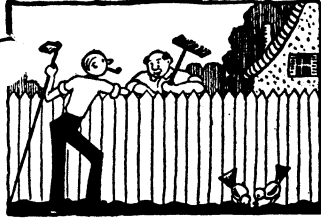


THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



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

Volume 8
Number 4
Vic Lowrie, Editor

April, 1950
Associate Editors: Jack Cohen
Ed Montgomery, George Luxton

APRIL MEETING

Tuesday April 11th 5:30 P.M.
Colonial Room Hasty-Tasty Dinner, \$1.50

PROGRAM

6:30 P.M. Business session
6:45 5-minute intermission
6:55 Elementary Botany
Lesson Number 3, The Leaf -
Archie Flack
7:20 Excerpts from Exchange Clubs
Bulletins - Tom Regan
7:35 Fertilizers -
Walter Menzel
8:00 Wild Flowers and Their Place
in Your Garden - Richard Thompson
8:30 Questions & Answers

Officers

Cortis Rice, Jr.
President
G. B. Germain,
Vice-President
Rene Dufourd,
Secretary
C. F. LaCrosse,
Treasurer
William E. Swain,
Past-President
Office of the Secretary
and Exchange Editor
5020 Second Ave. South
Minneapolis 19

Another promising program you'll get a bang out of - SEND IN YOUR RESERVATION CARD PROMPTLY, PLEASE. Bring your garden questions with you; we'll try to arrange time to answer them this time.

WHAT AM I BID? . . .

. . . so will go the chant of the Club's official auctioneer, Frank Janes, on the eve of May 9th at our annual dinner-auction meeting. What have you got to offer? You who grow from seeds, set aside an extra flat or two; those who propagate cuttings, stick in some extras and bring them along; if you're dividing perennials, save those you don't need for the auction.

And you who are in the market for most anything in plant life, hold your purchase until after May 9th - save that date for your major purchases, then fill in later - you'll have plenty of time and some to spare, and you'll get some choice numbers to spark up that yard this summer, with fun thrown in to boot!

LIBRARY OF GARDEN SLIDES

Not too many have come in yet. You've got Rene puzzled! How about reviewing your stock, taking out the duplicates (they need not be this year's) and sending them along to our waiting Secretary? This spring and summer take an extra one or two shots for the Club library.

INSECTICIDE FOR BEAN BEETLES

Dilan, a new substance developed by Purdue University, when mixed with water and used as a spray, will kill the Mexican bean beetle without damage to the plant; also effective against other pests that attack beans, tomatoes, cabbage and potatoes. Will probably be on the market by next summer.

VEGETABLES

Peas, spinach and onion sets can be grown outdoors where they are to grow as soon as the ground can be worked. Watch drainage though. If the weather keeps mild, follow quickly (it may be a bit of a gamble) with beets, lettuce, radishes, turnips, Swiss chard, spinach and onion sets. Early potatoes may also be planted as ground can be worked.

Next can follow in fairly quick order carrots, cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, celery, endive and parsnips. To hasten germination, soak seeds of beets, carrots and parsley for two hours in warm water. Drain and wash in cool water. Drain again and mix with dry sand for ease in sowing.

Late cabbage and cauliflower seeds should be started in a cold frame.

Asparagus beds will produce better later if you'll give them a dressing of complete commercial fertilizer. If you're thinking of planting asparagus, remember it does better in a sandy loam. Roots should be planted in furrows so that crowns are six inches below the ground - set about two feet apart in rows four feet apart.

Watch the buds of your apple trees to determine the right stages for spraying.

Don't let those tender lettuce and cabbage shoots get nipped. Use Hotkaps or inverted flower pots or, if you want to make work for yourself, make tents out of newspapers.

Ever scatter a few radish seeds in with carrots, beets and parsnips? They'll pop up quick and act as guides for cultivation.

(Editor's note: This wasn't all written from memory; how could one's knowledge be so profound? It's been taken from here, from there and 'most everywhere. Thank you, everybody!)

PRUNING DEMONSTRATION

Did you miss it? Chief Horticulturist, Archie Flack, doing his stuff with the clippers? The demonstration took place in the snow-shoveled garden of lucky Rene Dufourd March 25. Trix he did; tamed a dwarf apple tree to grow in espalier form; explained the Clark wood method of dwarfing trees. He also pruned Spiraea V. Houttei, Mock Orange (Philadelphus), lilacs, currant bushes and grapes. If

ARE YOU ORATORICAL?

