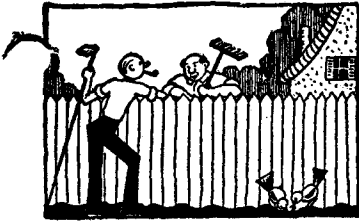


THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAP



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

April, 1953
Volume 11, Number 4
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors:
Don Methven
William Hull

APRIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 1953
Place: Hasty Tasty Cafe
50th & France Ave. So.
Time: 5:45 P.M.
Dinner: \$1.50

PROGRAM

6:30 P.M. Short Business Session
6:45 "What To Grow And How To Grow It"
by a panel of experts

Hank Elieff - Moderator
Kim Andrews Larry Corbett
Lloyd Bachman Charles Okken

Here is a program made to order for April. A panel of five experts who will discuss shrubs, trees, fruits, perennials, annuals, vegetables, fertilizers and insecticides. Come prepared with your spring problems - for here is where you will get them solved - better write them down so that you won't forget. An open meeting for every member - our first spring meeting - let's have a real get together and let nothing interfere with that evening.

WANTED

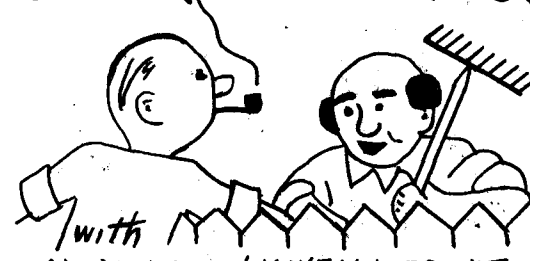
Come, come now, we need your help to maintain this column - full credit will be given to every contributor.

PLEASE!

Officers

R. J. Dufourd President
A. H. Flack
Vice President
C. G. Harkins Secretary
T. P. Hughes Treasurer
G. "Vic" Lowrie
Past President

OVER THE FENCE



with AL APHIS and MIKE MILORGANITE

"Say, Mike, that looks like a strange mixture of seeds, what are you planting over there?"

"Why, Al, I'm planting cucumber tomatoes, celery, onions and lettuce."

"Yeah, but you can't mix them all together that way, Mike."

"No? That's what you think. I'm raising combination salad."

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

THE CLUB AUCTION IS MAY 12TH

Help yourself to some good buys as well as unusually good garden material and, at the same time, help to finance some Club projects by making your major gardening purchases at the Club Auction.

Here you will find most everything you'll want at unusually good prices - strong healthy seedlings; the new varieties; fresh nursery stock of shrubs, trees, roses and perennials; fertilizers and insecticides; garden tools, hoes, gadgets and what have you; with most everything going at below the local market price.

The Auction is supported entirely from donations of members and friends of the Club - so you who germinate seeds under lights, set aside an extra flat or two of your better, newer and healthier seedlings for the Auction; as you divide your perennials, save some of the division for the Auction; you who planted perennial seeds last fall, donate the extras for the Auction; here is an opportunity for all of us to share our garden jewels with our fellow member through the Club Auction - remember the date, Tuesday, May 12th.

This Auction, as you know, is reserved for both Club members and their friends - so bring as many male gardening friends with you as you want to.

AUCTION COMMITTEES APPOINTED FOR THE CLUB'S AUCTION MAY 12, 1953

General Chairman - S. F. Pinkham

Procurement

Leonard Bies
G. G. Cerney
H. R. Kaufmann
A. W. Koester
W. R. Menzel
T. P. Regan
L. L. Stillman
P. W. Young

Handling

G. C. Ballhorn
R. C. Edlund
O. H. Erickson
F. F. Heschmeyer
A. I. Nelson
H. E. Nelson
C. A. Peterson
E. A. Willson

Cashiers and Clerks

C. W. Crewe
M. M. Evans
T. Z. Ennis
A. J. Fakler
G. B. Germain
C. N. Rice, Jr.

Auctioneers

A. R. Blackburn
William Holmberg
F. A. Janes
H. E. Kahlert
L. L. Stillman
G. B. Titus

Country Store

A. W. Koester
G. Victor Lowrie

Publicity

W. H. Hull
H. E. Kahlert
G. Victor Lowrie
G. E. Luxton

Whoever makes a garden
Has never worked alone;
The rain has always found it,
The sun has always known.
The wind has blown across it
And helped to scatter seeds -
Whoever makes a garden -
Has all the help he needs.

Whoever makes a garden
Has, oh, so many friends!
The glory of the morning,
The dew when daylight ends.
The wind, and rain, and sunshine
And dew, and fertile sod,
And he who makes a garden
Works hand-in-hand with God.

