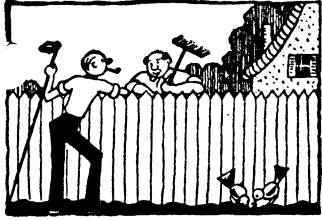


THE GARDEN SPRAY



BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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

Volume 4
Number 5
Jack Cohen, Editor

May, 1946

Ed Montgomery, Associate Editor

Office of the
Secretary
4302 Branson St.
Minneapolis, 10

Officers

G. G. Cerney,
President
Walter Menzel
Vice-President
Jim Cristman
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MAY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, May 7
Place: Parking Area
(See map)
Theodore Wirth Park
Time: 4:30 P.M.

PROGRAM

4:30 P.M. Conducted tours of the
Eloise Butler Wild Plant
Preserve and Upland Wild
Plant Preserve

6:00 Picnic supper provided

6:45 Talk by Curator, Mrs.
Crone

7:00 Talk by Clinton Odell

7:05 "Musts" for May

7:25 Auction. Bring your sur-
plus plants, bulbs, seed-
lings, etc.
Bishop & Janes, Auction-
eers (unlicensed).

Directors

Archie Flack
Herbert Kahlert
Harold Kaufmann
Ed Montgomery
Fred Paul

NOTE: In event of inclement weather,
the meeting will be postponed until
the following day.

APRIL ROLL CALL

The roll call for the April 9th meeting showed that fifty members were present and accounted for. We missed some of our old timers, such as the Addys, Dumas, Bishop, Edlund, Mann, Radecky, Luxton, Titus, Quist, etc. It was the loss of the absentees if they missed this stimulating, constructive and interesting

THE ROSARIANS MEET

Thirty-two members of the Garden Club met at a special meeting on April 15th for members interested in the growing of roses. Charlie Doell presided and gave an interesting summary of rose-growing in Minnesota. He brought out the point that Minnesota is not an ideal rose-growing spot and that we must be choosy on the varieties to grow in this section of the country.

This was the object of a questionnaire which was distributed to the members, and another questionnaire will be presented in the Fall when they will report their experiences with roses so the results can be tabulated and given as "Proof of the Pudding" for Minneapolis.

Charlie brought out that there is no necessity for a dormant season in the growing of roses. The reason that roses ~~do~~ lay down on their growing during the summer months is lack of water for they need large amounts in the heat of summer.

Rose culture means keeping the growth going luxuriantly all during the period from June to frost and the three essentials are spraying, dusting and water-soaking.

Black dust is the worst disease of roses

and Fermate is the best thing on the market to retard it.

Let us grow roses as well as we can and keep a record so as to get enough information from the statistical data to serve as a guide for future experiments and selection of types of roses to grow.

You have to make up your mind that you can't have quality and profusion of bloom. If you want large, long-stemmed blooms, you will have to disbud and go severe on pruning.

It is best to have fewer varieties and more of each kind and experiment on pruning, feeding, etc. so as to see what method of handling gets the best results.

A discussion was held on the advisability of buying potted roses. One argument against this was that the roots seem to be cramped and that dormant plants seem better and live longer.

Bill Holmberg felt that age favored the potted roses; Cristman that his potted roses gave larger blooms. Menzel's experience with dormant roses was that they resulted in poor growth, while his best roses came from those that were potted and thus did not winter-kill so easily.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: Does a dahlia produce as many roots from plants as from roots?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Is it too early to plant sweet peas?

Answer: No.

Question: How do you prepare poppies for a flower show?

Answer: Put stems in boiling water for 20 minutes and they will last in perfect

Answer: A half pound to a gallon of water

Question: Do you recommend Zotox for erg grass?

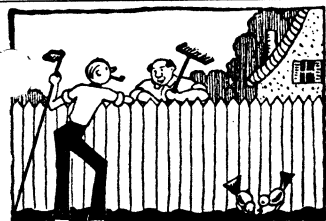
Answer: The same thing is arsenious oxide which can be bought in a drugstore.

Question: What do you know about sodium selenate?

Answer: Not much work has been done on it. It is dangerous to get into the system, however.

THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



MEMBER—MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA
RECOMMENDED VEGETABLES FOR MINNEAPOLIS GARDENS CULTURAL SOCIETY

Bill Swain gives names and facts

Each of my readers no doubt has his own pet varieties that have given him pleasure both in growing and eating. The recommendations to be made in this article are based on personal experience with the various varieties, except some of this year's trials which are based on contact with Harold Pederson, our County Agent, Dr. Hutchins of the University Farm School, and various growers. Varieties are chosen for their quality as show specimens, table quality either fresh, canned or frozen, and their resistance to infection.

Asparagus - Martha Washington is still the favorite in this vegetable and highly resistant to rust.

Bush Wax Bean - Pencil Pod Black Wax.

Bush Green Bean - Tendergreen and Stringless Green bean are the best. Black Valentine is a good early bean but not suitable for canning as it has black beans which discolor the fruit when canned. Tendergreen and Stringless Green are both very good fresh, canned or frozen.

Bush Lima - Clark's is better than Henderson's because it stays green longer, giving more latitude in picking. If the Henderson is not picked when ready, it becomes dry and ripens, while the Clark's remains green after maturity. This year I am trying Thorogreen, but from the seed it looks exactly like Clark's. All of these are the small bean type such as you find when buying frozen or canned limas.

Pole Lima - No experience but trying King of the Garden.

Pole Green Bean - Kentucky Wonder good but of strong bean flavor. Potomac is the new American Award. I grew pole beans only once but prefer the bush type.

Beets - Asgrow Canner is one which I have grown for three years and taken first place that many times at the Minneapolis Garden Fair. Its color is deeper than Detroit Dark Red, another of my favorites. The quality of Crosby, Early Egyptian and Early Wonder is not equal to the above two varieties.

Broccoli - Italian Green Sprouting is the best of three varieties tried.

Brussels Sprouts - Long Island Improved is the only one I've tried. It is good.

Cabbage (red) - Wisconsin Red Hollander is yellow resistant and has taken prizes.

Cabbage (early) - Golden Acre and Copenhagen Market are my favorites for early cabbage, but Danish Ballhead is the best for main crop. Marion Market is of good quality and I recommend it if you are late in seeding for fall crop. Savoy, the crinkled leaf type, is late but worth every effort. It is superb for slaw.

Chinese Cabbage - No previous experience but trying Wong Bok and Chihili this year.

All crucifers, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower can be seeded from April 15 to June 1 and transplanted to give a good fall crop which is bet-

Cauliflower - Any of the Snowball varieties is good. The quality of crop depends on the weather at time of maturity, the amount of leaves and the care in tying. Tie leaves when bud is 3" or less. If the weather is hot, harvest when head is 4". In cool weather you can get a 6" or 8" head before separation. I usually pick heads at about 4", which insures best quality. Trying White Mountain this year; this freezes well.

Purple Cauliflower - really broccoli, very mild. When cooked it turns green.

Celtuce - Tried last year but hot weather got it even though transplanted in shade

Celriac - Tried Large Enfurt which is smoother than Prague Giant but had poor yield on sandy soil. Trying plants this year of both varieties.

Corn - Any of the 8-row open pollinated will give good quality for table and freezing on the cob. Early Golden Sweet, 3½ to 4' tall, 70 days; Golden Bantam Standard, best of them all, is 5 to 5½ feet tall, matures in about 83 days. Extra Early Golden Bantam, 4½ to 5 feet tall, matures in about 76 days. If you have only a small space, mix a little of each and have a longer picking period. Plant not less than two rows and to insure full ears, rub your hand over tassel when in full pollen, preferably with a fuzzy glove, and rub into the silk of the ear. In a day or two when the silk is dry, cut silk with shears and dust with Rotenone; or mix with mineral oil and squirt several drops into the cut. This will keep out corn worm.

As a main crop of sweet corn I've tried various types of 10- to 16-rowed varieties such as King's Cross, Golden Cross Bantam, Kanner's King, Country Gentleman and Stowell's Evergreen. The last two are usually too late for our season and none has met all requirements like Kanner's King. It is tops and took a first at the Garden Fair last year. Excellent quality either on or off the cob.

