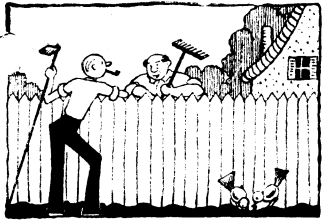


# THE GARDEN SPRAY



BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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

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Vic Lowrie, Editor

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## F E B R U A R Y M E E T I N G

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 1951

Place: Hasty Tasty

Time: 5:30 P.M. sharp

Dinner: \$1.50

### PROGRAM

6:30 P.M. Business session. What's New for 1951

6:45 New Flowers and Lawn Grasses. A talk with slides by Larry Corbett, Director of All-American Selection and Chairman of the Garden Seed Division, American Seed Trade Assn.

7:20 New Vegetables. Talk with slides by O. C. Turnquist, Extension Horticulturist, University of Minnesota

8:00 Bull session

### Officers

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## OUR JANUARY MEETING

It was weighted with brass - the head table, that is! There they were, the retiring officers, aching to say a lot of nice things about how they enjoyed their tenure of office: the fun they had sitting around all year watching the committee chairmen doing all the planning, the drones, or common members, doing all the work; and how now, after twelve months of solid leisure, they were willing, happy and eager to get back and do some real work to help make the Club bristle with action.

Around the edges, wherever they could squeeze in between the Brass, sat our new officers, all starched for the occasion, bubbling over with enthusiasm, impatiently waiting for the President to put the 1951 committee chairmen into high gear.

Naturally we sat back and listened, applauded at the appropriate times, snickered in the right places, but down deep we were proud of the Old Brass, appreciative of their collective contributions and had every con-

(January Meeting - continued)

What was said, most of you heard; for the less fortunate who - for some reason, or none - were absent, the annual reports on their way to you bring you up to date. Oh, yes, you new committee chairmen, don't be too alarmed for we're telling everyone who you are, so that they may volunteer to help you do that job up right.

The program that followed was a typical example of how our committees deliver the stuff. Stan Lund, the retiring Program Chairman, came up with one of the best programs of the year and we have had a lot of good ones!

We are indeed indebted to Dr. Leon Snyder for taking time out from a heavy schedule of constant day and night public appearances and for delivering such an excellent and informative talk with his colorful slide presentation. Our thanks also to Herb Kahlert for taking us on a slide tour to the many picturesque places visited during the MGCA 1950 Oakland, California Convention. It was a delightful showing!

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Did you happen to read what the severity of the weather did to the Texas rose growers last Fall? An estimated Spring crop of fourteen million plants has been cut by ninety percent! Since a large percentage of the rose plants placed on the market are grown in Texas, there will be a severe shortage of plants this Spring. Better get your orders in early!

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has been spraying apple and peach trees with 2,4,5-T in an attempt to speed up fruit ripening. They found that Rome Beauty apples sprayed with this hormone ripened 30 days earlier than trees unsprayed. The spraying advanced the maturity of Summer apples from 5 to 13 days. Peaches did not respond as well.

#### RECOMMENDED VEGETABLES FOR 1951

Leonard C. Bies

Green Beans - Contender, Seminole, Tender-pod best varieties we have grown. Stringless, tender, excellent for freezing. Not grown commercially because of round pods.

Lima Beans - Fordhook, Good yield, good for freezing.

Beets - Detroit Dark Red

Cabbage - Wisconsin Copenhagen, Bonanza (FM). Early, firm, good for home garden.

Chinese Cabbage - Chihli. Excellent in my garden. Trying Mirchihli (FM) this year.

Carrot - Goldinhardt (B)

Cucumber - Fross (FM) Sensation (V), vigorous growth, medium long, slender.

Eggplant - Japanese Hybrid (V) Burpee Hybrid, good yield, smaller fruit than Black Beauty

Head Lettuce - New Hampshire (Farmers) 1951 Gold Medal Winner. Best lettuce I have grown. Heads not perfect but we liked it better than leaf lettuce. Is long standing and does not wilt.

Onion - Yellow Globe (Dowings), good yield, good keeping qualities

Peas - Burpeeana, early dwarf, good yield excellent for freezing. Freezonian, vine 2 ft. tall, excellent yield, excellent for freezing. Have grown many varieties and like these two the best.

Pepper - Fordhook Reselect (B), early excellent yield.