THE MARCH MEETING

Thank you, Carl Holst, for a most informative and helpful talk on "Whats New in Roses." Incidentally, Carl was firmly of the opinion and strongly recommended testing roses over a two year period in this climate instead of the customary one. He gave, for example, the extremely mild winter we have just enjoyed having little adverse affect on roses compared with last winter when so many roses were killed. Consequently a test based on this year alone would be quite misleading. Below are a few comments Carl made with reference to certain varieties:

INDEPENDENCE

(Jackson & Perkins) Wintered 100% last year. Very hardy this year.

MA PERKINS

One of the finest floribundas to come out in a long time. Vigorous grower, light pink, good fragrance, and disease free.

CHRYSLER IMPERIAL

Very fine. At the Park Board we didn't lose a plant last year. Not a heavy bloomer.

YUKON

(Germains) A hybrid yellow tea. Very nice.

REMEMBRANCE

A new one. Very fragrant. Pink.

IRENE OF DENMARK

(Conrad & Pyle) A white floribunda.

PARADE

(Jackson & Perkins) A climber. Blooms on new wood. Deep pink, deeper than New Dawn.

PINK CLOUD & CORAL DAWN

(Both Jackson & Perkins) New climbers.

UNNAMED

(Conrad & Pyle) Similar to Peace. A very fine new rose which is not yet named. 1953 is the first year, so testing is not complete.

OLDER VARIETIES

Lady Ashton, McGredy's Scarlet, Poinsettia, and Maybelle Stern are hardy and reliable in this area.

We are also indebted to Mr. J. R. Ellingboe for his instructions on the new method of "Airwrapping" for propagation. The samples of cuttings he used for demonstration purposes that had been raised by airwrapping certainly were excellent specimens.

And we do thank the Agri-Plast Products Company, Sarasota, Florida, for the generous sample of Airwrap mailed to each of our members.

YOU'LL BUY THEM SOMEWHERE - WHY NOT GET THE BEST AT OUR AUCTION
TUESDAY, MAY 12TH

WHAT ARE YOU GROWING ESPECIALLY FOR OUR AUCTION MAY 12TH?

THE FUNCTION OF PLANT NUTRIENTS - PHOSPHORUS

Most soils contain very little natural phosphorus. This element existed originally as one component of a mineral called "apatite." Because of the weathering processes which changed minerals into actual soil, much of this original phosphorus has been broken down and lost. This loss from weathering, plus the fact that there was very little apatite in soils in the first place, makes phosphorus the most seriously deficient plant nutrient nearly everywhere.

Much of the native soil phosphorus is in a form that plants cannot use. Also, great many soils have the unfortunate ability to "tie up" some of the phosphates that are applied to them in forms that plant roots cannot utilize. Therefore, complete plant food is formulated so as to provide a good supply of phosphorus in the mixture.

Like nitrogen, phosphorus is utilized as a constituent of various compounds formed in growing plants. Since it is one of the constituents that go into fats (found largely in seeds) it follows that it is essential for seed formation. Phosphorus is also very necessary in the early growth of the plant since it stimulates root formation. Supplying plants with a quickly available starter solution at the time the plants are set out, helps them to overcome transplanting shock and gets them off to a good start. (Editor's note: Incidentally, the new Instant Vigoro comes well recommended as a starter solution if used sparingly - 1 oz to 4 gal).

Extreme phosphorus deficiency in plants is indicated by a purpling of the leaves and is particularly well demonstrated in tomatoes and corn. During a cold, wet spell early in the season, tomatoes, corn, and members of the cabbage family are very likely to turn purplish because of a temporary phosphorus deficiency caused by a slowing down of the root action. If the soil is well supplied with phosphorus, this situation will correct itself with the advent of warmer weather.

Phosphorus tends to counterbalance the effects of nitrogen. As long as plenty of phosphorus is available to plants they can effectively utilize lots of nitrogen. But, if there is an oversupply of nitrogen in relation to phosphorus, excessive, weak, spindly growth, slow maturity and poor blooming or fruiting will result.

From the foregoing you can see that in order to have quick maturing, high quality vegetables and brilliant blooms on flowering plants, the use of balanced, phosphorus-containing plant food is essential.

REMEMBER OUR PLANT AUCTION MAY 12TH

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We welcome into our ranks two new members, A. P. Brastad, 5030 Bruce Avenue, and E. A. Hoyme, 4433 Abbott Avenue North. Both are fine fellows and enthusiastic gardeners, so make yourselves known to them for it is through the exchange of our individual experiences that so much pleasure is enjoyed from our association.