Cucumber - A & C, which is much like Colorado, is an All-American and is resistant to mosaic. Minchu is excellent for the small garden. It has a shorter fruit than other varieties but is just as thick. It pollinates well because it does not grow more than 3 feet from the hill and resists mosaic better than A & C or Colorado. I have tried National Pickling, Early White Spine, Longfellow, Long Green and Straight Eight, none of which equals Colorado or Minchu.

Eggplant - Black Beauty is the only one I've tried.

Endive - Green Curled in 1944 was good from early outdoor seeding but not so good in 1945 even though shade grown. This year I have plants of both Green Curled and Bavarian Full Heart and by transplanting I hope to get a good early crop. This is a good salad vegetable and is excellent for wilting with hot mayonnaise.

Kale - Dwarf Curled tried only once. Looks nice in the garden and as garnish but there are other vegetables my family prefers.

Kohlrabi - Either white or purple if you like it.

Leaf Lettuce - Grand Rapids is the favorite above Black Seeded Simpson, Cos and Oak Leaf. If you want the kind you see in the stores, you must transplant your seedlings twice. Thinning will not produce large leaves. Breaking the tap root is the secret. Plants are obtainable for early crop.

plantings, even though shade-grown, developed heads which never went past the transplanting despite applications of starter solutions. This year I set out plants of Imperial #847 on April 15 and anticipate a fair crop.

Leek - London Flag or American Flag. Both, even though heavily fed, did not get as large as they should. Must be started in April. Best if set out as plants.

Muskmelon - Tried Hale's Best without success.

Watermelon - Tried Northern Sweet without success.

Mustard - Giant Curled and Tendergreen, both excellent early crop for salad and cooked green like spinach or mixed with spinach or other cooked greens. Does not can or freeze well.

Okra - Tried Mammoth Long Pod and have seen Dwarf Green Velvet in Harold Kaufmann's garden and saw it take a first prize at the 1945 Garden Fair. A very ornamental plant, nice blossoms and foliage.

Onions (seeded) - Southport Yellow Globe and Danver's Yellow Globe vary in size but keep well, seldom get over one inch. Must be seeded early in April. Onions (sets) - Sets of the above varieties will produce larger onions than from seed but do not keep as well. Yellow and red onions are more easily grown and cured to quality than the white. Exposure to the sun will cause white onions to become slightly green, which reduces their quality. Onions (Bermudas) - Either white or yellow are gratifying to grow but like Spanish onions do not keep well past Christmas. Onions (multipliers) - Try them for green onions. They are of top quality as small green onions for relish or salad. They do not develop mature onions. Use as an intercrop.

The culture of onions is very important and most gardeners do not do the right things. Onions require lots of nitrogen and water and should not be planted deep. Seeded onions must be thinned before they drop the seed shell. If you seed with the idea of thinning by pulling green onions, you cannot expect large mature onions. Disturbing the roots stops or retards their growth. Set onions are grown by running a hoe under the bulbs when they are of proper size. Do not hoe dirt up on the bulk which is supposed to develop above the ground.

Peas - Smooth seeded. Alaskas are the earliest of all peas and grow from 2½ to 4 feet high. I do not grow any of the other later smooth seeded peas because their quality is not equal to the wrinkled varieties. I tried Alderman, but the quality was poor. The Alaska is good only because it is table quality and a good canner. It does not freeze well, but bears heavily. Wrinkled - I have tried Dwarf Telephone, Giant Stride, Hamper Giant Podded, Thomas Laxton and Laxton Progress and find the latter to give the best quality for table, canning and freezing. The Thomas Laxton is also excellent but has higher vines and must be supported, while the Laxton Progress is lower and lends itself to intercropping with corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, cabbage, etc. It is a 62-day crop and is out before any of the others mentioned are a foot high. Plant April 15 or sooner if you can in double rows 6' apart and drop seed 6 to 8 to the foot. Interesting but not worth the space are the Edible Pod Mammoth, Melting Sugar and Mammoth Luscious Sugar unless you have lots of room and can support 6 foot vines. They neither freeze nor can.

