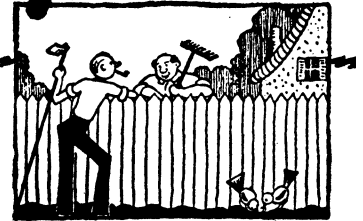




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

Member--Men's Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society



April 1959
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G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors
Wm. H. Hull, Joe Witmer,
Bob Adams

April Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 1959
Place: Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church
Knox Ave. So. & W. 50th St.
Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp
Price: \$1.75

Officers

P. W. Young President
Wm. H. Hull Vice Presiden
Dwight Stone Treasurer

Office of the Exchange Editor
G. Victor Lowrie
401 Essex Building

PROGRAM

An Important Business Meeting
Nominations for the office of Secretary
by the Nominating Committee

Election of candidates for office of Club Secretary

Introduction by Dr. Leon Snyder of plant material for Auction

SHRUB and TREE AUCTION

Proceeds to be contributed to Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Fund.

Your officers and directors urge you to be present at this meeting. First, for the purpose of casting your ballot for a candidate to fill the office of Secretary.

Secondly, to take advantage of the unusually fine plant material Dr. Snyder is presenting to the Club for Auction. Look over the material listed in this issue of the SPRAY, earmark the shrubs and trees in which you may be interested. Then come early to the meeting where the plants will be on display. Look them over carefully prior to the start of the bidding.

NEWS AND VIEWS

I cannot remember a winter when we have had so much sickness among our fellow members. Fortunately, most of them have come through beautifully, and I'm sure you'll all be glad to know that our master gardener, Tony Koester, who recently underwent major surgery and was a very, very sick man, is getting along nicely in St. Mary's Hospital where he will have to stay for awhile yet. Now that he is able, he would be glad to see you, so make it a point to pay him a visit. Am pleased to report that Bob Savory is coming along well after his surgery. He too would enjoy seeing you. Even Archie Flack had to fall in line for surgery at the University Hospital and is now going around bragging about his prowess.

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Those of you who can get downtown on the third Wednesday of each month, be sure to join the gang at lunch between twelve and one. Donaldson's Garden Tea Room on the fifth floor is the place. They serve an a la carte luncheon at \$1.50 minimum. This last Wednesday, seventeen of us talked a good job of Spring clean-up and planting; we left ready to plow up the first vacant lot that came our way. The writer tore over to Danish Seed to put manager Chris to work counting seeds.

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Which reminds me, have you paid the Mossberg's a visit since they've given up ownership? Never did you see so much stuff on display this early. Including potted flowering plants and artificial flowers with everything that grows or helps make 'em grow in between and were the boys busy, bet Chris hasn't hustled around so fast nor so hard since he left his Mother country.

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I suppose you fellows with greenhouses have them filled up to the rafters with seedlings and cuttings in all stages of development. Now, good luck to you, may they all turn out to be top prize winners, no matter who be their judge, but don't forget to put a few flats, boxes or crates of your very best aside for the Club Plant Auction, the second Tuesday in May. And that goes for the basement and porch gardeners as well.

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This brings up the "quicky" Shrub and Tree Auction to be held at our very next meeting, Tuesday, April 14. Take a sharp look at the choice material to be auctioned as listed in this issue of the SPRAY -- all contributed by our own Dr. Leon Snyder -- with the proceeds to go to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Fund. Also note the number of each variety to be offered, there should be a plenty of most everything for everyone. Just be sure to be among those present whether you buy or not for the boys have a nice program set up for us, besides, this is your chance to ask the experts those spring chore "musts" you're not too sure about.

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Speaking of spring chores you ought to be gardening on the desert. All that do there is to wash the dust off the plants, then go back and lie in the Sun. The latest in landscaping is the use of different sized and colored stones or grave

BETTER VARIETIES OF THE MORE COMMON BEDDING PLANTS

(Abstracted from Notes of Bruce Johnstone, Northrup, King & Co.)

Ageratum. Blue Wink, a relatively new tetraploid Ageratum definitely worth growing. Moderately dwarf with large trusses and good, deep blue flowers. It is quite uniform in habit and has a very sturdy, vigorous growth.

Alyssums. Royal Carpet still the best dwarf purple and Carpet of Snow the best dwarf white. An All-American winner, Pink Heather is a pale pink but loses its pink color during extreme heat, turning "off white."

Asters. Powderpuff Mixed probably the best for this area. The color range has been much improved and its earliness, free flowering quality, plus the attractive, highly doubled heads make it very worthwhile. Queen of the Market and Burpeeana are good here, earlier than most other Asters.