BRING YOUR GARDENING FRIENDS TO OUR MAY 12TH AUCTION

APRIL REMINDERS

1. Be not tempted to discard winter protection completely. If you uncover roses and less hardy perennials, be prepared to recover in a hurry should a heavy frost threaten.
2. Warm days are good hose testing days and you can do two jobs at one time by working the dust and soot from your evergreens. Your first year shrubs and trees could also do with an early soaking.
3. Spring clean your yard as early as practicable, being sure to lift last season's foliage and other foreign material from the crowns of delphiniums, hollyhocks, iris, etc., to discourage rot.
4. All perennials should be dusted heavily with Bordeaux mixture as soon as the first shoots appear.
5. Spray roses, evergreens and other shrubs with lime sulphur (1 to 9 parts of water just before the buds begin to break).
6. Examine your perennials carefully if frost has pushed them out of the ground gently put them back in place.
7. Be in no hurry to prune roses, wait until buds are well formed. By then the dead wood can be easily discerned. For large blooms, cut back to three buds on each cane - for maximum bloom, don't cut so severely.
8. Be sure to prune grapes before the buds begin to form or they will bleed badly. Cut out all dead and weak wood and head back new growth to about nine buds - remember fruit is produced on new growth only.
9. You cannot start to revitalize your lawn too soon. Rake it, apply fertilizer and hose it in; then seed and dress. If you roll, do so lightly when the soil is firm - don't pack the soil.
10. As soon as the top surface of the soil is free of frost and dry enough to work (it should break up in your hand) spade in all the peat, compost, leafmold, or manure the soil will take - leaving surface rough so as to hold snow and rain until planting time.
11. It's never too early to sow peas - the earlier the better. Dig a two inch trench, drop in the seed and fill in gradually as plants develop.
12. Pansies, violas, most alpine and wild flowers also do better when planted early - they can stand a considerable amount of frost.
13. The seeds of bachelor buttons, calendula, candy tuft, cosmos, larkspur, nigonette, portulaca, and annual phlox can be sown directly into the ground at any time now, providing, of course, the soil was well prepared last fall.
14. The earlier you divide and transplant overgrown perennials the better. A light top dressing of bone meal mixed with equal parts of pulverized manure would help a lot and reward you bountifully. 'Tis better not to disturb platycodons, peonies nor gas plants.
15. Plant your new dormant roses early. Prune the canes back to three or four buds and cover them completely with earth until the new growth starts.

WHAT ARE YOU SETTING ASIDE FOR OUR MAY 12TH AUCTION?

APRIL REMINDERS

16. Might be a good idea to get snaps, tomatoes and cabbage started in the cold frame right away, providing you are lucky enough to have one.
17. Tuberous begonias should be started in flats and kept in a warm place - furnace room is excellent. The same is true of canna roots - place them in 4 inch pots.
18. Got that lawn mower sharpened? Are your dusters, sprayers and other garden equipment in tip top shape?
19. Remember the Club's May 12th Plant Auction - to grow for it and to buy from it.
20. Stand by with the snow shovel!

A BURNING QUESTION

Once in awhile we hear people say that they are not going to feed their lawn this year because the plant food they used previously caused the grass to turn brown. Thus, they revive the perennial question as to whether the use of plant food on lawns actually does cause "burning."

Temporary browning of lawns sometimes will result if plant food is applied too heavily to green growing grass or is not watered in. However, the injury caused to the grass leaves is superficial, and they rapidly outgrow the discoloration. If the gardener, in his late springtime haste, should put on too much plant food in spots or forget to wash it in, his lawn may show a few streaks for awhile but these will rapidly disappear. However, if he follows directions on the bag, he will have no difficulty.

The best time, of course, for feeding lawns with a good, heavy application, is in the very early spring before the grass "greens up." By applying the plant food on frozen ground, you leave no footprints, no spreader wheel tracks and there is no need to water the plant food into the soil. Thaws and spring rains take care of that; they soak the plant food down to the grass roots. If you have no plant food spreader but are relying on hand application of plant food, make two trips across your lawn at right angles to each other, spreading half of your application in each direction. By so doing, you will obtain better distribution and avoid getting it on in "hunks."

- By the Master Gardener -

* * * *

According to Dr. R. Milton Carleton of Better Homes & Gardens fame, the age of flowerpots has a lot to do with plant growth. Tests would seem to indicate that new pots definitely retard the growth of plants put into them. However, this handicap can be overcome by giving such plants an extra feeding of high nitrogen fertilizer. ~~It appears that new pots absorb enough nitrogen from the soil to affect the plant's growth - as water evaporates from the porous new clay, the nitrogen in salt form is deposited on the outside of the pot where roots, of course, cannot get at it.~~

If you are looking for a vigorous asparagus, one that will produce larger spears and more of them, have a little patience - there is one being readied for home gardeners called FARIBO F-1 Hybrid:

The U. S. Dept. of Agriculture reports a big reduction in corn borer injury, as high as 60% during the 1951-1952 growing season. This reduction is prevalent in all areas except in northern Maine, where a substantial increase was registered.

