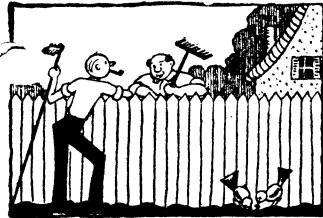


THE GARDEN SPRAY



BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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

Volume 6
Number 5
Victor Lowrie, Editor

May, 1948
Associate Editors
Jack Cohen, Ed Montgomery

MAY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, May 11, 1948
Place: Paint Shop, Park Board
Maintenance Shops -
near 38th & Bryant S.
Time: 5:30 P.M.
Dinner: \$1.00 per person

PROGRAM

- 6:20 Meeting called. President Stanley Lund. - Announcements, Business
- 6:25 Again Freedom Gardens - Vice-President Wm. E. Swain
- 6:30 Digest of Current Magazine Articles - A. G. Dewars
- 7:00 Report on Atlanta Convention - H. E. Kahlert
- 7:30 Auction - Frank A. Janes, William E. Swain
- (Note: Bring your excess seedlings, perennials, shrubbery, bulbs, evergreens, cuttings, garden appliances and supplies. Proceeds to Club Treasury. Also a short announcement on the June Flower Show by Harold Kaufmann.)

Officers

Stanley D. Lund,
President
William E. Swain
Vice-President
Rene J. Dufourd,
Secretary
Cortis N. Rice, Jr.
Treasurer
Harold R. Kaufmann,
Past President

Office of the Secretary

5020 Second Avenue S.
Minneapolis 9

FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE

Russ Bechtel	Ray Edlund	George Luxton	Bill Swain
Bill Block	Archie Flack	Carl Nelson	George Titus
G. G. Cerney	Bill Holmberg	Harold Nelson	Bob Bryant
L. E. Cristman	Herb Kahlert	Walter Quist	Chris Mosberg
E. C. Culbert	Vic Lowrie	Cortis Rice	Brad Gregory
C. E. Doell	Greg Lucking	Ralph Sherman	Larry Corbett
Rene Dufourd	Stanley Lund	Harold Stevens	

Chairmen will have the following duties:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. Schedule | 5. Information | 10. Tickets |
| 2. Housekeeping | 6. Feature Exhibits | 11. Publicity |
| 3. Judging | 7. Staging | 12. Awards |

APRIL 13th MEETING

Last month's meeting was certainly a humdinger as far as interest and attendance were concerned. Fifty-two members showed up and the post-meeting discussions carried on and on until the lights were turned out.

Your correspondent failed to catch the names of the several guests our members brought to the meeting, but he recorded the following:

John Mortland of Campbell-Midthun - and a future prospective member
Bill Block's brother up from Moline, Illinois
J. B. Hudson (or is it that he's just with the well-known jewelry firm) whose gardening specialty is tuberous begonias
Dr. Fred Schaaf (Frederick H. K. to his patients) who arrived late because he thought all dinner meetings start at 6:30 P.M.
Carl Holst - Rosarian and our guest speaker
Carl Carson - from Westinghouse Electric who moved here from Duluth because he couldn't raise tomatoes up in the Lake Superior country

BILL ADDY TRAVELS WEST

Bill Addy, on his California jaunt, just got to Pasadena, rented a home and remained in the neighborhood for his five-weeks' vacation.

He found stocks the most prolific bloomer in March, while sweet peas, iris, marigold, calla lily and peach trees were all in bloom. Geraniums and English ivy grow like weeds and just fill the boulevards.

Santa Anita race track is a showplace of gorgeous flowers, particularly the gigantic beds of yellow pansies. The race track people used to let their customers help themselves to the flowers, but this practice has been stopped.

Notes by Addy: Small juice oranges are bought by the pail . . . Likes to live near San Diego - say LaJolla - for the ideal climate . . . Saw a whale spouting in the ocean on the daylight trip to San Francisco . . . The Golden Gate Park, 1,400 acres large, tries to have every kind of tree and flower from throughout the world. They import special soil to make the foreign plants at home . . .
Weather Report: Bad, damp and cool. Only five days of above 70° weather during his five weeks trip.

MEN AT WORK NEXT SUMMER

Herb Kahlert wired from Atlanta, "Men's Garden Club Convention unanimously awarded Twin Cities in 1949. Have Luxton get story in papers."

WHAT'S NEW IN THE GARDEN MAGAZINES

Harold Kaufmann, pinch-hitting for Vic Lowrie, gave a good digest report on the outstanding articles which appeared in The Flower Garden, Home Gardener and Minnesota Horticulturist.

