark Rose Festival.

(2) Birds of Interlachen - Wallace E.
Hamilton

C. Questions Period - G. G. Cerney,
Moderator

D. Christmas Greetings

Directors

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William Block
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President
G. G. Cerney,
Vice President
H. R. Kaufmann
Secretary
Walter R. Menzel
Treasurer

If you can't make a date with your best girl, come alone, for the Program Committee has endeavored to make this an especially entertaining evening.

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Two Honored Members Honor Us!

Last month, at its annual meeting, the Minnesota Horticultural Society presented meritorious certificates of awards to 13 who have made outstanding contribution to state horticulture in 1945. Two of these 13 awards went to our own HERB KAHLERT and BILL SWAIN.

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THE NOVEMBER 13th BULL SESSION

Our annual bull session, under the direction of Herb Kahlert, with Harold Kaufmann as time-keeper and G. G. Cerney as referee, was better than ever. It gave everybody a chance to tell how good he is and how smart he was in planning his garden this year. There is no need of telling at these sessions about your flops and failures; but it does let everybody talk about how good he was at his hobby.

Herb Kahlert went down the line and called on each member to tell in three minutes what was the outstanding thing he learned or accomplished in his garden this year, and here follows a report on what some of the members said:

G. G. CERNEY: Some perennials are best in large clumps, such as coreopsis; others are better as central stems, such as rudbeckia, fall asters, helianthus, etc. To save money on fertilizer, have your soil tested free of charge by the U of M Farm School and you will not need to buy a complete fertilizer if you need only phosphorus or potash or nitrogen.

H. W. BISHOP had trouble with rabbits in his garden and tried to eliminate them with a .22 but missed them every time. He had some excruciating adventures in building his cold frame, and now that he has it done, he doesn't know what to do with it. He saw J. C. Bryant's pear tree and expects to put in a couple next year.

JACK COHEN'S branching stock was the most satisfactory flower in the garden. Put out in a cold frame early in the Spring, it started blooming in June and continued blooming luxuriantly up until the last frost. His hybrid tomatoes did better than the old standbys such as Marglobe and John Baer. There seemed to be more fruit on the plant and the fruit was fully developed, round, of nice color and with no cracks. His Minnesota chrysanthemums did better this year than any other year and he had them blooming when the weather was 10° below freezing.

WALLY ROWELL gave a discourse on regal lilies - his chief interest in gardening. He starts them from seed and so they are apt to be free of the diseases which affect imported bulbs.

BILL BLOCK, an old-time dahlia expert, decided to switch to tuberous begonias.

He gave an illustrated talk on how to handle the bulbs from the time they come from the grower until they are put away in the Fall. He recommended ordering about Dec. 15 and planting in February.

BILL ADDY said this was a good season for him as there was no crabgrass in his lawn or garden. The rosebush prize he won had three different blooming periods. He scratched the names of his friends on his gourds when they started to grow in early Summer, and then when they came to full size, they made nice gifts to those whose names were blistered on them. He put his annuals among early perennials so he had constant bloom all Summer.

HAROLD KAUFMANN gave his chrysanthemarian's report. This is his favorite plant for fragrance and color, it is easily moved and replaceable, and it flowers when everything else is gone. He is a great booster for chrysanthemums, which give so much for so little effort.

CHARLIE DOELL described the enlarged wild flower garden in Glenwood Park - in a heavily shaded woodland. This year 4,000 new forest and wood plants were introduced into this showplace of Minneapolis. He extended a cordial invitation for us to have a meeting there next year and take a tour through this bit of woodland in the heart of the city.

STANLEY LUND likes growing roses because he can't tell weeds from perennials. Polyanthas are his favorite because they are a good cutting rose and they are hardier than tea roses. In the Spring he had trouble with black spot and he sprayed 2 or 3 times a week. When he cut down the hybrid rose next to the

L. E. CRISTMAN built a greenhouse this Summer and it is already too small, which is the usual experience. He grows tuberous begonias from seed and expects blooms from the bulbs next year. He is another backslider who is going from dahlias to tuberous begonias.

R. J. DUFOURD tried kale and didn't like the first crop. His Western gherkins producee better than the usual cukes. He tried to grow chrysanthemums a la Bachman. He covered them with cheese-cloth and manure and they grew and grew and grew - but no flowers appeared. He discovered that an ingredient of Bachman's success was that they fill these houses with steam to get best results.

BILL HOLMBERG, our dahlia expert, tried potato raising this year. He used manure generously but got no good results. Walter Menzel told him to get a fertilizer of phosphorus and potash. He found this to be good advice and got 14 bushels of potatoes out of a small plot. His sweet peas given him by Upsher Smith of the Sweet Pea Committee grew early, long and well. On roses, he started with six bushes from Perkins Brothers and got as high as 18 blooms on a plant.

TOM HUGHES' philosophy is work and cultivate. Cultivate deep, use a lot of elbow grease, and your garden won't need spraying.

