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A Merry Christmas

To The Member Families of the
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS
THE GARDEN SPRAY - Vol. 10 - December 1952 No. 12



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY
for
MEMBERS, THEIR WIVES and GUESTS



Thursday - December 11th at 6:30 P.M.

STOUFFER'S RESTAURANT

89 So. Seventh St.

\$ 2.50 PER PERSON

GREETINGS

AWARDS

DECORATIONS

ENTERTAINMENT

BANQUET DINNER • 1952 GARDENS IN COLOR

★ *High Light* ••• Dr. W. J. BRECKENRIDGE

Act at Once { MAIL THE ENCLOSED
RESERVATION CARD
TODAY !!

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Now we had a meeting in November - and a good one I've been told. Of course you cleaned out the old administration and voted in a strong ticket. The grapevine tells me that the rest of the program was tops, the attendance good, and everybody did what he was supposed to do when his turn came around to do it - all but the editors of The Spray, who evidently took the wrong night off, for which we are most regretful. But we'll catch up with the main speaker in an early issue.

HOW ABOUT YOUR DUES?

If you haven't paid your annual dues of \$4 by the time you read this notice, your dues will be past due. So please hurry and mail that check to the Club treasurer, C. G. Harkins, c/o Northern States Power Co., 5th & Hennepin, and make it payable to the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

THE SUNSHINE ROUTE

Already two of our members have migrated southward - Ernie Thompson to Florida and George Titus to Texas, where they will both remain until April. Won't they be sorry if our present type of weather holds out indefinitely?

PROTECTION OF YOUNG TREES FROM RABBITS AND MICE

Excerpts from a report by the Division of Horticulture, University Farm, St. Paul

The protection of young trees from rabbits and mice should be made a regular orchard practice, just as spraying is done at certain times to protect the trees from insects and diseases. The most serious rabbit injury usually occurs to trees under 10 years of age, while mice attack both old and young trees alike.

Wire Guards. Wire tree guards constitute the most satisfactory and effective method of protecting the trunk from injury by rabbits and mice. Galvanized hardware cloth, 3- or 4-mesh to the inch, provides the most permanent protection. The hardware cloth or wire screen may be purchased in rolls 36 or 48 inches wide, depending on the distance to the lower scaffold branches. Strips about 18 inches wide are cut from the roll and each strip is cut in half, leav-

WE SALUTE

Unanimously elected by the membership at our November meeting to take office in January, we proudly present our new officers for 1953:

President: R. J. Dufourd
Vice-President: A. H. Flack
Secretary: C. G. Harkins
Treasurer: T. D. Hughes

All of the officers newly elected, plus the retiring president, make up the Board of Directors for 1953.

HELP! HELP! HELP!

Dear Editor: Due to the use of the recent news release sent to you concerning the offer of lily seeds, Mr. Tingle has been swamped with requests for the seed. We had not anticipated such a tremendous response. If you have not yet used the release, will you please not do so?

We have used all the seeds we had on hand and potential supplies are dwindling fast. It is planned to repeat the offer as soon as the seed can be obtained in sufficient quantity.

RAYMOND B. CRAWFORD
North American Lily Society

ing guards 18x18 or 18x24 inches in size with one smooth edge for the top. The guards should be pressed into the soil to a slight depth when placed in position, with the edges held together by wire. Where snow is likely to become deep, the lower scaffold branches above the top of the tree guards may be protected by wrapping with paper, burlap or similar material.

Wraps of Paper and Other Materials

Wraps of paper and other materials of similar weights and kinds usually are effective against rabbits, although instances are known where they have torn paper wrappings from the trees. Various forms of paper wraps are used such as heavy brown wrapping paper, three thicknesses or more of old newspaper, building paper, asphalt impregnated paper, and waterproof nursery wrapping paper.

All paper wraps should be removed in the spring. Untreated paper material is likely to attract mice. A 50 pound Kraft wrapping paper may be cut into 10x24 to 30 inch pieces, folded loosely around the trees, and fastened very rapidly with a plier-type hand stapler, using about 5 staples per tree.