This year I am trying Glacier, which is reported a wilt-resisting strain of Thom-

Peppers - Calwonder is the best in this climate. It has a thick, heavy meat. Bullnose is earlier than Calwonder but is of poor quality with thin meat.

Pimiento - Sunnybrook is a highly recommended variety by a St. Paul market grower for this climate.

Pumpkin - Sugar Pie and Winter Luxury, both small fruited of fair quality. I've tried Connecticut Field but never had a mature fruit. This year I'm trying Cheyenne, which is ideal for small gardens as it does not grow over 4 feet from hill.

Potatoes - Sweet. Do not mature in our climate but have very ornamental foliage. Must be set out as plants. Potatoes - White or Irish. Chippewa, Sebego and Sequoia are only fair keepers but do well in almost any soil. I have tried Green Mountain and Triumph which are supposed to do well in light soil but had poor results. Warba and Katahdin do best in muck and peat as does the Irish Cobbler. Green Mountain requires light soil, and Early Ohio does well in almost any soil. My favorites are Chippewa, Sebego and Sequoia, which are highly resistant to blight.

Radish - White Icicle and Firecracker best because they stand longer without getting pithy and strong. Others which are good are Scarlet Globe, Crimson Giant, Scarlet Turnip and French Breakfast. This year I am trying Early Red Robin, a 16 day Scarlet Globe. Intercrop all radishes. Do not waste space with them.

Spinach - Bloomsdale Long Standing is good for table and freezing but not as blight resistant as Virginia Blight Resistant. Try Tendergreen Mustard-Spinach for table if you like greens. Spinach can be used as an intercrop with beans, cabbage, etc as it is out before you plant beans and can be worked while cabbage is still small. Plant any time in April. It is a 45-day crop. New Zealand is a good green but not really a spinach. It is all right as a summer crop but germinate very slowly. Pick only the leaves.

Swiss Chard - Lucullus better eating than Fordhook Giant or Rhubard. I like beet tops better than the rhubarb chard which does not freeze well.

Squash - Hubbard Chicago Warty, Table Queen and Mammoth Table Queen are the only squash I have tried. This year I'm trying Buttercup, Green Gold and Butternut. Although I have never eaten or grown them, I find White Bush Scallop, Straight Neck and Zucchini among the favorite summer squash.

Tomatoes - I have grown Marglobe, Victory, Bounty, Bison, Bonny Best, John Baer, Finesteele, Kondine Special, Pritchard, Stokesdale, Jubilee and Red Cherry. Though I have never tried it, I find Valiant the earliest to market. For midseason crop I will plant Stokesdale and a few Burpee's Hybrid, and for the main crop, I think Rutgers is tops. A check of 1944 seed sales in the U.S. revealed that 80% of the total tonnage of tomato seed sold was Rutgers. Jubilee will also find a place in my garden. It is a good salad tomato and an excellent canner and juicer.

Earliana, John Baer, Bonny Best and Bachman's Special as early tomatoes have good records and will bear fruit through to frost as they have good foliage, but like all early tomatoes, their color is often only fair. Bison, Victory, Bounty and Finesteele are all good early tomatoes for semi-shaded locations and were developed for cool summers. Like other early varieties, however, the color is always questionable. Avoid Dwarf Champion, Osheart, Ponderosa and Beefsteak. They are very

CONTROL OF WEEDS WITH 2,4-D

A. H. Larson of the University of Minnesota, was kind enough to come over and give us a talk on the timely subject of controlling weeds with the chemical preparation, 2,4-D. The talk was scholarly, interesting and yet simply told and your correspondent hopes that he was alert enough to follow Dr. Larson's beautiful presentation of his interesting subject.

The plant is a machine and if certain things are offered to it, it makes something out of it. For instance, sugar and starch become canned sunlight to the plant itself. We regulate plants by offering them stimulating substances; thus vitamins are regulators which influence action of growth to a certain degree.

The object of the use of such preparations as Rootone is to get bigger and better plants. Such growth is accomplished by hastening cell division and changed units of inheritance. By changing the number of chromosomes, we create "sports".

