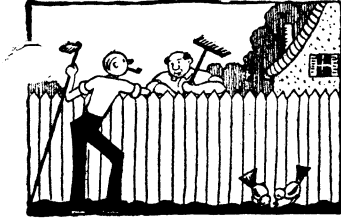


THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



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

Volume 6
Number 3
Victor Lowrie, Editor

March, 1948
Associate Editors
Jack Cohen, Ed Montgomery

MARCH MEETING

Date: Tuesday, March 9
Place: Fountain Terrace,
Medical Arts Bldg.
Time: 5:30 P.M. Sharp
Dinner: \$1.50 per person

PROGRAM

- 6:20 Meeting called to order.
William Swain, Vice-President,
"Comments on Freedom Gardens"
- 6:35 Topic - "Shrubbery"
Speaker: Mr. Franc P. Daniel,
well-known horticulturist of
Long Lake; author of "Live at
Home and Like It."
- 7:20 Digest of current magazine art-
icles. C. Victor Lowrie
- 7:40 My Favorites of the Garden Maga-
zines. Jack Cohen
- 7:50 1947-1948 Rose Test Program.
Charles Doell
- 8:05 Musts for March. Wm. Holmberg
- 8:10 Voluntary assignment of new things.
Archie Flack
- 8:15 Questions & Answers. William Swain

Officers

Stanley D. Lund,
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Rene J. Dufourd,
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Office of the Secretary

5020 Second Avenue S.
Minneapolis 9

1948 DUES ARE \$4.00

Those who have not paid in
full are asked to do so im-
mediately.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome into active membership in our Club the following new members. We are looking forward to meeting them and to a profitable exchange of ideas, and we look to them for the help and experience they will bring us.

Arthur J. Fackler
4921 Columbus Avenue

Thomas F. Hughes
3036 11th Avenue So.

C. F. LaCrosse
4225 Chowen Avenue So.

A. M. Libbey
(Associate Member)
5410 Abbott Place

Albert J. Nelson
5404 Park Avenue

Maurice K. Lifson
5115 Knox Avenue So.

Dr. F. H. K. Schaaf
1238 W. Minnehaha Pkwy.

DWARF FRUIT TREES FOR THE HOME GARDEN

Archie Flack has had a great deal of experience with dwarf fruit trees, both in England and Canada. Archie has also done considerable research on the subject, and as a consequence is eager to see what can be done with them here in the Northwest. Further, he is anxious for the Club to entertain the idea as a project as soon as the proper stock can be found. As the principal speaker at our February meeting, Archie traced the history of these lilliputians, the highlights of which follow:

Dwarf fruit trees are grown widely in Europe, and have been since feudal times, both commercially and in gardens. They were found to be good producers and of a good quality. Commercially they offer many advantages; they are easier to prune, spray and harvest. In gardens they are adaptable to walls, borders and small areas.

European nurserymen discovered that the root stock upon which the apple tree is worked had a marked influence on the size of tree produced.

They discovered that when they budded any particular variety on a large number of seedling roots, a few of the resulting trees remained small, although they were healthy in other respects.

They discovered further that some of these root stock which produced dwarfness in the trees could be propagated by layers.

About the middle of the 19th century, an English nurseryman, Thomas Rivers, selected and began to propagate a root stock which became known as the Broad Leaf English Paradise.

Consider briefly why we do not practice growing apples on their own roots. Our named varieties are hybrids and will not come true from seed and they cannot be propagated readily by cuttings or layers.

For this reason, nurserymen many years ago devised the method of budding or grafting desirable varieties on seedling rootstock. This method has given remarkably good results.

The beginning of the 20th century, a number of these so-called Paradise Stock had been selected and propagated by European nurserymen. Unfortunately they became badly mixed.

About this time the East Malling Research Station was established. Mr. R. C. Hatton, Director, realized the importance of securing stock true to name. He made detailed study of leaf and stem characteristics of the Paradise Stocks. By this means he separated the group into 16 distinct stocks to each of which he gave a number, and these are known today throughout the world as Malling 1-16.

Canadian Experience

In 1925, the Dominion Government Experimental Station at Summerville, B.C., started experiments with Malling stocks. Numbers I, II, IX, and XVI - which English experience indicated were the more promising of the dwarfing and semi-dwarfing stocks - were budded to commercial varieties such as McIntosh, Delicious, Newtown and Winesap. Observations over a period of 10 years indicated that the above varieties and stocks united well and grew into healthy trees. The Malling IX stock has produced very dwarf trees which

Iowa State College Experience

Malling Stock IX has not worked out very well in Iowa. It has not been sufficiently winter-hardy. However, they have found a satisfactory stock for this climate and here is an excerpt from the Iowa Farm Science for August, 1947, which tells the complete story:

"Because of the difficulties with Malling No. 9, the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station has long been trying to find a good dwarfing stock to use for producing dwarf fruit trees.