Annual Dahlia, Unwin's and Rainbow Mixture easily grown, colorful and make a good display. Fall Festival similar to Unwin's except has bronze foliage and a limited color range. Rainbow Mixture similar to Unwin's but has some red foliage types in the blend.

Cosmos. One new variety worth watching is Mandarin. A deep orange yellow, very high doubled. A better plant and more attractive foliage than older types.

Columbine. New Mc Kana variety has larger flowers, longer spurs and a good color range.

Gloriosa Daisy. A relatively new tetraploid Rudbeckia brought out by Burpee. Has enormous, daisy-like flowers, 6 to 7 inches across, in shades and bicolors of yellow, orange, deep mahogany red and with brown centers. Hardy, tolerant to heat, drought and poor soils.

Lobelia. Crystal Palace and Emperor William good standard varieties. Now there is a good dwarf white in the same habit and a new type from England called, Rosamond, which is a crimson color in the same dwarf habit.

Marigolds. Ruffled Red best and most unique of the dwarf French types with single ruffled red flowers piped with gold. Rusty Red (or Fandango) a dwarf French, somewhat taller than the former, highly doubled with mahogany red color. Tangerine of the same habit as Rusty Red but a deep orange color. Petite Mixed, the 1959 All-America winner is extremely dwarf and early, available in a mixture or in straight orange, yellow, golden or bicolor. Lemon Drop still best dwarf miniature in light yellow, and Spry as a dwarf bicolor with yellow and red. Midget Harmony a big improvement over old Harmony, being much dwarfer. In African types, Honeycomb is early, quite dwarf, a beautiful orange yellow with tightly formed head, very free flowering and early. Crackerjack the best African type today. Similar to Sunset Giants but earlier, dwarf bearing flowers more on top of plants. Colors range from yellow, orange and golden. The Cupids are a true African but very dwarf, almost comparable to the French types in size of plant. The dwarf Cupids come in yellow, orange, gold and mixture.

Celosia. Forest Fire is medium dwarf, has deep bronze-red foliage, bright scarlet-orange plumes, very uniform, makes excellent bedding plant. Fiery Feather and Golden Feather are a shade dwarfer, having light green foliage rather than bronze leaves. Cockscomb class, Toreador, still excellent for a medium tall scarlet.

(continued)

VARIETIES (Con't)

Petunia. Maytime the All-American winner this year, a Grandiflora ruffled pink. Red Satin and Comanche still probably the best F1 scarlets. Red Satin a shade dwarfer than Comanche and holds color better. Glitters the best red and white bicolor. Flirt an excellent very pale pink. Fairyland good medium light pink. Linda a salmon pink in the Multiflora. Fire Dance and Ballerina still worth growing, unique in their color and type. The F2 mixtures still carry considerable hybrid vigor and produce more blooms on sturdier, compact plants over a longer period and have clear, bright colors and in a wider range than open pollinated kinds. The Multiflora mixtures are somewhat smaller flowered but carry more blooms per plant and hold up better under adverse conditions. The Grandifloras have larger individual flowers, less of them, and are more apt to suffer from excessive rain, wind or bad weather. The Multiflora mixture, Crown Jewels, has been improved considerably. Colorama, Confetti and Bonanza also good F2 Multiflora mixtures. In the Grandiflora mixtures, Petticoat, Carnival and Symphony are all rather similar and very good. They, too, have more blooms, better colors, more uniform plants than open pollinated mixtures. We have pelletized some of the F1 and F2 hybrid Petunias, especially for amateur growers, to make handling and planting the seed easier, eliminate some thinning and waste of seed. Quite a few commercial growers have tried the pelleted seed, and I believe it will be more widely used as more growers try it.

Phlox. Twinkle Star, All-America winner, a starred Phlox in good supply. Globe Phlox also dwarf with round-edged petals and a limited color range. Phlox Nana Compacta (Dwarf) Mixed is still extremely colorful, makes beautiful edging plant if grown from good stock.

Pinks. The annual Dianthus Brilliant has rounded petals and prominent eyes. Gaiety is smaller but with lacinate flowers and more solid faces.

Sweet William. New Wee Willie exceedingly dwarf type growing about 4 inches and throwing first blooms at about 2 inches in the flats. A very worth-while, new edging plant. Colors are shades and bicolors of crimson, pink, scarlet and white.

Snapdragons. Panorama a new excellent F2 mixture bred from Giant Colossal blood. Magic Carpet a dwarf mixed Snapdragon about 6 inches tall, adapted for edging and rock gardens.

Salvias. St. John's Fire probably the most important dwarf scarlet variety. Blue Bed considerably taller, good for cutting. Pink Sundae, a new Salvia with veined, magenta-pink upper foliage, with a fairy compact, uniform growth.