If you are, step up and register with our Speakers' Bureau and we'll get that larynx of yours exercised in quick order. Give your name to Rene Dufourd and register the subject you prefer to talk about, the average length of time of your oratory, and when you are available, who you prefer to address - men or women (blondes, brunettes or redheads) at luncheons, dinners or afternoon teas. Those

NEW ASSOCIATE CLUBS

WATCH FOR OAK WILT!

You'll be pleased to hear that, with the help of a number of our members, a neighboring M.G.C.A. Club has been formed in Mound, Minnesota. In addition to Herb Kahlert meeting with the organizing group on two occasions, Fred Paul, Harold Wright and Archie Flack addressed the club at different times.

Another associate club has recently been organized in Superior, Wisconsin.

Kipplinger in a recent letter reported that oaks are dying in the Middle West. New outbreaks have been recorded in Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. The oaks are dying from what is known as Oak Wilt and you are asked to report any evidence of this wilt to the Division of Forest Pathology, Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Md. If in doubt as to the nature of a sickly oak, get in touch with the University of Minnesota Forestry Department.

NOW A KILLER FOR CRABGRASS

Here's really good news, boys - no more scratching, digging, pulling, raking and swearing - a new chemical has been found that kills crabgrass! It does to crabgrass what 2,4-D does to dandelions. It is called PC, which is short for potassium cyanate. It is not poisonous, can be used where children or pets play. Further, it can be mixed with 2,4-D enabling you to kill dandelions and other broad-leaved weeds and crabgrass and chickweed also with one spraying.

Best period for spraying is early July and again in mid-August. There is little chance of killing bluegrass with PC. In tests, a dose 50 times as strong as needed to kill crabgrass turned the bluegrass brown for two weeks but did not permanently injure it.

PC will come in crystal form, sealed in metal cans, and sold under various trade names. You dissolve the crystals in clear water in amounts specified on the can label, and spray it on your lawn. About 2 pounds of PC crystals mixed with water will cover a lawn 50x150 feet. (For a complete report, see Better Homes and Gardens, April issue.)

MINIATURE HOTOUSES

BASKING IN THE SUN

Now on the market are plastic plant protectors. They're a little more expensive than the old paper ones but provide superior growing conditions and are supposed to last for five years.

AT YOUR SERVICE!

Send the expiration dates of your favorite garden magazines to genial Rene and he'll see that you don't miss an issue, providing you come across with the dough - special rates you know!

AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY MEETING

You rose enthusiasts, place a circle on your calendar around the days of 7/8/9/10 in June for on those days you can strut your stuff with your American Rose Society

My report may not be complete, so don't feel slighted if you happen to be another lucky member to have missed some of this irritating Northwest weather. Harry F. Baker and Mrs. Baker recently returned from six weeks in Honolulu (turning this avocation of ours into a vocation might not be a bad idea!); Jack Cohen just returned from the sands of Hollywood, Fla with two of his children, Ruth and David (wonder if Mrs. Cohen had to stay home to watch the seedlings sprout); Stan and Mrs. Lund will be sunning themselves Biloxi way about the time you'll be glancing through this - if you ever do!

Now this brings to mind a pet gripe of your editorial staff: why don't you let us know of your unusual activities or happenings? Your fellow club-members

A GARDENER VISITS EUROPE

Jack Cohen had the fortunate opportunity of combining business and pleasure on a trip to Europe last fall and he reported on it to us at the last meeting. Here are some of the highlights of the things he saw while abroad.

He visited the London Dahlia Show, which had blooms from both amateur gardeners and nurseries. The blooms were gorgeous and exotic and seemed to have a brilliance of color that does not occur in the dahlia we grow in the U.S. The reason for this might be the fog and constant moisture that is prevalent in England. Dahlias seem to grow as freely and profusely as sunflowers do in our country. Every garden and every yard had a batch of them and they were surely colorful.

However, there was a showing the same day of early chrysanthemums and these mums lacked luster and life and were not particularly attractive. The later blooms, which Jack did not see, probably are more attractive.

He saw Queen Mary's Garden that Archie Flack helped build many years ago. The rose section was particularly striking and the tall growth and bounteous bloom showed that Archie really helped create a permanent spot of beauty in London.

Two days were spent visiting the gardens at Versailles. This is a magnificent park, copied everywhere in Europe, and was designed by Lenotre and completed in 1668. It is just one vast expanse of lawns, hedges, groves, walks lined with marble statues, pools and fountains - all of which formed a perfect whole of formality in planning.

