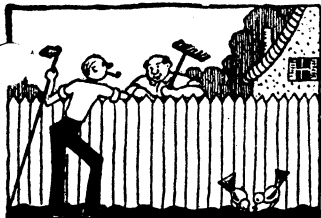


THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



MEMBER—MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA
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AUGUST GARDEN TOUR

Date: Tuesday, August 14
Place: Rene Dufourd's Garden,
5020 Second Ave. South
Time: 5:30 P.M.
Dinner: A good one!

Our August Garden Tour will include another group of interesting gardens of members, many of which have never been on previous tour schedules. So come prepared for a real treat.

Officers

Fred Paul, President
Vic Lowrie, Vice-President
Rene Dufourd, Secretary
Bill Brooks, Treasurer
Cortis Rice, Jr.
Past-President

SAVE AUGUST 25th

Your Program Committee, through Larry Corbett, has arranged for members and their adult guests to visit the Northrup King trial gardens at Eden Valley on Saturday, August 25th, from 2 in the afternoon until dusk.

A mimeographed sheet of plants and their varieties by rows will be furnished to enable you to identify and make note of your favorite flowers, and company officials will be on hand to answer questions.

Don't miss this splendid opportunity to see what a wide range of plants (including named varieties) you can grow from seed sown directly in your flower beds. All plants in the trial gardens were grown from seed planted where they are now growing.

We will picnic around 5:30, so bring your picnic basket loaded with food and drinks. If you want to eat in style, bring your own folding table and chairs.

AUGUST HINTS

By the time this issue is delivered to you, the temperature will probably be reaching for 90° or above. If you have mulched your beds, most plants will stand up well; if not, you had better get busy. You can mulch with dust by light cultivating, or use any one of the many popular "mulching" materials - lawn clippings, light compost, well rotted manure, ground corncobs, crushed buckwheat hulls, sawdust or peat moss.

Water once a week, giving the ground a good soaking. Use a Soil Soaker or Water Wand, preferably. An open-end hose wrapped with burlap or cloth or glove tied over the end is a good substitute. Be sure to soak deeply; water should seep to a depth of at least six inches before the hose is moved. Most garden authorities discourage use of an overhead spray or sprinkler. They stress the importance of keeping the foliage dry in order to prevent the danger of spreading disease. Nevertheless, when the temperature gets above 90°, I turn the sprinkler on my west exposed rose bed from 11 A.M. until 4 P.M. to keep plants from burning and blooms from fading. Make sure the foliage dries before nightfall, and to play safe, spray or dust after dark.

While on the subject of spraying and dusting, it has been written that for best results in spraying, do it in the morning. Dusting is more effective when done in the early evening or late afternoon before the dew gets too heavy. But of still more importance, keep up your fight against disease and pests until frost.

Watch for cracks in the soil, particularly around new plant. Fill the openings with water and then cover with 2 or 3 inches of mul. Also watch your drainage and don't allow water to stand around plants - drain it off by means of a small furrow.

During the heat of summer, keep the blades of your lawnmower just as high as is possible. Now I'm not going to tell you how high for fear the "Silver Fox" will get me. Anyway, your grass will do better and come through the heat with stronger roots if you don't cut it too short.

Cut back your delphiniums after blooming about half-way down and work a complete fertilizer around the base of the plant to encourage a second bloom. You can cut back the balance of the old growth as soon as the new is well developed.

Gladioli are thirsty things, especially at budding time, so keep them well watered. The same holds true of dahlias. They are heavy drinkers and will produce more bloom if thirst is satisfied - but again let me repeat - it's better to soak plants thoroughly once a week than to sprinkle them every day. Incidentally, watch the growth of those dahlias and keep them securely staked. Disbud for larger blooms and longer stems.

It's too late to pinch your mums back any more, but if you want to bring the late blooming varieties into early bloom, give them a longer night. Chrysanthemums do most of their growing and development in the dark, so if you want to hasten them along, here's a suggestion. Build a small light wood or wire frame around the plant high enough to hold a lightweight black cloth well above the plant. Shade

Don't allow your phlox to go to seed, if you want continuous bloom; and pull up all "volunteer" seedlings if you want to retain the plant's original color. Dust with sulphur for mildew and red spider. There is no remedy for phlox blight - give the plant plenty of water and cut diseased stems back to sound wood.

This is a good time to divide bleeding heart. Give them a good fertilizer dressing and water well. Bleeding heart do better in partial shade. Lily of the valley should be thinned and fertilized also at this time.