Repellent Materials

Numerous repellent materials have been used successfully for spraying or painting on the trunks of trees. Many have been ineffective and others injurious. A few show some repellent value. None has proved entirely reliable.

A rosin-alcohol repellent has been used in some states and found fairly effective in preventing rabbit injury. Dissolve 7 pounds of rosin in 1 gallon of ethyl alcohol. So-called "anti-freeze" alcohol may be used if it does not contain wood alcohol. Pulverize the resin and add it to the alcohol in a container with a cover tight enough to allow shaking and prevent evaporation. Keep the container in a warm room and shake it occasionally. No heat should be applied. The rosin usually dissolves in 24 hours. Apply with a paint brush in the fall when the bark is dry. Moisture causes an undesirable precipitate to form, so use a small container and do not pour any of the solution back into the reserve supply. Treated trees turn white after rain or snow but this does not change the effectiveness of the repellent. The Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has developed a rabbit repellent which may be purchased ready mixed at Pocatello, Idaho.

Special Precautions for Meadow Mice

Special precautions are necessary in order to protect trees from meadow mice; all dead grass and debris should be raked away from the trunks in the fall. If a wire guard is not used, the snow, when it comes, should be tramped close to the trunk, and it will freeze into a hard cake that the mice will not penetrate. Mounding the soil 6 to 8 inches high around the trunk in the fall is also an effective method of preventing mouse injury in most instances. Plum and cherry trees are not injured by these mice as frequently as are apple and pear trees.

Use of Pruned Branches

thing growing can have success, though the apartment may be third floor back. This list can become very long. Briefly mention should be made of Sanseverias, Chinese Lily, Philodendrons, Pothos and Peperomia and many others.

With many plants to watch and care for and needing daily attention for many of them, I have a more or less regular routine of going through every room each day before breakfast, watering where needed. Sunday mornings, a little more time is spent, adding a small teaspoon of Hyponex to each watering can. I like to add a little hot water to thoroughly dissolve all the fertilizer and at any time I think it is better to water plants with lukewarm water.

DECEMBER

Now doth the Lawyer make an end of his Harvest, and the client of his money The Ass that hath borne all the years must now take a little Rest. The Ox and the Cow, and the Horse and the Mare shall have their Christmase provant. Now Plumbe and Spice, Sugar and Honey square it among pies and broath; and Gossip I drink to you; and how doe you, and you are heartily welcome, I pray be merry, and I thank you.

Now are the Taylors and Tyre makers full of work against the Hollidayes, and a journey-man cares not a rush for his Master, though he beg his Plum pottage all the twelve dayes. Now or never must the Musick be in tune, for the youth must dance and sing while the aged sit by the fire; Nature hath made it a law and reason finds no contradiction The Footman now shall have many a fowle step, and the Ostler have work enough about the heels of the horses. The Country maid leaves half her Market, and must be sent againe, if she forgets a pair of cards on Christmase Even.

Great is the contention of Holly and Ivy, whether Master or Dame wears the breeches. The price of meat riseth apace and the Apparrell of the proud makes the Taylors rich, and as proud as themselves. Dice and the cards benefit the Butler; and if the cook doe not lack wit he will sweetly lick his fingers. Now Starchers and Laundresses have their hands full of work, and periwigs; and paintings will not be a little set by; strange Stuff's will be well sold, strange tales well told, strange sights much sought, strange things much bought, and what else as falls out.

Christmase is come and the Wild Swan, the Teals, and the Mallard are meat for the Landlord's mouth, and the Tenant's too, if he can get them. For your health keep your bodies warme, let your meat be hot of quality, abstaine from physick, and let your kitchen be your Apothecaries Shop, warme cloathing your Nurse, merry company your keeper, and good hospitality your exercise, so God send you a merry Christmase.

M. Stevenson, The Twelve Moneths 1661

(Reprinted from "Flowers from Old Gardens", Trovillion Private Press, Herrin, Ill.)