The Tuilleries Gardens were also created by Lenotre for Louis XIV and developed by Louis XV with buildings now combining the Louvre, the scene of much French history. At Versailles he saw the grounds of the Petit Trianon where Louis XIV had his rendezvous with his many mistresses. A lovely spot.

In the Montmartre area was seen the last vineyard remaining in Paris. It is now a show place and once a year an auction is held for the sale of the grapes, the proceeds going to the local cathedral. Paris as a whole is very flower conscious. Near the bookstalls on the Left Bank of the Seine were hundreds of flower stands where growers display and sell the beautiful products of their gardens. Paralleling the bookstalls on the Right Bank were block after block of nursery shops and seed emporiums where the Frenchman and his wife go to buy their nursery stock. Unusual dahlias and chrysanthemums seemed to be featured at the time Jack was there.

Jerusalem was one of the many stops he made on his tour and here he saw the perfection of co-operative farming working out on a healthy and satisfactory basis. He visited four of these co-operative areas called "Kibbutzim." He was fortunate enough to be at one of the farms the first day of operation when the rocks were being picked out of the ground by hand and pickaxe. He saw another farm after one year of operation just beginning to function, and a third that had been in existence for 25 years. He was also fortunate enough to be at still another farm which was 40 years old and seems to be the answer to social security without government interference by offering the art of relaxation and freedom from worry.

The garden surrounding the YMCA in Jerusalem (one of the outstanding buildings in the Near East) was representative of native Oriental plants, shrubs and trees.

Together it sounded like a marvelous trip and we were fortunate in having the opportunity of hearing the report from Jack about it.

BUSY APRIL

Might be a good idea to test your hose on a warm day; first to get accustomed to handling it again, second, to wash the dust and soot from your evergreens, and third, to water all of your first-year shrubs and trees and, more particularly, your evergreens.

While on the subject of hose, did you by chance visit the Builders Show the week of March 20 and see the automatic coiling hose reels exhibited by The Zierden Company of Milwaukee? The trade name is "Water Boy" and they offer three styles - a portable reel which spins on its cover when the hose is pulled out; a wall type connected to your water valve; and a basement model which is permanently attached out of the way onto your basement ceiling. Minneapolis representative is R. N. Kruchten, 1077 23rd Ave., SE.

Usually in this part of the country more garden damage takes place in April than throughout the winter. A severe freeze, after the sun has coaxed out of the ground a lot of new shoots or encouraged flower buds to break, can be disastrous to say the least. So watch your winter covering. Anchor any that the wind has loosened and keep your covering on until time has broken old man winter's back. Even then, keep the covering handy until all danger of frost has passed. Note also perennials that have been pushed out of the ground by frost action and put them back in place.

Get your fertilizer on the lawn just as soon as you can get to it. Don't wait for a heavy rain or snowfall to soak it in; hose it liberally as soon as applied. Then seed and dress. Better wait for all of this until you can rake off all the muck and stuff. Roll when slightly moist but not wet enough to pack.

Don't be in too great a hurry to prune your shrubs and especially roses. Wait until the buds begin to break so that you can discern dead wood from green. Cut back teas, hybrids and hybrid perpetuals to three buds on each cane if it's exhibition blooms you're expecting. If cutting flowers are desired, prune down to the sixth or eighth bud per cane. Polyanthas and Chinas require little pruning merely cutting out dead wood and old nonproducing canes. Climbing roses should not be pruned in the spring, except for dead wood and worn out branches. The same is true of ramblers except that all canes which have produced blossoms should be pruned after flowering.

Prevention of diseases is far better than the cure, so start your prevention program early. Clean up your yard just as soon as it is workable. Dust your perennial plants with bordeaux mixture as soon as the first shoots appear. Spray your roses, bushes and other shrubs with a light solution of lime sulphur, one to nine parts water. (Clear out last season's foliage around delphiniums and hollyhocks.)

Divide and transplant your overgrown perennials. Give them lots of room and apply a light top dressing of bone meal and pulverized manure mixed in equal parts. Be careful not to break the new growth, it's really brittle. Do not disturb Platycodons, peonies and gas plants.

Plant your new dormant roses just as early as the ground can be worked. Mound earth all over them until growth starts.

Sweet peas should also be planted as soon as a two-inch trench for them can be dug. Fill the trenches gradually as the plants grow.

If you haven't a compost heap, how about starting one this Spring? Add dead leaves, lawn clippings, other vegetable matter, wood ashes, etc. Keep moist enough to keep from burning.

Working lime into the soil around lilacs will bring big rewards.