Some of the highlights of his report were:

Secretary Allen of the American Rose Society recommends planting two roses to a row not closer than 2-2½ feet apart. Planting starts with a good soil, says Alex Lowrie in discussing the fundamentals of gardening.

If rust gives you the creeps, clean your tools with a weak solution of hydrochloric acid. Vermiculite is the ideal medium for rooting cuttings and starting seedlings.

PLANTING PERENNIALS IN SPRING

G. G. Cerney

I like perennials - guess that's why I'm talking about them. I like perennials to the extent that I raise over 80 species and 2 to 15 varieties of some species. I have tried many more but dropped them because of semi-hardiness, wrong soil conditions, quack-like growth, sloppy appearance, etc.

I like perennials because they start the blooming season before it is even safe to plant most annual seeds outside. By the middle of April you can expect the bright blue Scillas followed in rapid succession by Bloodroot, Hepatica, Chinodoxia, Anemone (Pul.), Trillium, Narcissus, Saxifrage, Mertensia, Fringed Bleeding Heart, Wild Columbine, Cowslip, Arabis, Early Tulips, Iris Pumila, Wild Phlox, Grape Hyacinth.

By this time it is about the middle of May, and safe to plant most annual seeds but too early to set out plants of tender annuals - then it will take several weeks before the earliest of them bloom. In the meantime perennials such as Tulips, Hemerocallis, Iris and Peony are blooming.

I like perennials because there is very little to do about them in the spring; except for appearance sake, the ground wouldn't even have to be raked! I like perennials because they continue through the season and beyond the annuals and light frosts.

Perennials can be grown from seed as easily as annuals, and from some - if planted early - you can expect blooms the same season. For instance carnations, Dianthus, Delphiniums, Cerianthus, Coreopsis, Hibiscus, Pentstemon, Salvia, Shasta Daisy, Verbena, Venosa, Viola and others. This is also true with bulbs like Scilla and Grape Hyacinth.

In the past our magazines and seed catalogs have recommended planting perennial seeds during the summer (probably very satisfactory in southern latitudes) but in this locality we get the best results from spring planting. We get bigger, stronger and better developed plants before winter sets in, but most of these young plants need covering during the first winter. A cold frame would be even better for some of them.

Elsewhere in this issue of The Spray is a list of perennials and biennials that can readily be grown from seed. This list is by no means complete and does not include the tender perennials which we commonly grow as annuals such as Snapdragons, Coleus, Ageratum, Geranium, Fuchsia, Canna, Dahlia, Irisena, Vinca (Rosea) and others.

Also omitted are the hybridized species whose seeds do not produce true varieties; i.e., Hemerocallis, Iris, Peonies, Phlox, Poppies, etc., though I did leave a few hybrid species which are sufficiently desirable and worth while regardless of the resulting color such as Aquilegia, Delphinium, Hollyhock, Pyrethrum, Hibiscus and Verbascum Phoenicium.

I have left out species that multiply rapidly, and from the standpoint of cost of seed and time spent, it is far cheaper to buy one plant this year and have more than you need the following year: i.e., Lythrum, Physostegia, the Rudbeckias, the Sedums, Spirea, Lobelia (Syp.), Mysotis, Prunilla, etc.

During 1949 we are having the Men's Garden Club of America Convention here and a good many of our members' gardens will be visited. Many of us will want more of the better varieties of perennials than we now have. Some of us will want to replace some old, worn-out plants with new ones of better variety. (I get a great deal of enjoyment in trying some new specie or some new variety each year.) If we are to have more plants (of a good blooming size) for next year, now is the time to start.

In the March issue of the Minnesota Horticulturist I read that the Garden Club of Askov has each of its members raise from seed one specie of perennial and then later exchange plants with all other members. To expedite an increase in our perennial variety we could adopt a similar scheme; i.e., let each member volunteer to raise one or more species (or more varieties of one specie) and bring the seedlings to our spring auction. In view of the convention next year, let's have a big sale with lots of variety.

For general border work, three of a variety makes a nice start and can be reduced if necessary as plants multiply. So for purposes of the sale, seedlings should be packed or grown in groups of three.

WHAT'S NEW IN CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Thanks go to the Lehman Gardens of Fari-bault for the loan of slides showing the best of the new mums for Minnesota for 1948. The color slides were excellent and with Harold Kaufmann as speaker and Bill Block as machine operator, the showing was well handled and very interesting and instructive.

OUR HERBALIST-AUTHOR

Bill Swain is writing a series of articles on herb culture for the Minnesota Horticulturist. According to Mrs. Star Lund, he has gravitated over to the Women's Department since he includes recipes for the use of herbs. Escoffier Swain's comeback is that he likes to eat (and his appearance accentuates it) and so he gives recipes, for what good are herbs unless used for cooking?