"One day several years ago, the Late Professor Thomas Maney of the Iowa Station was traveling near Muscatine, Iowa. He saw a small apple tree growing. He slammed on the brakes and went over to look at it.

"What Professor Maney saw interested him. So he got buds from this dwarf tree and took them back to Ames to propagate them at the Horticultural Farm. He found that the tree grew very slowly. He didn't know how good it was. So he didn't spend a lot of time working with it until experience later on proved that this small apple tree was most useful in the production of dwarf fruit trees. It proved satisfactorily hardy. Professor Maney called it Clark Dwarf, for Clark was the name of the man who was dwarfing trees at Muscatine.

"Iowa State College now has 75 or more dwarf fruit trees propagated with Clark Dwarf. These trees are from 7 to 12 or 13 years old. We've had no loss through winter injury thus far. We have picked as much as a bushel of beautiful, luscious, plump fruit per tree in the fall.

How It's Done

"Here is how these dwarf fruit trees are propagated. We take a seedling of an ordinary apple variety. A graft or bud of Clark Dwarf is inserted. After this bud or graft has grown, we graft or bud on it a standard apple variety. This may be Jonathan, Delicious or any other desired variety of apple.

"Thus we have a tree with three parts: the root is an ordinary apple root; a portion of the trunk is Clark's seedling; the top is our regular apple variety. That stem piece of Clark Dwarf will cause the tree to be dwarfed in size. When it matures, it won't grow to a normal sized apple tree. The dwarfing effect from that little piece of Clark Dwarf in the trunk affects the root and the top. The root growth of the tree is smaller than a regular apple tree."

Our Own Experimental Station

Now Archie is hot on the trail of the Clark Dwarf. Iowa State has none available, but they reported that to their knowledge two nurseries had propagated dwarf apple trees by the Clark Dwarf method, and Archie is still running the clues down.

When such stock can be secured, it is Archie's intention to propagate them by invitation on Howard Bishop's place, and thus an experimental station will be established for the Club. All members who are interested in Dwarf Fruit Trees had better join up with Archie. If any of you knows where some Clark Dwarf scion wood is available, you know who to tell!

"OH - CALL IT BY SOME BETTER NAME !"

Says Ed Culbert: "Who can tell me what a Quaker Lady is?"
"Is it the same as Quaker Ladies?"

Here is an example of the need for using correct names - preferably, in many cases - the botanical names.

Do you know the wildflower "Bluet"? (otherwise Houstonia)
"Bluets" are known as "Quaker Ladies" but "Quaker Lady"
is "Meadow Sweet" ("Spirea Latifolium")

Speaking of spireas, why not say "Spirea Fomentosum" instead of "hard hack"
or "steeple bush"?

Then there's Virginia Cowslip; cowslips are yellow, up-
right flowers, but the "Virginia Cowslip" isn't. It's
called "Virginia Bluebell"; it isn't a "blue bell"
proper either. Why not say "Mertensia" and be done with
it?

Speaking of bells, what about "rock bells"? Locally often called "honey-
suckle", a name freely given to the vine and the syringa as well. As to
the proper name, "Columbine" is the correct common name; "Agualegia Cananden-
sis" preferable for gardeners.

"Who knows 'woodbine'?"
"The five-fingered Virginia Creeper?" says you.

Wrong. This time I'm talking about "Virginia
Bower", the wild clematis - "Clematis Virginiana."

Of course you know "spider lily", no relation to spider plant, better known
as "spidewart". Spidewart is a family of flowers including the Wandering
Jew (Commelina Commensis), but the Spiderwart I am speaking about is "Trades-
cantia Virginiana."

Why go on to consider the various names for trillium -
birthroot, wake robin? Why worry about what lily is
the red lily, the wood lily? It is "lilium Philadel-
phieum"; Lilium Caradence is the nodding lily - the
wild yellow lily.

Yes, why worry? Why not use correct names? Why not?

Apropos (but not original): He calls his sweetheart "Tomato" cause no one
loves him like his Tomato Can!

JOINT COMMITTEE MEET

(To consider invitation to MGCA for '49)
A committee is meeting with one from the
St. Paul Club to decide whether we should
jointly extend an invitation to the Men's
Garden Clubs of America to hold their
1949 Convention here. The committee's
recommendation will be placed before us
at the March meeting for decision. Stan
Lund pointed out that it will take some
financing and a lot of hard work to make

PROGRAM IDEAS WELCOME

We are happy and appreciative of Herb
Kahlert and his committee in continuing
to take charge of our monthly program
Month in and month out they have been
outstanding. Our high average attendance
attest the members' enjoyment and
interest. We thank you, Herb, and
try to come up with some ideas - but
how to improve them over what you have

GETTING DOWN TO CASES

Here are some "musts" for February by Leonard Bies:

1. Plan your garden now; changes, new additions, improvements.
2. Order your seeds and plants and other stock now; also fertilizers.
3. Inspect bulbs and tubers; go over them carefully.
4. Check cold frames and seed flats; also heating elements.
5. Repair tools, sprayers, dusters, etc.
6. Prune trees; grape vines; fruit bushes, such as gooseberries and currants. Don't prune spring flowering shrubs; for example, forsythia, lilacs, mock-orange, spirea and flowering almond or quince. Prune only dead wood or broken branches.
7. Burn all rubbish in garden as soon as it can be collected and eliminate many pests.
8. Check mulches where ground is bare of snow and replace that which has blown away.

