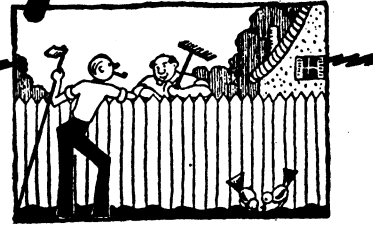




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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THE AUGUST GARDEN TOUR
WILL BE
Saturday Afternoon, August 3rd, This Month
in place of the second Tuesday

The reason: BETTER HOMES and GARDENS in their series, "Let's Keep America Beautiful," want to do Minneapolis, basing the story largely on the work of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

Their garden editor, Fleeta Brownell Woodroffe, will be here with us, accompanied by her photographers to take colored pictures of the gang at dinner and also of members' gardens.

So come in your most colorful sports clothes to give the whole affair an atmosphere of gaiety.

The Blackbourns (5015 Wooddale Lane, Edina) with their colorful garden and picturesque setting have consented to be our dinner hosts. We will meet there at three o'clock.

The Grub and Grill Committee will serve a sumptuous meal, including roast beef a la Bill Swain with all the trimmings under the supervision of Chef, Rene Dufourd. Dinner will be served at 3:30 P.M.

Sorry we can't include the family, but this is strictly a men's garden club project. After dinner we will tour the gardens of members' in the adjacent area and should be all through by 6:30 P.M.

Now, do please make serious effort to attend. We would like to have every member represented in this BETTER HOMES and GARDENS story.

The Date: Saturday Afternoon, August 3
The Time: 3 o'clock sharp
The Place: Al Blackbourn's, Edina
Dinner: 3:30 P.M.

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

by Bill Hull

How we missed some of you Minneapolis boys and wives at the national convention in Portland. It was a fine convention, highlighted by lots of activities and a fine host committee. See your Fall MEGA for details, but you certainly would have enjoyed such experiences as hearing Frank Reinelt of Vetterle and Reinelt and Jan de Graaf, each speak on their specialties, as did many other men. You would have got a tremendous kick out of the ARS Test Gardens, filled to overflowing with beautiful roses, hundreds of varieties. The trip down the scenic Columbia River Gorge and the culminating salmon bake. The personalities. The people. Getting to know the fine men who are your national officers, such as the new president, Dr. Ray Allen of Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio. So many fine people, so much to learn, so much fun. It is amazing the number of people who combine vacations with the national convention.

Next Fall, prior to Labor Day, the convention will be in Cleveland and those boys are really planning a dandy of an event. I'd strongly recommend you plan right now to make that trip. The host clubs are stressing "bring the family" and have intentionally scheduled the event pre-school. Why don't we start now to have a caravan or a private railroad car? I've been in close touch with the hosts at Cleveland and can assure you the time of your lives in 1958. Not really expensive either.

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Your Board of Directors and Program Committee is planning an outstanding Christmas Program, highlighted by one of several outstanding nationally-known speakers. President, Tony Koester, and others agree with Programeer, P. W. Young, that an out-of-town speaker is what we need. The date is tentatively set for December 15, 1957.

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Congratulations to the boys who made the change to the new caterers. Everyone says they are a real improvement.

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Last month I spent several evenings in St. Louis Park, which is one, if not the only suburban community to contract for village-wide mosquito spraying. As far as I could determine, the reduction in mosquitoes was so small as to be unimportant. We are always talking about community service, why don't we combine our efforts with the other Men's Garden Clubs in Minnesota and start a sensible program of mosquito control? There would be a really worthwhile project.

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Everyone comments on the clematis. How beautiful they are this year. Why doesn't someone compile a basic list of easy perennials to grow in this area, that list being made available to beginner gardeners. Gardening should be made as easy as possible for the neophyte lest he be scared away from it by false complexities.

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Pity those of you who didn't make the July meeting. A delightful dinner on the green at Vic Lowrie's where we could eye the large expanse and many beds of fine roses and other flowers, plus his prize rhododendron. At Archie Flack's we again

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE (Cont)

beautiful things, including lots of pinks. Out to Cortis Rice's for lots of perennials and a well-kept yard, across the street to new member Bill Kelly's for a nicely laid-out plan, up the street to Joe Witmer's for his rock garden and shade-loving plants with nice use of annuals to spot color. PLUS the fun of seeing so many friends again.

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Was it "Doc" Rodda who pointed out a few petunias strung out along the back of a wood fence as a good example of how a little color can unite a fence and yard? Seen near Joe Witmer's.

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No mosquitoes on the tour. Congratulations, boys, because that's fighting an impossible battle. As a child recently said, "Daddy, you're always telling me that the bugs all have a purpose, why do we have mosquitoes?"

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Gibberish, May Be?

We have been hearing a lot about gibberelic acid lately, and it has by no means been all good. Unquestionably, most plants when treated with the acid do make unusual growth but just how beneficial this growth response is to the plant as a whole or quality of bloom has not been definitely determined. The Horticultural Department of the University of Minnesota have conducted tests on various plants and so far celery seems to have been the only plant that has responded well with more succulent growth.

Dr. Snyder's department feels that much more research and experimental work needs to be done on this product before it can be used with confidence -- in the meantime, gardeners should do their own testing before applying the acid to anything in the garden -- the watch word being CAUTION.

Start Perennials From Seed Now

Early August is the time to start perennials and biennials, most of which have rather easy culture. There is little danger at this time of year from attacks of the "damping off" fungus, which plagues gardeners who start annuals in hotbeds in the early spring. The first requirement is the proper soil mixture for the flats. This should consist of one part each of sand, garden soil and compost or peat moss. No plant food should be added until the seedlings have emerged and are large enough to transplant to other flats, there to remain until planting time next year.

