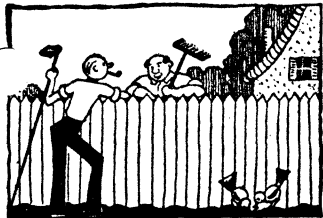


THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



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4902 Bronson St.
Minneapolis, 10

MARCH MEETING

Date: Tuesday, March 12th

Place: Fountain Terrace,
Medical Arts Bldg.

PROGRAM

5:30 P.M. Dinner

6:30 Announcements

6:35 "New Roses to Plant"
Charles Doell

6:50 "New Plants Worth Trying"
Jack Cohen

7:00 "Landscaping" (with pictures)
Harry Franklin Baker

7:50 "Cold Frames and Their Im-
portance" Henry Bachman

8:00 "Musts" for March - Kahlert

8:10 Questions & Answers - Menzel

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SODIUM SELINATE

Several dealers are offering sodium selenate or other chemical preparations which it is claimed can be worked into the soil and which will be absorbed by growing plants in such a manner as to be poisonous to insects which might attack the plants. Reliable local authorities inform us experiments with sodium selenate show that it has no effect on insects that attack the plants which have absorbed this chemical from the soil, but that it is good as a spray for red spiders.

NEW OLD FLOWERS EASILY GROWN IN MINNESOTA

Walter Quist suggested at the February meeting, as a footnote to Ed Montgomery's talk on "New Things in the Catalogs", that there are many old flowers, new to most of us, that will grow in Minnesota and which we ought to try. His first nomination to the New-Old Garden was Tithonia. Legend has it that the Incas greeted Cortez with garlands of these flowers. It has large, fig-leaf-shaped leaves and the flowers are quite like a large Flash marigold. Give it plenty of room and put it where you can see the flowers out of the second floor window, for it grows from 8 to 12 feet high during a single Summer. There are several fine specimens in Nels Melander's garden each Summer.

We nominate for the New-Old Garden:

Helianthus Orgyalis

This is a perfectly hardy perennial sunflower, not bothered by disease or insects, which, unlike other sunflowers, their coarse foliage, has a beautiful, smooth, long leaf which hangs fountain-like from the tall stems like the leaves of a regal lily, but this plant attains a height of six to eight feet, which gives it a truly regal effect. The flowers are small - about the size of a quarter - in profusion at the tall terminal of the column of shimmering green leaves. The plants multiply from the root but not enough to be a nuisance if given care.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE CATALOGS?

At the February 12th meeting, Ed Montgomery, claiming the title of Club Catalogarian, reviewed new plants being offered in some of the catalogs already received. The list follows:

VEGETABLES: Slobolt Lettuce, which is claimed to be a lettuce which will not bolt to seed as soon as other varieties. Honeycream Watermelon - advertised as a good melon for the North. New Long Tendergreen Bean. The 1946 All-American Award. Purple Head Cauliflower. New Badger Eggplant, which is claimed to have fewer seeds and to mature earlier than other kinds.

FLOWERS: Tetra Snapdragons; Dianthus Westwood Beauty; Petunia Colossal Shades of Rose, which is the All-American Silver Medal Winner for 1946; Petunia Peach Red, All-American 1946 Honorable Mention; Petunia Bright Eyes, All-American 1946 Bronze Medal Winner; Butterfly Hybrid Pansies; Viola Purple Heart.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, FEBRUARY 12 MEETING

Question: Is it worthwhile to use amateur soil-testing sets?

Answer: A home gardener should have an amateur soil-testing kit and use it. Soil samples should be taken from the surface or to within 4 or 5" from the surface. The test may not be 100% accurate. It is generally said that the tester should use about 50% judgment from his own experience. The test for acidity and nitrogen is most satisfactory. The test for phosphates is not as likely to be satisfactory.

Question: Which is better material to add to heavy soil, peat or sand?

fore the more practical of the two.

Question: Why do stems of narcissus forced in a greenhouse become weak and fall when brought into the house?

Answer: The house temperature may be warm. They should be kept as cool as they would be outdoors in the Spring.

Question: What should be done with potsettias after blooming?

Answer: Throw them away. Or, after the leaves drop, let them dry out and put in a cool place until Spring. Then sink the pot in a semi-shady place outdoors.

THE SPECIAL BEGONIA MEETING

A special meeting of the growers of begonias was held on Thursday, February 21st. We listened to an interesting talk given us by Bob Bryant, the expert on begonias, orchids, dahlias and delphiniums. Judging by the large attendance at the luncheon - 33 members attended the meeting - it looks like all of us are going to be begonia growers in 1946.