Radish - White Globe, best radish I have ever grown. Tender, very crisp, good flavor, good quality regardless of size.

Tomato - Burpee's Big Boy. I have grown many varieties but this is the best I

## PLANTS OF THE NORTH

Dr. Leon Snyder spoke of the experimental work our Canadian brothers are doing in the development and testing of ornamental plants which he felt far exceeded any similar work being done with ornamentals in this country. He went on to point out that their work was of particular interest to us here in the Northwestern States since much of the hybridizing of plants made them suitable for our climate. His presentation covered primarily the work being done in Morden, Manitoba, where the Dominion government operates an experimental farm on a section of land (640 acres), 200 acres of which are devoted to testing and development of ornamentals. Ten acres are devoted to vegetable testing and the balance for other agricultural grains.

Many of these tested Canadian ornamentals are being tested here by Tim Andrews in Faribault, and if any of our members would like to carry on some testing of their own, give your list to Archie Flack, our own chief horticulturist, who will make arrangements to have the plants shipped into this country through Andrews Nurseries who have a U. S. Agriculture permit under which such importations must be made.

Below are listed the originations from the above Dominion experimental stations discussed by Dr. Snyder:

### Ornamentals - Northern

#### Lilacs

Prestonian - developed by Miss Preston (vollosa hybrids)

Donald Wyman - reddish purple

Coral - pink

Redwine - wine red

Dilatate Hybrids - developed by Skinner (non-suckering)

Churchill - pink, earlier than French with pronounced fragrance

Evangaline - lilac, attractive foliage, blooms Spring and Autumn

Pocahontas - purple, extreme hardiness with profuse bloom

#### Prairie Almond

P. pedunculata x P. triloba - shapely, very floriferous, pink, semidouble.

Fruits red

#### Crabapples

Almey - glowing red flowers, persistent, scarlet fruits

Strathmore - fine-textured, upright, purplish-red leaves

#### Hawthorne

Toba - Pauls Scarlet x succulento.

Shapely bush, floriferous, double, pink to deep rose-pink, fruits scarlet.

#### Roses

Prairie Wren - double, pink

Prairie Youth - large pink, Summer & Fall

George Will - Skinner rugosa, semidouble

deep pink

#### Mock Orange

Sylvia - Virginalis (glacier x P. zepheri) rounded bush of good texture. Flowers double, sweetly fragrant, persistent

#### Falsespirea

Aurora (arborea x aitchisoni)

#### Highbush Cranberry

Manitou - large red fruits

#### Honeysuckle Vine

Dropmore Scarlet - hirsuta x semperuiren, golden-red flowers, hardy

#### Chokecherry

Schubert - deepest purple foliage

#### Outstanding Selections

Weigelia - Manchurian pink

Mongolian Oak - leaves in rosettes, red, in October and April

Amur Chokecherry - Bronzy, papery bark

Cinquefoil - Ferreri

Tamarisk - Red Amur (T. pentandre rubro) glistening, rich red

Elder - Redman

#### Perennials

#### Lilies

Candlestick - L. dauricum

Philadelphicum Hybrids - Azalia, Glow

Willmottia's Hybrids - Coronation, Corsair

The Duchess - F.L.S., L. Amebile Cross, saffron yellow, 4-6"

Lythrum - Morden Pink

## TEST RATINGS OF ANNUALS

(As reported by R. Milton Carleton, Hinsdale, Ill., Chairman, MGCA Annuals Test Program, 1950, and published in "The Wind," MGC of Chicago Region)

This was the worst year in recent gardening history to inaugurate a test program for annuals, and not too much reliable information was obtained, if weather conditions are considered. It was certainly an atypical Spring, Summer and Fall. New England had a severe drought, the Middle West the coolest summer on record, and the warmest Fall, while only a hundred miles from drought-stricken New England, too much rain fe.

The following ratings must, therefore, be read with these conditions in mind. I am certain that if the Middle West had not had a cool, moist Summer, larkspur ratings would have been much lower. One variety received for trial, Cladanthus arabicum, failed entirely, although 20 testers reported growing plants. Only one of these bloomed, and that too sparsely to judge the plant.

The ratings given are weighted averages of the qualities listed in the test report form. Oddly enough, the rating does not always show the estimate of the flower. For example, while Lupine Pixie Delight received only a rating of 10.00, 42% of those who grew it wanted to try it again.