Lily-of-the-valley clumps should be set out early. Plant them with the top of the pips just even with the ground.

There are many hardy lilies you can plant in the Spring - L. Formosa; L. Speciosa; regal lily and many others.

THE MARCH MEETING

It was a good meeting - that, most everyone agreed; it was well attended - that, the Secretary told me; we had some good-looking speakers - that I recall; what they said in general I believe I can pretty clearly establish; but what they emphasized in particular was written on scraps of pink paper which were either misplaced, lost, swiped or maliciously hidden because of their color. So here goes . . .

Anyway, we put our vice-president, George Germain, to work and a good job he did. Cort got himself involved in New York City - forgot to ask him if he took in their Spring flower show - maybe that's why he got himself down there!

The business session was inconsequential except for a unanimous vote to send Herb Kahlert to the M.G.C.A. national convention as our delegate, with a recommendation to the Executive Committee that the Club help defray the major portion of the expense.

Archie Flack gave his second lesson in Elementary Botany - this one on Flower Clusters. Incidentally, when Stan Lund, our program chairman, first invited Archie to talk on botany, there was little thought of carrying on a series until the members insisted on having more of the same. Now Archie goes back into his books, crams for many nights a week, to come up with a simplified version of a complicated subject which he covers in a comparatively short space of time. His freehand with chalk on the blackboard is priceless, and he gets across his points clearly and vividly with not too many illustrations. Thanks for all the effort, Archie! We'll give you an "A" and hope you'll carry on indefinitely.

Next on the program was Tom Foley, the other garden half of Art Nelson, who posted us on the activities of some of the

documented in their monthly publication which are on file with our Secretary.

The highlight of the evening was Jack Cohen's talk, with slides, relating much of what he saw of primary interest to gardeners during his visit, with Mrs. Cohen, to Europe and Israel last Fall. We enjoyed sharing his travels through England, France, Italy and Israel, and particularly his sage observations as he touched upon the political scene, some references to economics, and of course his horticultural examinations and comparisons. His colored slides were most interesting and especially the garden pictures - some of which were quite unusual and rich with color. One of Jack's experiences while in Italy, which he didn't relate, was an audience with Pope Pius for which he was most grateful and will, of course, never forget.

The Iris - its ease of culture, its place in the garden, the many varieties in color, size and shape, the early, medium and late bloomers - was most effectively presented by Herb Kahlert in voice and with pictures. Herb must have exposed pretty close to 200 slides of an untold number of varieties, most of which he called by name on sight. As you all know, the iris is Herb's specialty, and if you haven't seen his garden in iris-blooming time, you've been robbing yourself of a real treat - a show of color and garden arrangement you'll travel far to find . . .

THE IRIS

(Excerpts from talk by H. E. Kahlert)

1. Select iris from 100 best varieties of the Iris Symposium of American Iris Society.
2. Every color with variations is available at prices from 40¢ to \$40; a good selection need not be expensive.
3. Season can be extended to cover period of bloom - May 1st to June 25th in this territory - by proper selection of varieties.
4. Select for season of bloom, color and height. Choose sunny location with good soil and good drainage. Sunlight should reach right down to rhizome. Plant two feet apart.
5. Be particular about good drainage both surface and subsoil to prevent rot; also plant shallow.
6. Fertilize sparingly with commercial preparations - use plenty of bone meal and gypsum for soil conditioning. Superphosphate is good.
7. Don't worry about watering; iris don't need much.
8. Always keep iris clean; trim dead leaves throughout season. Cultivate lightly after rains.
9. Spray four times after growth starts in the spring with DDT to prevent borers from getting inside leaves.
10. Divide plants where crowded every three to five years; divide and plant in July or August.
11. Trim all leaves after heavy freeze in fall. Cover iris lightly with evergreens and marsh hay.
12. Keep up with rapidly moving developments in iris hybridizing by obtaining at least one new variety each year. Discard those unworthy.
13. Use permanent name markers; you'll always appreciate knowing your varieties.
14. Send for Schriener's 1950 Iris Catalog (Salem, Ore.) Check your proposed order with blooms in local gardens if possible.
15. The following are six groups of seven color varieties each arranged according to 1949 prices (1950 should be lower):

