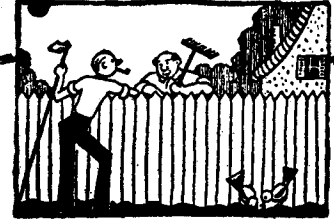




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



August, 1955
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G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors:
Don Methven, Wm Hull,
N. W. Christopherson

AUGUST GARDEN TOUR

Date: Tuesday, August 9, 1955
Place: Joe Witmer,
255 Oakwood Road, Hopkins.
Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp

Barbecued Ribs by the
Grill and Grub Committee
Bill Swain, Maitre de'

Gardens to be visited will
be announced at dinner and
a map furnished for your
guidance.

Officers

J. M. Witmer	President
F. F. Heschmeyer	Vice-president
N. W. Christopherson	Secretary
R. C. Adams	Treasurer

Office of the Secretary
N. W. Christopherson
6145 Clinton Ave. So.

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

Bill Swain promises to serve equally as delicious a dinner as was served last month but with even more trimmings, if that could be possible. So come along all you good gardeners, partake of a sumptuous meal, then enjoy a tour of highly interesting gardens and much garden talk. Bring along your folding table and chairs if you don't want to sit on Joe's spacious lawn.

President Witmer received the following letter of acknowledgement from the Secretary of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society for our contribution to the Landscape Arboretum Fund. This contribution was approved at the June 14th meeting.

J. M. Witmer
Pres. Minneapolis Men's Garden Club
255 Oakwood Road
Hopkins, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Witmer:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your check in the amount of two hundred (\$200.00) for the Landscape Arboretum Fund.

Your check will be forwarded to the Greater University Fund, where we have a project set up which will channel the funds to arboretum work now under way at the University Fruit Breeding Farm at Excelsior, Minn.

The Society's Landscape Arboretum Committee will continue in its efforts to promote state-wide arboretum work and will assist the University Department of Horticulture in developing its woody plant research project along the most productive lines.

Cooperation and support such as yours makes it possible to carry on this much needed work. Thanks for your contribution. It is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

E. M. Hunt
Secretary

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MONTE LOVED FLOWERS

When Cortez moved in on Montezuma, he found more flowers than fighting equipment.

"This great monarch had many pleasancess and spacious garden with paths and channels for irrigation." wrote one of the Spaniards. "These gardens contained only aromatic herbs, flowers, native roses, and trees with fragrant blossoms, of which there were many."

"These gardens gave great pleasure to all who visited them on account of the flowers and roses they contained and of the fragrance they gave forth, especially in the mornings and evenings. It was well worth seeing with how much art and delicacy a thousand figures of persons were made by means of leaves and flowers, also the seats, chapels and other construction which is so greatly adorned these places."

"In these flower gardens Montezuma did not allow any vegetable or fruit to be grown, saying it was not kingly to cultivate plants for utility or profit in his pleasure. At the same time he owned such, but they were at a distance and he seldom visited them."

4th ANNUAL FALL FLOWER SHOW

The Men's Garden Club of Richfield will hold their Fall Flower Show on August 27th and 28th at Woodlake School, 66th Street and Dupont Ave. Make plans to attend this event as it is one of the top flower shows in this vicinity and

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

By Bill Hull

Never have I heard more enthusiastic comments about the calibre of the food at our dinners, than those following the July lawn dinner at Arnold Brastad's. Bill Swain had planned the meal excellently and had everything on hand to make it a succulent feast. The half chickens were charcoal-grilled for several hours as only Bill can prepare them. But we must not forget the wonderful salad table with six salad serving bowls of greens, and all the rest of the fine meal.

Although I, personally, had nothing to do with the planning, as George Titus and Rene Dufourd probably did, I was privileged to be one of the committee of four and enjoyed my learning session under Bill. I only wish we had photographed the preparation period with Bill bending over the steaming chickens, George slicing cucumbers, Rene making salad. Much fun.

Then, if you didn't get to see the lawns and gardens of Al Blackburn, Archie Flack, Harold Kaufmann, as well as that of our kind host, Arnold Brastad, you missed a superb evening.