A disappointing showing was made by Tithonia Torch, the 1951 All-America Award winner. This received a rating of only 10.3, and of the 50-odd testers who grew it, not one liked it well enough to want to grow it again! Highest point winner, Petunia Allegro, was grown only by 20 testers, as were the other double petunias, which must be taken into account in the ratings.

Variety	Rating	How many would grow again	Variety	Rating	How many would grow again
Antirr. Naramek Sc.	15.4	88%	Petunia Allegro	22.0	100%
Aster King Rose	10.0	18%	Petunia Caprice	12.5	85%
Aster King White	11.5	18%	Petunia Minuet	17.0	100%
Aster King Violet	12.0	14%	Petunia Rose Charm	19.0	100%
Aster Santa Maria	12.3	20%	Petunia Sonata	15.5	100%
Calendula Pac Beauty	15.0	78%	Petunia White Star	11.6	85%
Celosia Harlequin	13.4	10%	Petunia Snowball Imp.	10.0	11%
Cladanthus arabicum	Practically	100%	Petunia Tango	12.5	75%
	failure to flower		Petunia Snow White	19.0	100%
Ipomoea Darling	10.2	42%	Salpiglossis Dwarf	9.5	20%
Larkspur Regal Lilac	13.0	52%	Sweet Pea Ruth	14.8	58%
Larkspur Sensation	16.0	90%	Tithonia Early Torch	10.3	0
Lupine Pixie Delight	10.0	42%	Verbena Bush, Sal Queen	14.5	75%
Linaria North. Lights	5.0	0	Verbena Campac Sparkel	17.4	75%
Marigold Eldorado	12.5	75%	Verb. Hybrida Fire King	16.7	67%
Marigold Spry Hybrid	17.3	100%			
Nicotiana Sensation	16.1	34%			

### DWARF FRUIT TREE PROJECT

By Archie Flack

The 36 Virginia Crabs budded August 1949 to Clark's Dwarf, were cut back to the Clark's bud April 20, 1950.

Only 14 of these were good, which was not surprising considering the very small bud wood available in 1949, at which time we even considered waiting another year for

On August 4, 1950, 33 Virginia Crabs were budded to Clark's dwarfing stock and 14 were budded as follows: 4 Minjon, 2 Beacon, 2 Haroldson, 3 Provie Spy and 3 Realth. These trees should be ready for distribution by Fall 1951 or Spring of 1952. Howard Bishop supplied budwood for the above varieties and has cultivated and watered

## CULTURE OF PRIMULAS

By Art Fakler

My interest in Primulas seems to go back to an incident which occurred many years ago while visiting at the home of my mother-in-law. I remember observing a photo postcard of a Primula plant which she had just received from Switzerland. The beauty of that Alpine plant was sufficient to have created a sustaining interest to possess some of these plants some day, but it was not until about three years ago that I actually observed a Primula plant in bloom for the first time. This fortunate experience took place in Mr. Titus' garden, and because of his generosity, I acquired my first collection of a few *Acualis* (primrose) plants. From this modest beginning, my collection has grown to include Juliana (miniatures), *Acualis*, *Polyanthus*, Asiatics, and many seedlings of the Asiatic Belled and Candelabra types.

For consideration of cost, I decided to propagate from seeds (Asiatic species require over-winter freezing for successful germination of seed), selecting the Juliana and *Polyanthus* species. Fresh seeds are available around July 1 and if planted immediately, good germination is assured. A good soil medium for seeding is an equal portion of 1/3 each garden loam, peat and sand. Use 8" clay pots for seeding to facilitate transplanting.

Fill each clay pot to within one inch of the top, immerse in warm water allowing them to soak thoroughly. When the top surface begins to show moisture, lift and allow excess moisture to drain off. Later press down smooth the soil in each pot, then sprinkle seeds evenly on top. I have used a soil fumigant by sprinkling on a solution of Semesan (one teaspoon to 1 1/3 quarts of water), but prefer sphagnum moss - it is antibiotic and speeds germination.