Stocks. New 7 Weeks Trysomic Mixed, very early, heavily doubled, in a good color range. Most desirable Stock for this area, and one that can be grown from plants with good success.

Verbena. The Dwarf Rainbow Mixture and the Ideal Florist Strain are dwarfer, more compact than the older types, with better color blends.

Vinca. Vinca, a good edging plant. New variety, Coquette, dwarfer than older strains and comes in a clear pink.

Zinnia. Ortho Polka has been much improved. A large flowered, striped petal type in combinations of orange, red, pink and white. Peppermint Stick the predecessor to Ortho Polka, is similar except with smaller flowers more in the Pumila size class. The Giant Fantasy variety, is an improved cactus flowered mixture, better now because of new, sharp colors. Considerable work now being done on dwarf Zinnias, such as the Cupids and Tom Thumb and within another year or two, will have available some very excellent

APRIL REMINDERS

1. Be not tempted to discard winter protection completely. If you uncover rose and less hardy perennials, be prepared to recover in a hurry should a heavy frost threaten. Heaven knows how much damage has already been done!
2. Warm days are good hose testing days and you can do two jobs at one time by washing 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 teas 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 the surface rough so as to hold snow and rain until planting time.
11. It's never too early to sow sweet or garden peas -- the earlier the better. Dig a six-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 very early -- they can stand a considerable amount of frost.
13. The seeds of bachelor buttons, calendula, candytuft, cosmos, larkspur, mignonette, 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 do a lot and reward you bountifully. 'Tis better not to disturb platycodons, peonies and gas plants.
15. Plant your new dormant roses early. Prune the canes back to three or four buds and cover completely with earth until the new growth starts.

ARBORETUM AUCTION

The following is the list of trees and shrubs that will be offered for sale at our April Club Meeting -- April 14. The description is by Dr. Leon Snyder.

- Lot 1 -- ACER SPICATUM (Moose Maple). 10 shrubs.
A native shrub maple growing to a height of 10-12 feet. Especially attractive in fruit. Fall color good. Very hardy.
- Lot 2 -- CORNUS STOLONIFERA COLORADENSIS. 5 shrubs.
A Rocky Mountain form of our native Red Osier dogwood. Smaller than the species with a silvery green foliage. Looks good in our trials.
- Lot 3 -- DEUTZIA LEMOINE (Lemoine Deutzia). 3 shrubs
A hardy Deutzia producing an abundance of showy white flowers in May. Very good in our trials.
- Lot 4 -- FORSYTHIA INTERMEDIA 'Arnold Giant.' 5 shrubs.
A tetraploid forsythia with flowers somewhat larger than normal. Plant in a sheltered location.
- Lot 5 -- FORSYTHIA OVATA (Early Forsythia). 10 shrubs.
The hardiest of our forsythias.
- Lot 6 -- FORSYTHIA SP. 5 shrubs.
An unknown variety grown by the late Harold Wright for the past 12 years. (Proven hardy.)
- Lot 7 -- LONICERA CLAVEYI (Clavey's Dwarf Honeysuckle). 10 shrubs.
A hardy, low honeysuckle. Excellent for foundation plantings or a hedge.
- Lot 8 -- LONICERA INVOLUCRATA (Bearberry Honeysuckle). 10 shrubs
A rather coarse native with showy red involucral bracts.
- Lot 9 -- LONICERA TELLMANNIANA (Tellmans Vine Honeysuckle). 2 vines.
A choice vine with large yellow trumpet-shaped flowers borne in showy clusters. Very choice.
- Lot 10 -- LONICERA KOROLKOWI ZABELI (Zabels Honeysuckle). 10 shrubs.
The best of the bush honeysuckles.
- Lot 11 -- MALUS ALMEY. 5 trees.
A large flowered rosybloom crabapple. Developed in Canada.
- Lot 12 -- MALUS RED SPLENDOR. 5 trees.
A very hardy rosybloom crabapple that holds its small, bright-red fruits throughout the winter.
- Lot 13 -- MALUS SUNDOG. 5 trees.
A very hardy upright flowering crab developed in Canada. Flowers pink.
- Lot 14 -- MALUS 15C. 5 trees
A promising rosybloom selection from the University of Minnesota.