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It's really too bad that we don't encourage more garden visiting among members. If we'd only stop and visit a garden occasionally on our way home, we'd share a lot of our pride and pleasure. We'd also learn a lot too.

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We're trying to set a date for the Fall Show, which has been the second weekend in September for several years. Mums are unpredictable this year, many already being in full bloom. As further indication of the season's advance, I've been hearing complaints from the hay fever sufferers already. However, we have finally settled on September 10th and 11th.

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I've developed a workable method of scaring birds away from my strawberries which really works. From thin aluminum sheeting or tin, cut five inch circles. Cut these circles into long strips so they dangle coil fashion and then suspend on wire over your berries. The vertical dancing of the coils frighten away the birds.

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Bob Adams yard and garden is very attractive these days. A white picket fence gives Bob opportunity for beds and spots of color. It looks very pretty, Bob, with the masses of color you have.

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Vic Lowrie has two beautiful rose beds at opposite ends of his yard. One consists entirely of reds, and the other of pinks. Vic is faced with a gradual adaptation of an existing garden to fit his own tastes. A beautiful yard a few months ago, but Vic has already improved it.

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE (Continued)

Someone suggested eliminating ants if I wanted to avoid aphids. So I've been dusting the soil around my nasturtiums with chlordane and, so far, there have been no aphids. (Surely everyone knows ants "farm out" aphids who are dependent upon their bigger brothers.)

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My neighbor says the prettiest flower in his garden is his child. Chip off the old block sort of thing. Personally, I think the boy is a wild flower.

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We are happy and proud to salute John McClure, whose successful business career was high lighted in a recent issue of the Morning Tribune. Congratulations, John. We are equally proud of your gardening prowess.

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Joe Cohen is recuperating in Mount Sinai Hospital from a back injury. It has not yet been offically reported if the accident came about from hauling hoses around the yard, pulling weeds or cutting blooms. Which ever it was Joe, we wish you a speedy recovery and an early return to a club meeting.

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THE RAIN UPON THE ROOF

By George Batho

When the days are hot and dusty
And the ground is full of cracks:
When the grass looks brown and rusty
And the 'taters and the flax
Seem so wilted and so jaded,
With their heads a-hanging down,
When the scarecrow, e'en seems faded
And the hazel brush turns brown;
Then it's nice to be at midnight,
All so comfy in your bed,
And listen to the rain drops
Pitter, patter overhead.

When the pastures are all eaten
By the 'hoppers and the cows;
And the farmers feel quite beaten,
And are gettin out their ploughs
So's to turn down half the barley
'Cause 'tis ruined by the drought,
And the oats, particularly
Seem as though they'd petered out;
Then it freshens all yer bein',—
All yer warp and all your woof —
Just to lie abed, and listen
To the rain upon the roof.

When the ragweed doubles over,
As though hidin' from the heat,
And there's bare spots in the clover,
In the corn and in the wheat;
When you hear the cows a-bawlin'
Till it almost makes you sick,—
For there's not a drop a-crawlin'
'Mongst the pebbles in the creek.
Then it's nice to hear the thunder
An' to see the clouds so black,
While you listen to the patter
On the shingles of yer shack.

When your harvest seems a goner—
(Perhaps you'll mow a bit for feed)
And it seems as though yer honor
Must be pledged to buy yer seed.
When yer wife's old dress is tearin'
And of thread you've not a spool,
And the duds the kids are wearin'
Are not fit to wear to school;
Then it seems a bit of heaven
To look across the plain
And to hear the steady music
Of a "soaker" of a rain.

HOT WEATHER HINTS

If you have mulched your flower beds, plants have withstood the heat well. Since August is likely to be as hot as July just passed, those of you who have not mulched better do so now. You can use any one of many popular mulching materials including lawn clippings, light compost, well rotted manure, crushed buckwheat hulls, ground corn cobs, sawdust or peat moss.

They used to say to mulch with dust by light cultivating but the Davis Experimental Station in California have just released studies showing that to cultivate soon after a rain may increase rather than decrease water loss from evaporation. The report goes on to point out that in theory, cultivation is supposed to reduce water loss by preventing capillary action from bringing water to the surface, actually very little moisture is removed from the soil by capillary action. Water is lost largely by transpiration through the leaves of plant growing in the soil.