Now, what to plant? Among the perennials: Shasta daisies, painted daisies, delphinium, Columbine, Oriental poppies, phlox, gaillardia, veronica and coreopsis head the list. The biennials include hollyhocks, Canterbury bells, Sweet William, English daisies, foxglove, forget-me-nots and pinks. Barely cover the seeds with fine soil, set the flats in water to soak up from the bottom, and keep them shaded and moist until the seedlings emerge. At this time the flats can be moved into full sunlight and within a few weeks the plants may be outdoors.

Landscape Film Wanted

Young couples are looking for help in landscaping their new homes. Small garden clubs in newly developed suburban areas are continually calling on the Horticultural Society for landscape ideas on film or in books. Unfortunately, the Society has very few films of newly landscaped small homes. They will be delighted to pay for the price of the film if you have such material available or could go out of your way to take colored film of some attractive, well planned, inexpensive landscapes surrounding small and medium sized homes in newly developed suburban areas. In addition, should you have duplicate colored films of flower borders or of individual flowers, the Horticultural Society would be most grateful for them. Here is an opportunity for us to help and encourage a new generation of gardeners.

Lyndale Garden Plantings

The evergreens and clematis planted by club members this Spring are growing beautifully thanks to the good planting and careful attention given by the Park Board. Below we give the economics of the program:

Costs: Evergreens	\$216.00
Clematis	22.50
2 mailings to members	<u>17.57</u>
	\$256.07
Receipts from members	<u>154.00</u>
Net cost to club	<u>\$102.07</u>

Again, we thank those who helped in the planting and contributed in the financing.

Judging a Fellow's Garden

When we visit another man's garden, the natural impulse is to compare it with the lavish ones which require a large investment in both time and money and perhaps the help of a landscaping firm. As a result of this and our own personalities, we are sometimes apt to be a little abrupt in our reactions to another's garden. Occasionally, a visitor walks into the garden and turns away with a derogatory remark. Perhaps we should say to ourselves when we enter this garden "What are the factors that affect this garden?" and then analyze them. Ask ourselves such questions as: 1. Is my own garden really better than this or is it just because I know it so well? 2. Is the gardener limited in knowledge, experience, physical strength and endurance, time, or finances? 3. What can I learn about my friend, this gardener, from his garden? Can I better understand him and appreciate his personality.

Who are we as individuals to say "There's nothing in this garden" until we have honestly studied the situation -- and the garden?

W.H.H.

AUGUST GARDEN TIPS

To get dried sprays of gypsophila for the winter, cut them now when in full bloom. Either the single variety or Bristol Fairy may be used. Cut the sprays on a hot day and dry them in the shade. Store the thoroughly dried material in cartons lined with paper to keep it clean and dry. This applies also to strawflowers and the other everlasting, although they should be hung up, heads down, to dry.

The foliage of bleeding heart, *Dicentra spectabilis*, which has died and become unsightly should be cut off and burned.

Peonies should be ordered for September planting. Many Japanese single varieties are choice and little known. Old peonies should not be divided unless it is absolutely necessary. However, try replanting those that do not flower. The plants may be set too deep.

Build up the peony clumps so that they will flower next year by applying a handful of fertilizer around each plant and carefully working it into the soil.

Madonna lily bulbs should be ordered promptly and they will soon be available for planting in the garden. They should be set out ahead of other bulbs. Plant them only two or three inches deep. Old bulbs may be dug up and divided.

Continue to divide and plant irises, but remember that the Japanese irises dislike lime and that they should be planted deeper than the bearded irises.

Order daffodils soon. They need to be planted much earlier than many other bulbs.

Oriental poppies may still be moved. Summer is the only time of the year in which they can be divided successfully.

When gladiolus spikes are being cut for decorating the house, a reasonable amount of foliage should be left. Otherwise, the corms will not ripen properly. It is best to sever the stalk with a sharp knife, making a slanting cut.

It is important to keep seed from forming on phlox, sweet william, poppies, coreopsis, and foxgloves.

If the cabbage heads begin to crack bend them over so as to break the ribs on one side. This will check the growth.

Pick lima beans while they are still green. Press the blow end of the pod between the thumb and finger. If it feels spongy, you may be sure the beans are full grown and ready for the table.

Eat the earliest onions first. The early ones are not good keepers. Most white varieties are the quickest to spoil. Yellow onions keep best.

Pick cucumbers for pickling as soon as they are large enough. Dust the plants with lime to prevent lice.

Eggplants and peppers are now bearing. Keep the mature fruit picked so that the younger ones will develop.

Tie up cauliflower heads by pulling the leaves over the top and fastening with a string. Then they will blanch properly.

A teacupful of washing ammonia to a pailful of water is a good pickup for lettuce and other leaf crops.

The chinch bug, a tiny dark insect with a light band around the middle, may be turning the lawn brown. Spray the infested areas with a nicotine solution made up at the rate of two teaspoons to a gallon of water, or better still try the new insecticide chlordane, which seems to be the best chinch bug control yet discovered.

Transplant and set out evergreens when the tips of the branches have stopped growing and have become mature. If plants are moved from one place to another on the grounds, water them thoroughly for several days in advance and dig them with a large ball of soil around the roots.

We are going to have a show this fall and although the date hasn't been definitely set, it will probably be Saturday, September 14th.

Since it will be our only show of the year, let's try and make it a really big one with every member participating with at least one entry.

Therefore, keep spraying, watering and cultivating. For bigger blooms, disbud all but the terminal buds. For erect blooms, stake the whole plant well. For prize-winning arrangements, start practicing now, using the containers you expect to exhibit.

Schedules with complete instructions will accompany the September issue of the SPRAY