Pulverize sphagnum moss through a 1/2" mesh screen, then hold a small handful of moss above each pot and allow enough to flutter down to completely cover the seeds so that no soil shows through. Now thoroughly sprinkle the moss with very warm water and cover each pot with a small board or heavy paper. Sprinkle with warm water for the next two days. On the fifth or sixth day, sink the pots in a shady spot in the garden so that the tops protrude about one inch higher than the garden surface. This prevents rain from washing over the pots and makes it easier to lift covers for examination, which should be done each day as the moss must be kept moist - after seeds germinate, replace board covers with glass. When seedlings show leaf, transplant into regular flats or to open ground as follows:

Take a number of empty peach crates, remove bottoms to make level, trim down the top edge to accommodate a glass cover. Since these crates are 12"x18", standard glass can be purchased to make an ideal miniature greenhouse. Select a spot for transplanting, prepare the ground, then press into the soil each bottomless crate. Each crate will accommodate about three dozen seedlings; after watering, cover with glass.

Primulas are sensitive to environment, so select their permanent location with care. Plant in shade or semi-shade. They do well in any shady nook, along rock walls, in the shade of shrub borders, or in any suitable situation where they can be displayed in special plantings or color combinations. Any ordinary garden loam will suffice, provided there is protection from the midday sun and ample moisture furnished, as these plants require more copious applications of water than other perennials during dry seasons. A heavier soil would be more ideal than a light, sandy soil lacking humus.

Before extremely cold weather sets in, artificial protection is advisable.

plantings can be covered by inverting empty peach crates over them and then covering them with leaves.

I was asked to recommend a beginner's choice, but this poses a problem since there are over 600 named varieties, but below is a brief listing of the main species by size and color.

Julianas Miniature with flower stalks about 3" high  
Roberta - lilac golden eye; Dorothy - primrose yellow; Schneekissen - white; Kinlough Beauty - rose pink

Cinderellas: Intermediate between Acaulis and Julianas. These plants are offshoots of the Juliana hybrids but being too large to class with the miniatures, they are listed separately. Color is limited to pink, yellow, white and pastel shades.

Acaulis: (Primrose) Attains a height of about 6". The clear sky blues of this group are unsurpassed in beauty. Colors available in shades of pink, rose, white and soft primrose yellow.

Polyanthus: Larger goliaged plant, flower stalks between 9 and 12". Place where they can be viewed from windows, in secluded spots where you come upon them suddenly, or in semi-shaded borders or beds, or in North and East situations for perennial pleasure. Shades range from tawny blends of bronze, copper, tile, russet, delicate shades of pink, rose, apricot, fuchsia, cerise, plum, primrose and golden yellow, orange, blue and many others.

Asiatics: Are used for borders, naturalizing as specimen plants in shadier situations, shady portions of East and North exposures, woodlands, streamsides, poolsides and gardens with limited sun.

- P. Pulverulenta Bartley Strain - Frosted pink - 2' - 3' high
- P. Burmanica - violet, orange eye 2' - 3' high
- P. Japonica - pink and red shades 2' - 3' high
- P. Florindae - yellow, spicy fragrance 3' - 5' high
- P. Denticulata Alba - white 12" - 18" high
- P. Rosea Grandiflora - Carmine pink 12" - 18" high

Woodland Type Asiatics

This group will do with less water than other Asiatics: P. Sieboldi - white through rose to rose lavender, 12"-18" high; P. Kisoana, mauve pink, 6"; P. Cortusoides, lavender rose.

I have omitted garden Auriculas and double primroses because of the difficulty involved in handling in this climate.

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* * * * *
*   How about those dues? Mail 'em   *
*   quick to the Secretary . . . you  *
*   must be a paid-up member to get   *
*   your name on the roster.  Hurry!  *
* * * * *
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## NEWS AND LOSTLY VIEWS

If we amateurs could only grow them and make 'em bloom as true to perfection as the catalog artists paint, draw and reproduce them in those exotic inks, and if it were as simple and easy as the copywriters say it can be done, why all the fun in gardening would be lost! Isn't the planting and shifting, the nurturing and nursing, the protecting and exposing, the successes with the failures that challenge the gardener and make gardening man's most popular hobby?

The number of catalogs you have pored over by this time somewhat depends upon your adroitness in evading those social engagements. If you've allowed Mama to get away with filling in every vacant space on the engagement calendar, then you had better tuck one under your arm each morning and make them your luncheon companions. Otherwise you'll never get your seed order in early enough to cash in on some of those enticing, never-before-accomplished border-highlight novelties. And have you noticed how large a crop of new introductions in both vegetables and flowers are being paraded on the front pages this year?