Plant regulators or "hormones" are used to give enough to the plant to "throw it out of gear", and the plant thus becomes a "spendthrift" and a bigger and better plant. This is really the principle, odd as it may seem, of destroying weeds, and the most useful chemical combination for this purpose is 2,4-D. It is insoluble in water and is usually mixed with a high melting water-soluble wax for use. Sodium salts of 2,4-D are soluble in water as well as in other forms of solution.

This is how it works: A minute amount - one part to 1,000 parts of water - is enough to handle an acre of land. It volatilizes and enters the plant. It gets into the plant and causes the starch to disappear and the sugar to increase, and so the plants grow rapidly. In a week the sugar goes down, the plant gets pale because the chlorophyll is lessened by losing its capacity for development, and the plant gradually dies.

2,4-D is not poisonous and experiments in which it was given livestock to drink have shown no harm to the animals.

It is applied to the leaves and carried throughout all parts of the plant to the roots so that the plant dies all at once. It works best on "up-and-down" plants and not on plants that lie side-to-side like the Canadian thistle. Not all plants are affected by it. No one knows why except the Creator, and he probably won't tell us.

Grasses are not affected by 2,4-D if it does not reach the roots, but it surely does the work on dandelions, plantain, etc. It does not affect crabgrass or some of the dogwood plants.

2,4-D comes in a liquid, dust or salt soluble in water. It has a great future on the farm for eliminating weeds for its cost per use is about \$3 per acre. It is not good on fields that are to be used for potatoes or sugar beets. Apply when the temperature is between 60 and 70 degrees.

It is also good to eliminate chickweed, healall and ground ivy. It is hoped that it will destroy the pollen of crabgrass.

PREPARATION OF FLOWERS FOR SHOW

Bill Holmberg

Spraying and watering are two essentials for exhibition blooms.

YOU CAN'T HAVE QUALITY AND QUANTITY.

Disbud delphinium and gladioli if you want exhibition blooms and thin them to one good bloom.

If you get one good bloom from a dahlia plant for a show, that is okay. In miniature dahlias, you do not show for size, and the smaller they are the better if the blooms are perfect. Take off the two side buds unless the side stem is longer, but "there again it's a matter of opinion".

I use wire cages - made out of 18" chicken wire - with an 18" ring covered with a cloth top. Put this around the preferred plant and expected bloom. I make a triangle of three stakes and tie a cloth heavier than cheesecloth around the lower stem of the plant. I go further and put a canvas cover with snap-on clothespins which keep out the wind and rain.

This was all right for the beginning, but now I figure that it isn't worth taking any chance with the entire plant so that I have 6-foot hoops of wire to protect the entire plant and thus plan to get two, three or four exhibition blooms. A good wife is needed for putting on the canvas cover in case of rain. The object of all this fuss is to protect the blooms from wind, rain and bugs. The results are shown in the winning of 78 points in first classes and runner-up of 28 points.

To make show peonies, put up a five foot pipe with an elbow next to the plant and cover it with an awning in case of rain because unless you do this, your prize beauty is going to look like "a bunch of mops" instead of perfection in bloom.

Disbranch and disbud to get effects and go to the experts in our club for advice in getting ready to show your blooms at a flower show. Cut the flowers the night before the show at sundown.

OUR VICTORY GARDEN PLANS 1946

A whole issue could be devoted to the work Gregory Lucking was the ideal man, thru Bill Swain is doing for the city at large his position as Park Board horticulturist, in stimulating interest in growing of vegetables for 1946. We are devoting a good portion of this issue to Bill because he gives us such a fine presentation of the right vegetables to grow in the Minneapolis area and the results that he secured with them.

He is a great hobbyist on stimulating children's gardens and he has done much throughout the city as a whole as well as

BEDDING PLANTS AND ARRANGEMENTS

to give us a talk on this interesting subject about which most of us know very little.

In the modern trend, flower beds have disappeared to inconspicuous places in the garden, which has been a ruling of the landscape architect profession. In other words, gardens are to be seen and not heard and the dominant picture of any landscaping is a beautiful green lawn