Color	Lot #1		Lot #2		Lot #3	
White	Snow Carnival	\$3.00	Katherine Fay	\$5.00	Sharkskin	\$2.50
Yellow	Ola Kala	2.50	Spun Gold	1.50	Misty Gold	2.00
Blue	Helen McGregor	10.00	Chivary	10.00	Great Lakes	1.00
Pink shades	Cherie	20.00	Pink Cameo	10.00	Spindrift	3.00
Reds	Solid Mahogany	5.00	Ranger	3.00	Red Douglas	1.00
Bicolors	Lady Mohr	5.00	Lotharia	3.00	Marquita	.40
Tan or brown	Bryce Canyon	<u>6.00</u>	Casa Morena	<u>4.00</u>	Firecracker	<u>3.50</u>
		<u>\$51.50</u>		<u>\$36.50</u>		<u>\$13.40</u>

	Lot #4		Lot #5		Lot #6	
White	Snow Flurry	\$1.25	Winter Carnival	\$1.00	Gudrun	\$1.00
Yellow	Ming Yellow	.75	Treasure Island	.50	Golden Treasure	.60
Blue	Elmohr	1.00	The Admiral	1.00	Anitra	.40
Pink shades	Inspiration	1.50	Mulberry Rose	1.25		
Reds	Red Amber	1.50	Red Amber	1.50	Cheerio	.35
Bicolors	Wabash	.75	Amigo	.75	City of Lincoln	.50
Tan or brown	Brown Thrasher	<u>2.00</u>	California Peach	<u>1.00</u>	Sir Launcelot	<u>.25</u>
		<u>\$8.75</u>		<u>\$7.00</u>		<u>\$3.10</u>

(Nearly all of the above will be in bloom during the first week of June in

REPORT ON LILY CULTURE

by Maurice K. Lifson

Seeds of *Lilium Formosum*, var-Snowdrift were planted on August 5, 1949, in a mixture of 1/3 garden loam, 1/3 granulated peat moss, and 1/3 vermiculite. Seeds were covered with a thin layer of vermiculite. Germination began 14 days after sowing. From a package of 50 seeds 32 germinated. As seedlings were too small to transplant the pots were plunged into a cold frame after a light frost. Each pot was covered with glass and marsh hay. If seedlings come through the winter, they will be transplanted next Spring into the flower borders. This was my first attempt to grow lilies from seeds.

Five years ago, in the Fall, 3 bulbs of *Lilium Centifolium* Hybrids were planted in a sheltered spot. They made their appearance early the following Spring but the flowering buds were nipped by a light frost. Consequently they did not bloom that Summer. In succeeding summers they performed magnificently. The spectacle was indeed breathtaking. The plants reached a height of 7 feet with as many as twenty-five open trumpets or buds on each plant. For some unaccountable reason they failed to make their appearance last Spring.

Two small colonies of *Lilium Henryi* do well in the garden - one batch in open ground grew five feet tall last August; the other group in a semi-shady spot were less than three feet tall.

Lilium Candidum performed beautifully for three years. Last year they all came up, but only three out of 12 bloomed. Transplanted them last August.. by October they all showed nice green rosettes of leaves - promising a beautiful picture next June. They are interplanted with blue Delphiniums.

Regal Lilies have not been too dependable. Possibly planted too deep or squirrels uprooted the bulbs. A year ago, last Fall, planted 10 bulbs. All made their appearance in the Spring, but only 3 bloomed.

Lilium Speciosum Rubrum did remarkably well for two years, but last August three out of six plants became mosaic diseased.

Five Lily *Canadense* planted five years ago - two in a sunny location and three on the north side of the house - thrive well.

Three out of four bulbs of *Lilium Croceum* planted in 1945 appeared and bloomed the following June - the fourth bulb rotted. It evidently took a long rest period as it, too, came up and bloomed a year later.

Planted three of the temperamental *Lilium Auratum* bulbs last Fall; also more *Centifolium* Lilies.

A year ago last Fall planted the following: *Lilium Davuricum*, *Davidi*, *Pardalinum*, and *Tenuifolium*, and *Umbellatum*. They all made their appearance last Spring, but only *Davidi*, *Tenuifolium*, and *Umbellatum* bloomed. Others may not have been blooming size.

A colony of *Lilium Tigrinum* interplanted with Monkshood planted a number of years ago made a beautiful spectacle. They have deteriorated some so will divide and replant next Fall.

For ground covers have used Columbine, *Gypsophila*, perennial Geraniums, *Iberis*, *Campanula-Carpateca*, and annuals. These ground covers not only shade the lily roots when going into dormancy but cover up the bare spots.

When planting lily bulbs I put a handful of well rotted manure 5 or 6" beneath the base of the bulb, and twice during the season feed them with a weak tea and scratch in a little bone meal around the surface of each bulb.

For winter protection have covered lilies with about 5" marsh hay. Newly planted