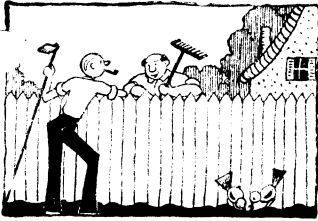


THE GARDEN SPRAY



BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAP

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

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Vic Lowrie, Editor

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AUGUST GARDEN TOUR

Date: Tuesday, August 8, 1950
Time: 5:30 P.M. sharp
Place: Residence and garden of
Howard W. Bishop, 5403
S. Blake Road (Mirror Lake)
Dinner: Smorgasbord Special
Hot, cold and fancy eating
Price: \$1.50 including tips and
all the frills

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Another interesting tour of members' gardens will follow our visit with Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bishop.

You'll enjoy the dinner our Commissary Committee has planned for you. Caterers will provide the meal in smorgasbord style with both hot and cold dishes, salads, dessert, coffee and what have you.

Be sure and come well ahead of the dinner hour - 5:30 P.M. - so that you can take in the Bishop's expansive garden, including shrubs, flowers, vegetables and fruits. Howard has a new garden house you'll also want to give the once-over, and don't forget the Bishop-Flack dwarf apple tree project which experiment both members have been conducting on the Bishop farm.

For those of you who are not too familiar with routes leading to Mirror Lake, follow these directions:

Take Interlachen Blvd to Mirror Lake. Pass between the two lakes and turn left on Blake Road. A quarter-mile along, turn left again onto a private road marked "Wrench-Bishop-Carlson" and you'll

JULY GARDEN TOUR

It is most unfortunate that the hours of daylight from 5:30 P.M. on limit the number of gardens that we can visit during our monthly get-togethers. We would like to visit every member's garden, but this cannot be done on regular meeting days, although it is nothing to stop anyone from gathering a few members together and visiting the fellow members' gardens Saturday afternoons or Sundays. We would like to encourage this idea, and some thought is being given to establishing a visiting committee which would organize and detail such arrangements.

Time permitted visiting only five members' gardens on our last meeting day, all in the same general neighborhood, and without a doubt they were extremely interesting because they were so different one from the other, thus offering many new ideas and suggestions.

Art Blackburn has without a doubt one of the most ornamental gardens we have seen in a long time. His wishing well, his grape arbor, his trellises covered with climbing roses, and a stand of delphiniums that was almost breath-taking, not to mention his generous distribution of phlox and his unusual display of Shasta daisies, provided a picture which will long be remembered.

Our next stop was at Stan Lund's rose gardens, and, as was expected, we were greeted with an extremely colorful display. Stan, being our Rosarian, of course should have a lot of roses and he has over 200 plants and somewhere near 50 varieties, and he feeds them! And from their appearance, he must spray them and nurse them as well as he feeds them!

Our routing then took us to the home of Gordie Ballhorn. Gordie's garden is somewhat different in that it is divided into departments and every department is separated either by hedges or fences or borders and the whole effect is very pleasing. He has a vegetable department, a rose department, an annual department, a propagating department, a compost department, and a department in which he does his mending and playing around, as it were. The whole arrangement is unique in that the unsightly things like compost bins and propagating flats are hidden by pleasing hedges, greenery and the garden as a whole was manicured to the Nth degree.

George Patchin's garden was next in line and again we found an entirely different setting. A very attractive entrance, colorful and unusual, the first thing that greeted us being a wagonwheel covered with climbing roses which made a lovely highlight. The garden was terraced quite a bit below the level of the house which provided a rather distinctive setting for a rock garden which was well planted and interestingly arranged. A wide expanse of lawn ran from the house to a wooded section and beyond the woods (which, by the way, were filled with wildflowers and must have been a sight to behold in the Spring!), we came to a vegetable and fruit garden which reminded us very much of the old Victory Garden days - which may be upon us again in the not-too-distant future!

Our next call was at Jim Cristman's who always has a colorful display of not only the regular variety of plants and flowers but probably more unusual and new varieties than would be found in most gardens.

Jim's cloth house was most intriguing, containing dahlias, asters, snaps and sweet peas, adding much to conjure over and, incidentally, we found tucked away in the corner of this cloth house pansy blossoms that measured over three inches across. His tuberous begonias were typically of the Jim Cristman variety - lush, colorful and veritable giants.

Only darkness prevented our going on - which I know we all would have preferred doing - but we have six more gardens to see on Tuesday, August 8th, and I am sure

NEW COMERS

The Russell Gardens, Spring, Texas, have developed four new daylilies, all 1950 introductions. San Pedro is a canary-gold; Happy Days, a pale lemon with apple-green throat; Rainbow Chaser, a giant red-brown blend with green throat; Bernice Russell, a rosy cinnamon-yellow bordering on brown.

An early, hardy cactus-type mum developed by R. M. Kellogg Co., Three Rivers, Mich. is said to be a greenhouse "moved outdoors." Named Touslehead Lavender Cactus, it has 4- to 5-inch blooms varying from pure light pink to deep orchid - claimed to grow anywhere other mums will.