WANT TO BE A GUINEA PIG?

As an added inducement (like premiums with cereals) our President has appointed a "New Idea" Committee made up of Jack Cohen, Ed Montgomery and Archie Flack. They will advance new ideas to members for growing flowers, fruits and vegetables. Such new ideas will be assigned to the "special interest" groups, and you'll have an opportunity to become a guinea pig. Bill Swain, chairman of New Projects, will be in charge.

COURT OF HONOR

In appreciation of Harold Kaufmann's aggressive leadership as President of the Club during the year 1947, and in recognition of Rene Dufourd's untiring efforts as Secretary, Archie Flack, on behalf of the membership, presented to Harold an order for a Peace Standard Rose, and to Rene a collection of violets and expressed the hope that each successive bloom would remind them of our esteem.

"TRY YOUR LUCK"

So says Ralph Sherman, as he scans some of the new things - and some versed to sound new - in the current seed catalogs:

1948 All-America Selections:

Radiance Cosmos, Deep Rose - Central zone, red, button cushion yellow stamen.

Pink Sensation Petunia - Multifloral, 33" tall, erect.

Hybrid Tea Roses - Diamond Jubilee, buff orange, vigorous plants.

Nocturne - dark velvety cardinal red, streamlined.

San Fernando - Currant-red with pronounced fragrance.

Taffeta - Pink and salmon, 21 petals, long stems.

Red Head Marigold - Dwarf 2" blooms, single, French type, compact growth.

Vegetables -

Excel - a yellow Bermuda onion

Freezonian Pea - combining the garden qualities of Thomas Laxton with a more heat- and cold-hardy pea.

Puregold Wax Mopbean - golden-yellow pods; heavy cropping.

Victory Freeze Pea - Bred for high quality; yield and resistance to hot and cold weather.

Cherokee - a wax-podded snapbean - hardy, vigorous, good quality.

Here are a few other so-called new items: Midget Vegetables including Tom Thumb

AIR IN SOIL AS VITAL AS WATER

In a digest of interesting articles from current garden magazines, Harold Wright included an observation on the importance of fresh air to garden plant roots. Scientific studies have proved that in porous soil the air down to a depth of 8" is completely changed once every hour.

(Quotation from National Garden Bureau Clipping Sheet #2)

"Both the leaves and roots of land plants breathe. When the soil in which they grow is flooded, air is excluded, and when this condition lasts too long, the plant can drown, as surely as (though more slowly than) an animal which sinks under water.

"As water sinks down and drains off, air re-enters the porous soil, provided the surface of the soil allows free passage. But when the surface is compacted as a result of wetting, baking in the sun, or other causes, circulation of the air is checked and the plants will suffer.

"To loosen a compact or crusted surface and restore the free exchange of air is a chief purpose of cultivation. The destruction of weeds is another. The former theory that cultivation is necessary to create a "dust mulch" on the soil to check evaporation of soil water is no longer widely held.

"But amateur gardeners, who have observed that plants grow better after the surface soil has been stirred and the crust broken, should keep on doing this in much the same way.

"Experiments have definitely disposed of the old-time theory that the deeper soil is cultivated, the better. It seems to be established that an inch - or two inches at the most - is as deep as the hoe should go down. Stirring any deeper, particularly close to plants, may disturb the roots of growing plants and do more harm than good.

"Mulches over the soil will serve the same purpose as cultivation by preventing crust formation and keeping fresh air in the soil. Good drainage is also stressed by the studies in aeration. Unless water runs off quickly after a flooding rain, lack of air will injure and perhaps destroy the plants.

"But all these manipulations of the soil will fail if the soil itself is not porous. This means having coarse particles and almost any material which will serve to coarsen a heavy soil, especially one containing too much clay, will be beneficial. What builders call torpedo sand, cinders, ashes and especially limestone screenings, which have a special chemical effect in clay, may be spaded in liberally.

"Above all, any kind of humus, including decayed manure, peat and compost, will help loosen the soil, as well as improve it in other ways."

A.S.T.A. STILL OPEN FOR DONATIONS

Already 27 packages of seeds have been sent to Europe by Danish Seed and Gregory Seed (at cost) in the name of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. Send your money to Cortis N. Rice, Jr., 153 Interlachen Road, Hopkins but do not

MEAT FOR SPECIALISTS

Whether your special interest is in roses or onions, sweet peas or table peas, herbs or herbarium, you'll find a Special Interest Chairman (published in the February SPRAY) ready to go to