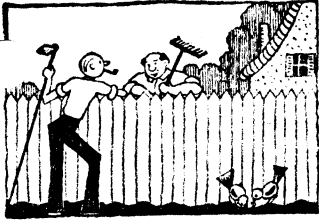


THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



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

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Jack Cohen, Editor

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Secretary
Walter R. Menzel
Treasurer

MAY MEETING

Tuesday, May 8, 1945
Fountain Terrace, Medical Arts Bldg.

PROGRAM

- 5:00 P.M. Board of Directors Meeting
- 5:30 Dinner, Fountain Terrace, \$1.25
- 6:15 Business meeting
Regular announcements
Project reports
Preview of next meeting
William Holmberg
- 6:40 Victory Gardens
Maximum production in small gardens; ornamental vegetables; best varieties of vegetables.
Dr. W. H. Alderman, Chief, Horticultural Department, University Farm, University of Minnesota.
- 7:40 Plantings for Shady Places
W. R. Menzel
- 7:50 How to Get Choice Blooms
Henry Bachman
- 8:00 Get Your Roses in Now
H. W. Bishop
- 8:20 Questions and Answers
G. G. Cerney

Directors

E. R. White
W. C. Addy
William Block
Ed Montgomery
Fred Paul

We are fortunate indeed to have the Chief of the Horticultural Department of the Farm School on our program. Dr. Alderman's reputation as a horticulturist is national. Don't miss this meeting!

Arrangement of Perennials

F. Elmer Hallberg - Landscape Architect

F. Elmer Hallberg gave the Club its 1st talk on the artistic arrangement of perennials in a flower garden. It was the sort of talk that makes one realize that gardening can be a fine art - and that a garden should be something more than a nursery or a mere flower farm.

Mr. Hallberg pointed out that some gardeners collect plants as others collect stamps or old glass, without thought of their relationship to each other. This is not to be condemned. Most of us are collectors in the earlier stages of our gardening careers of necessity in order to satisfy our curiosities about the nature and habits of many plants and to learn the characteristics and cultural requirements when grown under the environment of our particular gardens. But the aim of the gardener should be more than to be a collector. He should make a garden scene which will be satisfying to the esthetic sense during every season of the year.

Specific suggestions by Mr. Hallberg included the following:

Make beds at least 8 to 10 feet deep.

Plant tulips in clumps among perennials so they will grow as they do in nature as the result of the separation and increase of a few bulbs.

Place peonies singly and irregular as the garden feature of their particular blooming season.

Use clumps of iris toward the front edge of a bed; they will not do well if crowded by other plants and they make a splendid accent. Choose iris of a clean, clear color; those varieties are interesting in a miniature bottle but not effective in a garden.

Phlox is our most useful perennial should form the nucleus for a lot of carefully chosen combinations with other flowers of harmonious or contrasting complementary colors.

Chrysanthemums may be used to transform the fall garden into an entirely new color scheme, and the opportunity to combine these with blue and purple fall asters should not be overlooked.

Mr. Hallberg concluded by describing to the Club several especially beautiful combinations of perennials which he named specific variety, explaining at the same time the reasons why each plant was used in the grouping suggested. Most generally he offered to permit the Club to make use of the charts which he has prepared showing perennials grouped by color when they bloom in Minnesota at various seasons of the year.

Insecticides - by an Expert

Mr. J. Radeck of McLaughlin, Gormley & King, discussed insecticides at the March meeting. He first classified the poisonous and also the non-poisonous insecticides, stated the uses to which each is put. He informed us that experiments with pyrethrum dusting of sugar beets in Southern Minnesota showed a perfect result, as opposed to 90% defoliation of plants in an adjoining field dusted with paris green at the same time. He stated that pyrethrum was not being imported exclusively from Japan just before the war as is generally believed, but that an important part of our supply comes from Africa. Experiments are being conducted by his firm with growing of the variety of pyrethrum from which the insecticide is derived both in Colorado and on the Northern Pacific Coast.

Interesting information was given us also about DDT. This was first discovered in Europe many years ago, but has only been widely used since the war. The problem in its use has been the fact that when applied in solution to the skin, it has a toxic effect on warm-blooded animals, and when used on plants, it is liable to destroy many of the pollen-bearing, useful insects also, as well as destructive pests. While it has a remarkable ability to destroy insects long after its application, the practical use of

On Soil Testing

Walter P. Quist, our member who has made extensive use of Sudberry soil-testing outfits, gave demonstrations and explained the use of a soil-testing kit and recommended soil testing.

Things to Do in April

J. T. Hanson took the monthly assignment on "Things To Do In April". He recommended rolling the lawn after a thorough raking, the removal of shrubby suckers, the filing of tools, planting of perennial seeds for next year's flowers, and spading with a fork. He also advised careful check of maple trees to determine if sap suckers, a form of woodpecker, are working on the trees. If so, the bark should be covered with paper until the season is past as the birds may kill the trees (he has also found that these birds attack pine trees).