Iychnis chalconica in flesh-color, white and scarlet are being offered by a few dealers, including Peter Henderson & Co., 35 Cortlandt Street, New York 7, N. Y.

Another brown iris is being introduced by Corley's Gardens - Silverton, Oregon. It's a golden-tan, named for an Egyptian pharaoh who sent searchers into Syria to collect plants. Thothmes III is its name - it's a large iris 40 inches tall, with a light bronze head, broad falls, with a heavy texture.

Delphinium hybridizers are offering seeds of delphiniums with blossoms in shades of red, pink and orange.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Important discussion by the Show Committee very well written. You can order them concerning our Fall Show has been centered through our Secretary. The African Violet book is priced at 50¢; the other at 35¢. Interest groups to furnish either non-competitive or competitive exhibits of the plants, flowers or vegetables of their special interest. Such exhibits could take the form of arrangements, individual specimens, potted plants or even specially designed plots representing miniature gardens. Here is an idea that could provide the spark that would make our Show uniquely different from the regular run-of-the-mill and make it possible for every member of our Club to participate. If you have any ideas on the subject, pass them along to your Garden Spray editor - and they'll be duly aired.

Rene Dufourd is looking for candidates to fill two speaking engagements for the Morningside Garden Club. The first is a talk on flowers and plants for which our group will provide slides with appropriate explanatory notes. This is to be given the second Friday in November. The second is for the second Friday in February and the talk is to be on garden management. Both are afternoon talks to start at 2:30 P.M.

If you are interested in African Violets

Gadgets - have you any new ones? Have you made any of your own? Have you any that you would like to recommend to your fellow Clubmembers? Rene Dufourd, chairman of the Gadgets Committee, would like to hear of your experiences with new gadgets, so won't you please keep him posted?

Our film library is growing slowly but we still would like a wider selection of flowers and plants as well as garden landscapes. Don't forget whenever you take a photo of yours or your neighbor's garden, keep the Club library in mind and let us have duplicates of those you think will add richness to our collection. Incidentally, the library is being used quite extensively in talks before various groups and we have had some fine compliments from audiences who have been given slide presentations.

Have you your plants properly identified or do you stumble over naming the variety when your neighbor asks its name? Rene Dufourd has a good supply of large and small aluminum markers at \$1.35 a dozen. All you have to do is write the name with a china or wax pencil and it will stay put.

AUGUST HINTS

If you haven't divided your iris and Oriental poppies, it's high time this work was done. Also bleeding-heart and lily-of-the-valley should be thinned and well fertilized.

It's not too late to continue sowing beans, radishes and lettuce, but keep them shaded from the hot sun as they germinate, and water well.

There is also time to sow your favorite biennials and perennials seeds for wintering over in your cold frame. Include delphinium, columbine, hollyhock, foxgloves and forget-me-nots - also pansies, violas and primulas.

If you want to bring your late flowering plants into bloom early, shade them part of the day with black cloth. The better period for shading is from 4 o'clock in the

afternoon until about 8 o'clock in the morning. A small frame of light wood or wire will hold the cloth. Discontinue shading when buds begin to show color.

When the weather turns hot (if it ever does around here), keep the blades of your lawnmower high - 2½ inches is about right. It will help your grass to come through the heat with stronger roots.

Cut back your delphiniums after blooming and work a complete fertilizer around the base of the plants to encourage a second bloom. Keep your glads well watered as they are coming into bud.

It's about time to make cuttings of coleus, geraniums, everblooming begonias and the other plants from your garden that you particularly want to pot for indoor growing during the winter months.

CALIFORNIA'S WEATHER FACTORY

In the new Earhart Plant Research Laboratory, build by the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, scientists have come pretty close to building a "weather factory" in which all types of climatic conditions are man-made for study of their effects on plant growth.

Here the climate of any section of the country can be reproduced - humid or dry weather, hot days and cold nights or vice versa, Southern weather, Northern weather, arctic or tropical, rain, hail, snow and storms of varying intensities.

The laboratory includes six air-conditioned greenhouses with daylight being the light source; then there are 13 air-conditioned laboratories with fluorescent lamps as the light source.

The climate in any of these individual labs is controlled by a series of switches installed on the main control board. By the opening and closing of valves and the throwing of switches, the climate of the room can be changed from the heat of the plains to blizzard conditions in the frozen North, from a New York pea soup fog to a cloudburst in Nebraska.

All laboratories and greenhouses are equipped with hot and cold water, drinking water, de-ionized water, nutrient solution, compressed air, and electrical outlets for any voltage required.

Plants are to be grown on movable trucks so that they can be wheeled with ease from one room or lab to another. Each truck will carry a code signal indicating the laboratory to which it is assigned and the length of its stay there.

A fixed photo-record camera is provided for photographing.