Which reminds me, don't fail to glance over Milton Carleton's 1950 MGCA Test Program report on annuals reproduced elsewhere in this Spray. The ratings given are national and even though allowances must be made for adverse weather conditions across the country, nevertheless it reflects some startling and, in many cases, disappointing results. "Let the buyer beware!"

### FRAGRANT ROSES

Here are 12 of the most fragrant roses selected out of 184 varieties in a national survey conducted by the American Rose Society. They are listed according to ranking based on number of votes polled for varieties having "strong-scented" blooms.

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Crimson Glory      | 7. Mirandy            |
| 2. Etoile de Hollande | 8. Mm. Jules Bouche   |
| 3. Hector Deane       | 9. Golden Dawn        |
| 4. The Doctor         | 10. Neige Parfum      |
| 5. Heart's Delight    | 11. Christopher Stone |
| 6. Girona             | 12. Radiance          |

Don't blame your seed merchant for the strange weeds that crop up in your garden this Summer for they may have been lying dormant under the surface of the earth for years. It is reported that in 1880 Professor Beal at Michigan State College buried flasks containing seeds of a number of common weeds to test their length of life. Dug up every 10 years, three of the original 20 species, now 70 years old, are still alive, including mullien, curly dock, and catchfly. Black mustard and water smartweed germinated when dug up after 50 years, but failed to grow on the last test. Crabgrass and plantain, believe it or not, survived for 30 years!

Here's an interesting discovery by Dr. Donald F. Jones of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. He claims that the removal of "suckers" from sweet corn plants is a waste of time and that suckers do not take food from the main stalk, as is the common belief. Instead they act as feeders. Dr. Jones points out that if all leaves are removed from the main stalk and the suckers left on, the ears on the main stalk will mature, fed by the leaves on the so-called "suckers." Dr. Jones refers to them as "tillers."

We extend our deepest sympathy to our good member, Les Johnson, and to his family in the sudden death of his father.

Morris Lifson is soaking up the sun in Arizona. Doesn't expect to get enough until April 1st. Wonder if he'll start a cactus patch on James Avenue this Spring!

### A COMMAND PERFORMANCE

You fancy gardeners with greenhouses, don't forget to sow some extra flats of seeds for our May auction. As you know, the auction is one of the Club's main sources of revenue and you can help a whole lot in keeping us on the liquid side.

A note to you ordinary gardeners - go slow starting your seed in the house. Seeds of most annuals will germinate and be ready for transplanting into borders from eight to ten weeks after sowing.

## VIOLET ODORATA

By The Silver Fox  
(Rene D.)

Violet cover the earth, yet no one can say where is its home. It is the nomad of the flowers, still the sweetest flower that grows.

In rocks, bogs, sand or clay, in sun or shade, the violet will thrive. Of course some types or species will do better than others. You will find many to suit your special needs among the 500 species.

The violet, or purple-colored species, are still the most desirable, but they can be obtained in pink, white, yellow and variations.

The violet we know prefers a semishaded spot, with a rich loamy soil. Exposed to the morning sun and shaded from the afternoon heat, they will respond with a carpet of purple in the early Spring. The variety generally used is the common wild Minnesota violet, or the Canadian or a hybrid. Catalogs list names such as Royal Robe, English, Double Russian, Marie Louise (double), Rosina, Everblooming, American Beauty, Australian, Princess of Wales, and others.

The common method of propagating violets is to divide the crown. This can be done whenever there is sufficient crown to divide - generally in the Spring. Put the young plant in a mixture of sand and soil to induce further root development. In six or eight weeks after setting, they will be ready to transplant to their permanent location.

Commercial violet growers use the "cutting" method in preference to others. In making cuttings, trim the old leaves from the stock, also any root development, leaving one developed leaf, cut the end of the stub clean and sharp. Plant in good clean sharp sand in a well-drained flat, 1/2 inch apart in rows 2 inches apart; firm cuttings and water with a fine spray. Place the flat in a shaded location. Roots should form in 4 to 6 weeks. Transplant into a cold frame, greenhouse or 4-inch pots.

Outdoor violets seed themselves quite readily.

Grown indoors, *Viodorata* required a cool place, 40 to 50 degrees maximum for single varieties; 45 degrees for the double varieties.

The popular varieties grown commercially are Princess of Wales, single Marie Louise and Campbell, double. The Hudson River Valley produces most of the double varieties for the market, and California the singles.