Remember that a good soaking of your lawn is to be preferred over light spraying daily. One should soak deeply, to a depth of six inches if possible. Of course light sandy soils may need more frequent attention. In your beds use a soil soaker or water wand, keeping the water away from foliage, particularly of roses, phlox and zinnias.

Keep feeding and watering your tuberous begonias for continuous bloom. Don't water the foliage if it is exposed to the hot sun.

Keep the blades of your mower as high as possible during the hot weather and allow the grass to grow as high as practical before cutting. It's not too late to get after that crab grass providing it hasn't already gone to seed. Try new chemical Disodium Methyl Arsonate. Do not use it however, on new lawn seedlings. Wait until new lawns or sowings have been mowed twice.

Gladioli, Dahlias and Roses are thirsty things, especially at budding time, so soak them really well once a week. When cutting gladioli for the house, take them when the first flower opens and with as little foliage as possible.

Perennial and biennial seeds should be sown now and the seedling wintered in the cold frame. Prepare the seed beds well, good and deep and be sure to shade the young plants from the hot sun. Keep the soil moist at all times, using an extremely fine spray.

Fertilize your rose beds now for heavy fall bloom but do not fertilize after August 15th or you may have difficulty hardening off green canes before frost sets in.

Have you had colored films taken of your garden or favorite flower. If not, call a member of the Photography Committee for we would like every member's garden represented at the Christmas film showing.

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NICOTIANA

(Lovely sounding name)
Flower of shadow, flower of falling dusk, you close your petals to the prying sun and hoard your beauty for a darker lover. But when the garden swims in amethyst and phlox and daisies seek the evening cover,

you spread your waxen petals one by one and hold them open for the twilight kiss, while suddenly a scent too sweet to bear floats out upon a sea of summer air. Nicotiana, pale crepuscular flower, the first star takes the sky; now claim your hour.

FOR THE LILY ENTHUSIASTS
(From the North American Lily Society)

Over 2,000 lilies were on display at the eighth annual lily show of the North American Lily Society held in Horticultural Hall in Boston, Mass., July 12th through 14th, under the co-sponsorship of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

The exhibits included many of the newer hybrids such as the yellow trumpet lilies, the pink trumpets, the auratum-japonicum-speciosum crosses, the tiger lily hybrids and many others. All colors of the rainbow except blue were represented.

The winners of special awards included Andrew A. Simoni of Norwood, Mass. who won the Director's Cup for the best White Trumpet lily. The M. E. Pierce Cup went to Mr. C. L. Shride of Seattle, Wash., for a collection of native species.

Silver Medals of the Mass. Horticultural Society were given to the Oregon Bulb Farms of Gresham, Oregon, for a collection of lily species; to Mr. Shride for the best stalk of a named hybrid lily; to Strawberry Hill, Rhinebeck, N. Y. for a collection of lily hybrids; to James Cass of Hyde Park, Mass. for his collection of lily color plates, and to the Merrys of Needham, Mass. for a display of Hemerocallis. Its Bronze Medal was awarded to the USDA for its display of hybrid lilies.

The D. G. Griffiths Cup was awarded to the Oregon Bulb Farms for the best unnamed new seedling.

The best spike of a lilium hybrid originated in Canada won the Silver Medal of the Toronto Horticultural Society for the Dominion Experiment Farm of Vineland, Ontario. The Bronze Medal of the Toronto Horticultural Society also went to the Dominion Expt. Station.

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1955 MINNESOTA GLADIOLUS SHOW

The 26th Annual Minnesota Gladiolus Show will be held this year at the Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis, Monday and Tuesday, August 8th and 9th. There will be a place for everyone to compete, from novice to professional. Everyone is invited to enter this show. You need not be a member of the Minnesota Gladiolus Society to compete. The arrangement section will be especially attractive to garden club members, and they are welcome to exhibit their talents. Don't underestimate your glads, bring them in and give them a chance to win. They won't win if you leave them home in your garden. Anyone desiring a show schedule may have one by writing to the show chairman, Henry A. Elieff, 4009 Park Ave., Minneapolis 7, Minnesota.