FOR BIGGER AND BETTER JUNE SHOWS

Cortis Rice

("Garden Gossip" published by the Men's Garden Club of Jackson, Miss., saw fit to reprint this in their November issue, so we're republishing it from our November, 1947, issue to remind you to get ready for our June Flower Show.)

Some MUSTS to follow:

1. Watch the garden for 10 days before the Show
2. Cut in the early morning
3. Cut long stems and extra flowers
4. Use a sharp knife and cut on slant
5. Remove excess foliage
6. Set in deep water immediately and place in the shade

Qualifications to watch:

1. Color: Clear not muddy

- face and back of bloom
4. Substance: Mature and fully developed but not past prime; individual blooms, no side buds
5. Stems: Long, uniform in length, straight and strong without blemish. Flowers must be well set on the stem and the terminal flower should look at the sky
6. Foliage: Remove all below the water line except for glads. Remove imperfect leaves wherever they may

Suggestions:

1. Remember the judging takes place the moment a judge sees the entry
2. Select your specimens by comparison with a number of others. Select the best you have

PERENNIALS FROM SEED

A partial list of perennials which have been grown successfully in Minneapolis and are easily grown from seed:

Astilbe	Delphinium	Lupine
Achillea	Dianthus	Lillies
Ajuga	Dicentra	Lychnis
Alyssum	Euphorbia	Mertensia
Anchusa (Myosotidifloral)	Erigeron	Mysotis
Aquilegia	Echinops	Pachysandra
Anthemis	Gaillardia	Platycodon
Arabis	Geranium (Ibericum plut.)	Polemonium
Artemesia	Grasses	Pyrethrum
Asclepia	Gypsophilia	Salvia
Betonica	Heather (Calluna)	Scabiosa
Bignonia	Hibiscus	Stokesia
Campanula (perennial)	Heuchera	Thalictrum
Callirhoe	Herbs	Thermopsis
Centurea	Hollyhock	Trollius
Carnation	Iberis	Veronica
Chrysanthemum (Shasta Daisy)	Lathyrus	Verbascum
Coreopsis	Lobelia	Violet
	Linum	

WALTER MENZEL REPORTS

Walter built a Glendale Propagator according to Fred Paul's adaptation and put it in his laundry to get early seedlings. The first few days, without light, the plants got spindly. He turned on the fluorescent light for 12 hours and the seedlings picked up to a bright green. After transplanting, he put back in the propagator and plants got along fine without any sign of shock.

Walter also told us his "chill" story of the little old lady from the Jones-Harrison Home. It was sure a spine-tickler.

GARDEN AUCTION NOTES

Chris Mosberg donated small flats and two sizes of paper pots to serve as containers for plants to be brought to the auction.

Dinner will be served at a reduced price

The Place - Park Board Paint Shops

The Time - You will be notified

Plants are to be sold at a price not beyond their actual market value. (This is tough on our high-pressure auctioneers.) They'll be marked for top price.

CERNEY SAYS

Perennials which may be expected to bloom when the Garden Clubs meet in Minneapolis In August, 1949 -

Allium	Helianthus	Pinks
Baby's Breath	Rudbeckia (4 varieties)	Lily Hanson
Carnation	Pentstemon	Coreopsis
Liatris	Lythrum	Stokesia
Shasta Daisy	Sidaea	Physostegia
Amaryllis Halli	Linum	Veronica
Phlox	Platycodon	Helenium
Funkia (purple & varieg.)	Monarda	Asclepias
Heuchera	Nepe ta	Belamcando
Clematis	Viola	Fall Aster

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Bill Swain, Moderator

Question: How do you prune a grape vine?
G. B. Germain

Answer: Grapes are borne on this year's wood grown last year. Prune to leave four pieces with 8 to 10 eyes on each piece; prune back to leave two spurs with two buds for next year's wood. Should be done in March.

Question: What causes green moss in the lawn or bank facing north but in full sunlight? Joe Hradecky

Answer: Too much acidity or lack of fertility.

Question: Does anyone have any information on Humisite? L. E. Cristman

Answer: Probably okay, but no one could answer authoritatively; okay if it's like Vita-Gro.

Question: Are pelleted seeds good? Bill Block.

Answer: Experience in this area not too good. Absorption of moisture slow and growth not good in field.

Question: Why were there no blossoms on healthy Canterbury Bells last summer that were two years old? Continues growth of leaves but no blossoms. Thursday Day.

Answer: Jim Cristman says this sometimes happens, but they may bloom the third year.

Question: What's the best variety of

Physostegia and best place to get it?
Charles C. Reif

Answer: Vivid from Wayside Gardens.