WALTER MENZEL says one-third of the Garden Club membership is interested in tuberous begonias, and he thinks this is a good plant in which to specialize. His didn't do too well, however, this year, and he's afraid that he overfed. He winters them over by leaving the begonias in the pot and letting them dry out. In the Spring he waters the pot and the blooming starts up again. By using this easy method he lost only three out of 16 plants. He got a kick out of the surprise packet of mixed flower seeds that he bought from Vaughan's. He counted 40 different varieties of plants from the one package - some kinds he couldn't name and had never seen before.

ED MONTGOMERY raised lilies from seed. He has six or seven varieties with 100% germination. His seedlings came through

from moles by putting wire screen under them. Butternut squash was new and fine. He carried chrysanthemums through the Winter by covering sprouts around the mother plant in the Fall with a shallow cover of sand and marsh hay. These are the sprouts that give next year's plants, and if they are protected, the plant itself will carry through. He just came back from Portland where roses, dahlias, etc. were still in bloom, but they all looked bedraggled and aged - no better than they do in Minnesota in late October.

W. H. BOFFERDING says for best results in sweet pea growing, soak the seed for 36 hours, planting only those where the outer shell is cracked. Then plant on Thanksgiving Day about 8 inches deep.

HAROLD NELSON had the finest sweet peas he has ever grown. As a long-time lover of dahlias, he is now going to switch his interest to begonias for they make beautiful corsages. He has five orchid plants and went through many adventures in obstetrics while raising them. He is the only Club member, we believe, who has gone into the hobby of raising orchids. This exotic plant is one of the most difficult to raise by the amateur as it takes patience, perseverance and watchful waiting to secure good results.

ARCHIE FLACK praised Bishop's cold frame. His weigalias and mock orange came thru beautifully, as did his rugosa roses and delphinium - all due to the fine, wet Summer we had this year.

ED WHITE tried the University of Chicago chrysanthemum, which he likes better than those developed by the University of Minnesota. He started with 22 double begonias in 1944, carried them over the Winter, and in 1945, 40% of them went single on him. They were all started in fresh soil. Can anyone give him the answer to this reversion from double to single type?

FRANK JANES says the secret of the success of his garden was his moving next door to Walter Menzel and he got him to do all the work. He has a nursery bed of fifteen or twenty perennials, a border of alyssum, with a stand of nicotine in the background.

UPSHER SMITH grew the best pansies he ever had. Some were grown from seed and some were plants from Jack Cohen. He had no mint this year because of rust. He cut his mint plants down to the ground, burned up the branches and hopes for better results next year. He told about a friend who lets weeds grow in his garden because they are going to winter-kill anyway. They have great value as mulch. The time to pull up weeds is in May and June when they are small and easy to get at.

ANDY NYBERG manured his dahlia beds early in the Fall and put in lettuce, radishes and onion sets. He had a fine crop early in the Spring and then he moved the plants when space was needed for his dahlias. He had a lot of tubercous begonias, sweet peas - and of course dahlias.

GEORGE TITUS tried a new fertilizer called 8-8-8 and got good results. He has to do a lot of fertilizing because there is so much shade in his garden

and the trees all have long roots. He had good success with annuals, particularly with snapdragons, because he put around lots of peat moss and Vigoro.

HAROLD KAUFMANN'S timeclock seemed to have the uncanny habit of ringing "stop" whenever a dahlia grower got up to talk.

HERB KAHLERT told us of an unusual and interesting idea of making a compost heap. He dug up an old iris bed two feet deep, filled it with leaves, weeds, etc. and finished with soft dirt on top. He put annuals on the surface and they grew gorgeously during the Summer. In the Fall, he dug below, after the annuals were through blooming, and found the finest bunch of mulch you ever saw. Herb could never figure out why the compost heap had to be such a disagreeable, unpleasant thing in the garden. By covering the heap with dirt and upturned sod, and transplanting late-flowering annuals to this surface, the garden looked attractive and when the annuals were through blooming, he just dug underneath for the mulch he needed.

TWO MEMBERS HONORED

The Men's Garden Club of America appointed Herb Kahlert and G. G. Cerney to present the membership charter to the newly-formed Men's Garden Club of St. Paul. This took place last month, and the occasion was a dignified and interesting event. We are glad to see the Men's Garden Club movement spreading in this way, and are happy that two of our active members were chosen to do the honors for our sister city.

MEETING VISITORS

We were glad to have these visitors with us at our recent meeting: Ralph Nelson, Fred Stevens, Dale Craff, William A. Robinson (who has cultivated one garden for 30 years).

GARDEN HUCKLEBERRIES

Walter Quist says it is easy to raise huckleberries. He picks them when ripe, puts them in the quick freeze, and they

PRIZE-WINNERS OF MONTHLY BINGO RAFFLE

Winner of six regal lily bulbs - H. W. Bishop.

Winner of large amaryllis - Bill Block.

Winner of second prize amaryllis - Walter Menzel.

PERSONALITIES

Fred T. Paul, our member who is City Engineer, is chairman of the newly-formed Citizen's Committee to study the problem of industrial building space in Minneapolis.

Harold Kaufmann deserves credit and praise for the fine report he gave as our chrysanthemarian. Written in condensed form, this tells you what you want to know on the selection of chrysanthemums, and his careful, studious report should be kept on file for next Spring when plans are made for growing this gorgeous Fall flower. Congratulations to Harold for a job