Question and Answer Period

The Question and Answer period conducted by Mr. Cerney was principally an opportunity to question Mr. Hallberg. Some of the questions and answers were as follows:

Q. Name some good ornamental perennial grasses.

A. Blue Lyme Grass, which is a very decorative bluish-green and spreads rapidly but may be pulled out easily; dwarf variegated; and blue fescue grass. All are available at Wayside Gardens.

Q. Where should Oriental Poppy be planted?

A. Do not plant beside anything which will crowd them in August. They should be planted in the open.

Q. Can Laubernum be raised here?

A. It has never been seen growing in this part of the country and is probably not hardy here.

Q. Can we uncover perennials this early in April or should we wait until the normal time?

A. Perennials should be uncovered now; unusually warm weather will damage them if they are not uncovered.

Q. How can a rugosa rose be propagated?

A. Cut new ends off in the fall into pieces 6 to 8 inches long and bury them in a damp place in the garden with only the top projecting. These should sprout and grow in the spring.

Q. How much wood ashes can be used?

A. Plants with root tubers can tolerate as much wood ash as you want to apply up to 2 inches. Plants with small root systems may be damaged by too much potash in ashes.

Use Your 1945 Membership Roster!

The purpose of the Roster is to let you know who and where your fellow-members live so you can (1) phone a fellow-member for information; (2) informally inspect or visit his garden; or (3) pool rides. Phone members in your zone, either inviting them or asking them for a

A very limited number of these Rosters and calendars was printed. Keep yours in a convenient place and use it. Use your program calendar too! Study it & look forward enthusiastically to each informative and inspiring meeting that has been planned for you. The Snow

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Speeding Up Annuals

Walter E. Menzel

Undoubtedly you have been following Usher Smith's suggestions as to planting your early annuals, the care and preparation of flats, prevention of damping off, covering, etc. Possibly and preferably you have been adding some plant food too in your sprinkling water and thus increase their vigor notably.

An easy solution to mix was mentioned a number of times in Garden Club publications, viz.:

- 1 teaspoon phosphate type baking powder
- 1 teaspoon saltpetre
- 1 teaspoon Epsom Salts
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon household ammonia to one gallon of water

A still easier ready-made, high concentrate completely soluble plant-starting complete fertilizer is Grolux or Hyponex.

Transplanting from flats to small pots or flats with more space will greatly increase growth and hardiness and root systems, before final planting outdoors.

Since plant food (fertilizer) is to be the gist of this discussion, remember that only three elements are as a rule needed. Their functions are:

Nitrogen - promotes leafy growth, succulence. P - like bone, which is largely phosphate, gives a plant stamina & sturdy stems. K - potash, or lack of it, is discernible more at the fruiting period. It has a function in the formation of starch and sugars. K adds to sweetness and flavor and in the case of flowers, adds color and brilliance.

Detect plant food deficiencies: yellow on corn - N; bronzing on potatoes - K; small growth - P.

Now if it is the time of year when you can safely transplant outdoors, we assume that you are planting in a garden soil, well-prepared, mellow and with a good drainage.

Plant your seedlings, disturb roots as little as possible - and if in pots, disturb even less. Have your planting holes all ready so as not to delay with uncovered roots. Choose if you can a cloudy day or late afternoon to prevent the hot sun. A good idea if roots are broken off is to reduce evaporation surface of the leaves balancing the outgo with in-go of moisture through the roots.

Have your starter solution ready, place plant in hole, pour $\frac{1}{2}$ cup over roots, fill in hole and firm gently. If you are in doubt about frost, or to help certain plants, use hotcaps.

Weeding is important; mulch very shallow so as not to disturb roots. Results of starter solutions have been very good & profitable. Commercial tomatoes cost 46¢ per acre; increased yield, 4.3 tons, and at \$2 bushel, gain, \$80.00.

Treating plants some weeks before transplanting increased field yield as much as 3.3 tons. It is interesting to note that hormones showed no results.

I use Hyponex, a box at \$1.00 makes 100 gallons. If this is unavailable and the highest concentration of commercial fertilizer is 4-12-4, you can make up just a small amount as you need it:

$\frac{1}{4}$ # of 4-12-4 to one quart water. Drain off this solution and add nine quarts of water, then $\frac{1}{2}$ cup to each plant ($\frac{1}{4}$ pint)

In large quantities, 5 to 10# fertilizer to 50 gal. of water. It is rather well to use less than too much to avoid burning.

New Roses

All-American winners for 1945 . . . MIRANDY - a grand, very double red rose, has a vigorous healthy bush allowing plenty of blooms throughout the season. HORACE McFARLAND - a deep and rich salmon-pink rose. The coloring glows in artificial light as well as in daylight. It is bound to become one of our cherished garden roses. FLORADORA - the third of