Question: Tomato seedlings from pulp left in ground over winter appear toward the end of May. What precautions are necessary when planting tomato seeds out of doors? Results to be expected? E. Culbert.

Answer: Seeds planted in mid-April or late April. Plant thick, cover with hot caps, pinch all but six plants, then 3, then leave a best single plant. Plant fresh manure off to side of hot cap over the plant. Treat seed with red copper oxide to prevent rotting. Have good, clean soil without weeds or weeds will choke the plants.

Question: What perennials can be expected to be in bloom during August - the date of our 1949 convention? G. G. Cern

Answer: See list elsewhere in this issue

Question: Is it necessary to divide chrysanthemums every year? M. K. Lifsc

Answer: Better to do every second or 3rd year; easy to divide in the spring.

Question: Will you give me again the way of mixing Fermate and Evergreen? Jack Cohen

Answer: Add 2 tablespoons Evergreen Spr to quart of water. Add Fermate according to directions. Stir until well mixed. Add 5 gals. water and stir. Best spray combination for roses.

SPECIAL PROJECTS GROUP STARTED ON PROGRAM

Bill Swain's Special Projects Committee is going to try to grow tomatoes out of doors from seed. Can be started April 15 if grown under hot caps. He gave Sioux and Wisconsin 55 tomato seeds to those who were willing to experiment. Bill says that if you pinch you will get fruit as early as if you put out started plants. (Note: see Questions & Answers above for further data on growing tomatoes from seed.)

THE SPRING AUCTION

Our annual Spring Auction will take place at the Park Board Paint Shops. Invite your friends to the greatest bargain event in plant-selling history. Lots of fun, too, with those two brilliant auctioneers (recently on the Lucky Strike program) putting on a continuous mixture of dry wit, clowning, humor and incidentally disposing of a goodly lot of plant for the benefit of the Club coffers. Further information and instructions will reach you from the Auction Committee.

REPORT ON ROSE TEST GARDEN

Carl Holst - The roses for the 1946 Test Garden didn't turn out so well for we got a bad shipment and the early snows handicapped good, healthy growth.

The 1947 lot of roses seems to have wintered well and looks good for 1948. These were all numbered so are not much help to would-be buyers. This year the new roses will all be named and furnished by the American Rose Society.

He handles the test roses just as they would be cared for in the garden of the amateur rosarian. All test roses in Minnesota are rated by Wilcox for disease resistance, fragrance, foliage, etc.

Spray with Evergreen and Ferrate to act as a cure-all (see proportions and method in Questions & Answers). Fertilize with commercial fertilizer twice a year.

The H.T. roses wintered over better than the H.P.

Peace is still the best all-purpose rose.

STAN LUND ROSES IN CALIFORNIA

Stan Lund spent some of the winter months driving to California and its environs. On the trip he and the first saw snow and forsythia in bloom in Oklahoma; cactus not in bloom in Texas or San Diego; but Peace roses and sweet peas were blooming their heads off.

In the Los Angeles vicinity, particularly the grounds of the Huntington Library, they saw gorgeous azaleas and camellias and a supercolossal showing of 13 series of cactus with 25,000 plants of 1,200 varieties gathered from all over the world.

In the Yosemite Valley, near San Francisco, they saw a solid mass of golden poppies on the mountain side of the snow-capped mountains. Another impressive sight was the roses and lupines growing in the desert land near Bakersfield

OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

As a result of co-operating with Larry Corbett and the ASTA in sending packets of seeds overseas, some of the members have had interesting notes from grateful recipients.

Walter Menzel got a note from Saxony in the Russian zone. The recipient was overjoyed with the packets of seeds and said, "Selection was excellent." They were divided among 7 families who will have enough vegetables to carry over the winter.

Thurber Day received this letter from France: "Package came in good order and the seeds are excellent for my kitchen garden. I am a widow; my husband was killed the last winter of the war."

Bishop received a note from Finland which said: "Our short growing season, offset by the long hours of daylight, will give me many needed vegetables."

(See the April Spray for a letter to Flack from a recipient of seeds in England.)

YOU CAN TAKE COLOR PIX OF YOUR GARDEN

George Titus gave us an instructive and enthusiastic talk on keeping a record of your gardening results through use of color film. He felt embarrassed with experts like George Barton and Bill Blosil; in the audience, but went ahead and gave us some good technical advice.

Some of his points were: Variation of light is more important in color photography than when taking pictures in black and white. Don't try to take in too much territory, but concentrate on just a few blooms or a small tree. Work with Nature's background.

If you have a camera and an exposure meter, use both in getting busy for the exhibit of garden color photography to be held this coming fall.