The meeting was held in the private dining room of the Medical Arts Cafe and was presided over by genial Bill Block.

Here are some of the pointers brought out by Bob Bryant:

Tuberous begonias can be grown in open ground or in pots. He prefers to grow them in pots for he can then take them in in the evening and have fine floral decorations for his guests.

Begonia blooms make both fine centerpieces and serve well as corsages.

They are in all colors and all shades of colors except blue, and there are no begonias exactly alike.

The camellia type is the most satisfactory and the largest, often growing up to 12 in width. The size of the bulb has no bearing on the size of the flower. The larger the bulb, the longer the blooming period.

Culture

Don't start too soon.

The indented side is the top.

Plant bulbs about bulb size apart. When the plant is four or five inches high, pot in three- or four-inch pots, then as growth continues, make the final transfer to seven-inch pots. The roots grow sideways, so you need a wide pot.

The soil should be about half and half of manure and leaf mold. Put this in pots and add to it some bone meal or cottonseed meal.

Begonias like a lot of food and grow best in a shady, sheltered position. Start in the house about March 15th and keep soil damp but not too wet.

Limit growth to one stalk and cut off on side stalks and tie to a stake with twisters when plant starts growing pretty tall.

Leave a slight rim of the pot above the surface of the ground.

Sprunge in hot weather when over 80 degrees and feed with liquid manure.

When putting pot in the ground, be sure to point the leaves outward for the bloom will point in the same direction as the leaves.

If you follow all these directions, you should have those large, prize-winning Tuberous Begonias that Bob seems to raise so easily and in such a casual manner.

GROWING SWEET PEAS AROUND THE TWIN CITIES

It has been a common experience during the past 20 years that sweet peas did not flourish in local gardens. As a result, the Men's Garden Club appointed a Sweet Pea Committee consisting of Messrs. W. S. Block, G. G. Cerney, J. G. Cohen, Harold Kaufmann, A. H. Flack, H. E. Kahlert, Walter Quist, Andy Nyberg, Chas. E. Doell and F. A. Upsher Smith as chairman. The literature was consulted and there seemed to be a general agreement that hot weather slowed up the growth of the plants and cut down the number and size of the flowers. However, an article by Keith Barrons in "House Beautiful" pointed out that while the trouble seemed to come in hot weather, the actual cause of these troubles was the development of diseases as a result of the rise in temperature. Below is a chart of results.

RESULTS BY NAME OF OUR SWEET PEA GROWERS

	QUIST		UPSHER SMITH	NYBERG	DOELL		
	GH	OUT			I	II	III
Date of planting	3/14	4/27	4/21	4/5	3/5	3/5	3/1
Method of planting	Pot	Out	Out	Out	Pot	Pot	Out
Soil	Aver.	Aver.	Sheep good soil, peat	Fertile	Average	Cow-chicken manure	Cow-chicken manure
Depth		5"	2"	2"	1/2"	1/2"	1/2"
Spacing		2"	4"	2"	Transplanted early part		
Direction of rows	E & W		E & W	N & S	Circle	N & S	N & S
Extent of shade	None	None	Noon to 3 PM	PM			
Support	Poultry net		Wire	Fence			
Spray	None		Yes	Nicotine	None	None	None
Fertilizer	Originally 5" cow		Cow - late	Yes	No	Aphids	Manure water
Stem length			6" - 9"	6" - 8"			8" - 10"
Period of bloom	7/15	8/15	7-8 wks.	5-6 wks.	7/1 to 9/1 or later		
Number florets per stem			3-5		Few	Many	Many large
Special notes					Vigorous growth especially early variety. #3 be		

	BLOCK		CERNEY	COHEN	FLACK	KAHLERT
	Mpls.	Ill.				
Date of planting	2/28	3/24	3/17	4/1	3/1	3/15
Method of plant	Pot	Out	Pot	Pot	Flats	Pot
Soil	18" manure	Sod clay loam	Aver.	Good	Manure 12"	Manure
Depth	8"	2"	6"	6"		8"
Spacing		3"	6"	8"	5"	6"
Direction of rows	N&S		E & W	E & W		N & S
Extent of shade	None	None	Part AM & PM	Part PM	None	Part AM
Support	Twig	Fence			Yes	Yes
Spray	Pyreth.	None	Yes	None	None	Triogen
Fertilizer	Liquid	None	None	None	None	None
Stem length	7"		7" - 8"	7"	10-12"	8"
Period of bloom	4 wks.	6 wks.	4 wks.	3-5 wks.		4 wks.
Number florets	5		4-6	3-4	3-4	5-6