The Lydella fly is being given considerable credit for reduction in corn borer injury. The fly was imported into this country by U.S.D.A. and one reason given for the lack of borer reduction in Maine, is that the Lydella fly did not propagate freely in that state.

AMONG OURSELVES

The demands upon our Speakers' Bureau are beginning to get quite heavy - if you are free to give talks on your favorite garden interest, be sure to register with the Club secretary.

The Slide Library Committee is still yelling for more slides of both individual flowers and landscapes - so will you please think of the Club every time you take a picture in a garden and take two - one being for the Club?

Our president has appointed your editor of the Spray to represent the Club as a member of the Executive Board of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. If you have any projects, ideas, suggestions, or squawks you would like to bring to the attention of the board, pass them along and they will be emphatically registered.

Ornithologists tell us the birds have returned early this year - not so with a number of our members who have been wintering in the Sunny South. You can be sure they'll all be back in time to start their gardens though.

You will all be pleased to know that Bill Block is back in the swing of things after being confined to his home practically all winter.

Herb Kahlert is attending the Convention at Memphis both as secretary of the national body and as our official delegate. It is unfortunate that a number of our members could not attend - the flora in Tennessee at this time of the year is magnificent.

The secretary reports that we have a sizeable stock of large aluminum garden stakes on hand - they make excellent markers and are yours for \$1 a dozen. We also have a good supply of M.G.C. garden signs. The new members will use these in their gardens.

One from among us suggested that members bring their favorite unusual garden gadgets to our meetings and explain the advantages for the mutual benefit of all. Sounds like a good idea and I would suggest that we go still further and invite our members to make a practice of bringing everything "unusual" that has proven of real value and interest to our meetings - be it gadgets, tools, plants, etc.

You might keep in mind that the Club could make a little money if you were to renew the subscriptions to your favorite garden magazines through the Club secretary.

MAKE YOUR BETTER PLANT PURCHASES AT OUR MAY 12TH AUCTION

IT'S PARADISE

To witness the wonders of sprouting seeds,
To sit in the shade, after pulling weeds,
Or linger among the flowers and trees,
The singing of birds, the humming of bees,
Whose stings on occasions to life add zest.

The tang of fresh fruits, the scent of new hay,
A refreshing rain, or a sunny day;
Gay fish and lilies in a lazy pond,
All is delightful, of all I am fond
When I've retreated from business to rest.

For this side of heaven there is no shrine
On par with my garden, almost divine,
Where I could be nearer the heart of God,
Where all is hallowed, even the sod;
Yes. it's Paradise. the aim of my quest!

TO: CLUB PRESIDENTS, SECRETARIES AND EDITORS

This being the last monthly letter that I will send to you fellow gardeners, as President of the Men's Garden Club's of America, I want you to know that I have really enjoyed sending them to you. I trust that they have been of some help in keeping you informed as to M.G.C.A. affairs. I hope our next contact is in person at the Memphis Convention on April 8th - 10th.

Copies of our revised by-laws have been sent to each local club. These by-laws are to be voted on at the convention. Local clubs that are not going to have delegates present are requested to please send in the postcard that was enclosed with the by-laws, to our Secretary, Herb Kahlert, with your vote before April 1st. These new by-laws as submitted are now in compliance with the laws of Illinois -- the State in which M.G.C.A. is incorporated.

Since my last letter to you we have had five more Men's Garden Clubs affiliate with us. We now have 153 local clubs as members and more in the process of joining us. Are you helping by trying to organize another club in one of your nearby cities?

One of the many programs I am looking forward to at the Memphis convention is the report of the Men's Garden Club's of America's delegate to the 13th International Horticultural Congress held in London last July. Dr. Joseph Howland was our delegate and he has an interesting story to tell us supported by many fine slides. 400 representatives from all over the world were present at this congress.

Gene Pfister (Rosie himself) fell down some steps a couple of weeks ago and fractured a vertebra. After getting out of the hospital he is up and around again with a brace. He isn't going to let that bother him in his garden hobby. We all wish him a fast recovery. *****

Horticulturally yours,

Bruce Krasberg, President, M.G.C.A.

"GET A WIGGLE ON!"

Population of U. S.....	140,000,000
People 65 or older.....	42,000,000
Balance left to work.....	98,000,000
People 21 years or younger.....	54,000,000
Balance left to work.....	44,000,000
People working for Government.....	21,000,000
Balance left to work.....	23,000,000
People in armed services.....	10,000,000
Balance left to work.....	13,000,000
People in State and City Offices.....	12,800,000
Balance left to work.....	200,000
People in hospitals and asylums.....	126,000
Balance left to work.....	74,000
Bums and idle rich who won't work.....	62,000
Balance left to work.....	12,000
Persons in jail.....	11,998
Balance left to work.....	2

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HAVE FUN AT THE AUCTION