Perennials and biennial seeds should be sown now and the seedlings wintered in the cold frame. Prepare the seed bed well and shade the young plants from the hot sun - keep the soil moist, using a fine spray. Try your hand at sowing any or all of the following from seed: delphinium, columbine, hollyhocks, foxglove, coral bells, carnation pinks, pansies, violas, primulas, Canterbury bells, Sweet William and forget-me-nots.

This is about the time to make cuttings of coleus, geranium, wax begonias and other plants in your garden that you particularly want to pot for indoor growing during the winter months. It is simple to make cuttings. Cut the shoot with a sharp knife. Trim it so that the bottom of the cutting is 1/4 inch below a leaf or node. Remove just a few of the leaves and dip the base of the cutting in a root-promoting substance such as Rootone. Then insert the cutting in a rooting medium, vermiculite perhaps, or sand, then water and keep shaded. In the case of geranium cuttings, which are subject to a disease called blackleg, before planting store them in a cool, well ventilated place for about a week or until a callus forms over the cut end.

It is not too late to sow a new lot of snap beans, kale, lat lettuce and radishes, but keep them shaded from the hot sun as they germinate, and water well. By the way, you vegetable growers, are you growing Bib lettuce? It runs to seed at the slightest hint of high heat, but I was reading somewhere you can sow it in the cold frame as late as August 15 and if protected against severe freezing, it will form tiny, solid heads that practically pop apart.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Here's a handy transplanting tool for picking out tiny seedlings. Heat an ordinary steel penpoint to red heat. Press the point down on a hard surface bending the point upward and the two sharp points apart. At the other end of the pen holder drive in a strong needle leaving the head projecting about 1". Use the needle end to loosen the seedlings in the seed flat and the penpoint end to lift and transplant them into new positions.

Having difficulty with extra objects

Taken any colored films of your garden or favorite flower, shrub, tree or vegetable lately? Remember the Club's film library. It is far from complete and we have few vegetable garden pictures and need better representation of flowering shrubs and vines.

It helps a lot to have your plants properly identified, especially when a visitor asks the name of a variety. Rene Dufourd has a good supply of large and small aluminum

Having difficulty with extra objects

OUR JULY GARDEN TOUR

We are indeed grateful to Archie Flack and his Program Committee for such an enjoyable dinner and a most pleasant and educational visit to eight interesting gardens.

And to Mr. and Mrs. Kahlert, our genial dinner hosts, we express our sincere thanks for their graciousness and for providing such comfortable accommodations in so fine a setting as their lovely garden provides.

It was fun being able to spend as much time as one cared to in each garden. After all, our special interests do differ and we could tarry with our gardener host in accordance with the depth of our interest and the range of our curiosity.

Furthermore, I believe some of us found time to visit additional members' gardens that happened to be on the scheduled route, which would not have been possible had we made the rounds in a body. And of course the parking problem of earlier years was completely eliminated. The seemingly early fall of darkness provided the only shadow - but we have more gardens to view this month - so remember the earlier we get started, the longer the visiting hours - the more gardens to enjoy.

AN INVITATION

Men's Garden Club of Mound are going to have their flower show on the 17th and 18th of August in the Larenee Ford Motor Co. showrooms at Excelsior. Our Club is cordially invited to look it over. It promises to be a fine exhibition of plant material, so mark your calendar and try to take it in.

Tuberous begonia seed by weight are the highest priced seed on the market - today selling at \$2,000 an ounce! It is also the "finest" flower seed sold - 1,470,000 seeds to an ounce! So by the seed they are relatively inexpensive. It has been reported that the largest amount sold to an individual is 1/32 of an ounce and even that could produce a lot of begonia plants - 46,000 seeds!

To keep your flowers fresh longer, cut them in the cool of the evening, harden them off over night by placing in water up to their necks in a cool, well ventilated room. Then when "Her Majesty" takes charge to arrange them, quietly suggest she place a lump of charcoal in the vase.

WE SALUTE

. . . Walter Quist on being re-elected President of the Mpls. Park Board. The recognition is deserving and we wish you and your Board continued success during the year ahead, Walter.

. . . Gregory Lucking for having passed his examination for Assistant Park Superintendent and we certainly hope it will not be too long before Greg will be able to fill this position on the Mpls. Park System.

Have you tried feeding your plants fish? Fish emulsion made by condensing the water in which fish are processed to manufacture animal feeds is being offered as a plant food. The emulsion is soluble in water and contains the minerals, hormones and vitamins found in fish as well as providing essential nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. It is simple to apply and works rapidly. However, it is quite potent - care must be exercised in its use so as not to overfeed or burn the plants. Therefore, follow the instructions furnished by the