BE SURE TO SET SOMETHING ASIDE FOR OUR MAY AUCTION

ARBORETUM AUCTION (Con't)

- Lot 15 -- METASEQUOIA GLYPTOSTROBOIDES (Dawn Redwood). 5 trees
A deciduous conifer from out of the past. Plant in a sheltered spot. Very choice.
- Lot 16 -- POTENTILLA FRUTICOSA DAHURICA. 5 shrubs.
A very hardy bush cinquefoil. Plant in full sun.
- Lot 17 -- PRUNUS MINNESOTA PURPLE. 3 trees.
Similar to Newport plum and considered by some to be better. Rare.
- Lot 18 -- PRUNUS MUCKLE. 3 trees.
A hybrid plum developed in Canada from a cross between P. nigra and P. tenella. Blooms early with bright red flower. Good.
- Lot 19 -- SALIX MATSUDANA TORTUOSA (Corkscrew Willow). 5 trees.
A novelty among the willows with twisted branches. An interesting small tree.
- Lot 20 -- SORBUS DISCOLOR (Whiteberried Mountain Ash). 10 trees.
A small tree from China of interest for its white fruit. New in Minnesota. Hardiness unknown.
- Lot 21 -- WEIGELA FLORIDA VARIEGATA (Variegated Dogwood). 10 bushes.
A variegated Weigela producing pink flowers. Plant in sheltered spot.
- Lot 22 -- APRICOTS -- Selections #53, #54 and #68. 30 trees
- Lot 23 -- DWARF APPLES ON MALLING #3 ROOTS. 15 trees.
Beacon, Fireside, Haralson, Minjon, Prairie Spy, and Oriole.
Malling #3 produces a semi-dwarf tree.

SPRING PRUNING

You can't go very far wrong if you adhere to these following six basic rule

1. Prune to enhance the natural growth of the tree or shrub.
2. Don't put off pruning until the plant is overgrown. Prune regularly every year.
3. Try to keep the shrub's character -- its natural growth. Take a good look before starting, go slow -- stand back and take another good look at what's happening to its shape as you go along.
4. Remove all dead and weak branches first, then thin out the inside twiggy area.
5. When you have allowed a shrub to get out of hand, cut it back gradually a little each year -- not all at once. Also cut down to the main side shoots, not all the way to the ground.
6. Refrain from simply topping a shrub or giving it a crew haircut. It not only induces twiggyiness but makes a monkey out of the plant.

REMEMBER TO SOW THOSE EXTRA FLATS OF SEEDS FOR THE MAY AUCTION

NEWS AND VIEWS (Con't)

The effect, as you can well imagine, is jarringly startling, in some cases surprisingly effective. Although the up-keep is practically nothing in either work or money and the loss over the years, you might say, negligible, the initial investment is pretty steep. For instance, most of the species of cacti are slow growing, taking years to reach just a few feet. As a consequence, almost any of the large varieties will take fifty to seventy-five years to reach eight to ten feet high. When they get to be that size they weigh tons, besides being difficult to handle because of the ferocity of their needles. I detected one monster in a newly landscaped home that cost the owner over \$500 for the one plant. But just think, his troubles with that baby had to do with his bank account and by this time that should have passed and been forgotten. No watering, no cultivating, no feeding, no spraying, no pruning, no weeding, no staking, no protecting. All he has left to do, is to watch nature alone take its course. A lot of people wouldn't like to be robbed of all that work or should I say the "fun" that goes into the growing of most everything in this part of the country and yet there are times when it would be more fun to have less work to do in the garden -- I'm afraid that thought creeps up on me too often.

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OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

by Bill Hull

Just heard that Tom Foley broke his hip several weeks ago while in Florida. Apparently no one in the Club knew of this, but we are glad to report Tom is now up moving around in a walker and we wish him a speedy recovery. Drop him a card at 320 North H Street, Lake Worth, Florida.

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Congratulations to Les Johnson and others for a fine meeting in March. Four very interesting discussions by Dick Stadtherr, Bill Ost, Archie Flack and Glen Cerney. The material these members presented was on a top professional level, and, judging by members' reactions, just what they wanted.

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Did you realize that annual rye grass will grow a total of 74 inches here in Minnesota? Had you ever heard of a bald-pated begonia? Did you ever see a more meticulously groomed garden than that of our Englishman friend? Did you realize that the Pater of Perennials grows about 300 kinds of perennials? If not, you should have been at the March meeting.

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Thanks Walter Menzel for the "Baby's Tears" plants, and Ev Haeddecke for the first aid sets given as door prizes.

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A very nice letter from Rene Dufgurd (Rte. 1, Box 225, Mt. Dora, Florida) telling of his activities with the Mt. Dora, Florida Men's Garden Club. They are thinking in terms of a small arboretum, which we hope can become a reality for them. With Rene backing it, we'll bet on its success. He sends his regards to all and asks for news. Don't forget to drop him a note.