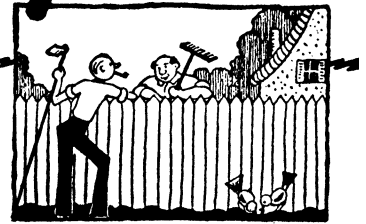




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors
Wm. Hull, Joe Witmer
Don Methven
N. W. Christopherson

J U L Y M E E T I N G

A Garden Tour Tuesday, July 9

Our July dinner hosts will be the Victor Lowries at 2107 Glenhurst Road, St. Louis Park.

Dinner will be served by caterers at exactly 5:45 P.M. Get there early for there will be plenty to look over. This time we really will visit other members' gardens in the general neighborhood.

OFFICERS

A. W. Koester	President
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G. S. Titus	Past Preside

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

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

Glenhurst Road is a dead end street situated in the Northeast corner of St. Louis Park where France Avenue joins Cedar Lake Road. It is located just one block West of France Avenue off Cedar Lake Road.

We will need some extra tables and chairs for dinner, so if you have a set of folding chairs and table handy, please bring them along.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Not too much interesting news to relate this month. Understand the Men's Garden Clubs National Convention went very well with the Portland Club going all out in giving the visiting gardeners a bang-up time. We will be getting complete reports from our attending delegates at one of our near future meetings.

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June has been a rough month for gardeners, but aren't we fortunate in only having our gardens messed up while hundreds through out the state have had their homes flooded and gardens completely washed away.

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If it ever stops raining long enough to permit dusting or spraying, get busy, even if the effects are washed away within twenty-four hours. This wet, damp weather brings on just about everything harmful to plant life, attacking both foliage and roots. But don't give up, the sun is still shining even though it cannot penetrate the clouds most of the time.

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Are our faces red! Such an unforgivable error in typing. But do forgive us Bachmans please. We did not intentionally omit your name from the list of generous contributors to our May Auction and every club auction ever held. We have appreciated all of your help and do thank you most sincerely.

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A few dollars are still rolling in to help pay for the twenty-four evergreens we bought and planted as background screening for the Lyndale Gardens. If you have forgotten to mail yours, it is not too late. By the way, they are all flourishing beautifully, thanks to the care being given them by our good Park Board friends.

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Hats off to our June Garden Tour Dinner hosts, the Blackbourns. Such a restful place to dine --- a really beautifully developed and well-maintained garden. With our thanks for your kind hospitality, Mr. and Mrs. Blackbourn, go our congratulations on your remarkable gardening achievements.

* * * * *

Rumors have it the Stanley Lunds have sold their house, purchased property in Indian Hills and are about to build themselves a new abode. How would you like the job of moving their hundreds of roses. Must be quite a wrench to pull away from so picturesque a garden in which they both toiled so hard for so long with such splendid results, May success attend you, Esta and Stan, as you build your new home and create a new garden.

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Am sure you have all noticed and appreciate the improvements made during the year in M.E.G.A. under our own Bill Hull's direction. Keep it up, Bill, you

NEWS AND VIEWS (Cont)

In spite of threatening weather, which threat materialized around supper time, between thirty and forty hardy gardeners accepted Leon Snyder's invitation to visit and picnic on the grounds of the University's Fruit Breeding Farm. We salute you, Leon, for the fine work that is being carried forward in fruit breeding under your capable direction, and sincerely thank you for giving us an opportunity to witness the progress. We do hope that before too long the 160 acres adjacent to the farm will be made available to you for the development of a Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. A lot of us are working on this project with that end in view.

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The Spring Issue, Volume 13, Number 1, Plants & Gardens of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden is a veritable handbook on mulches. As is true of all gardening subject covered by this meritorious publication, this particular issue covers thoroughly such problems as the advantages of mulches, the best kinds to use, how and when to apply them, and those most useful for various ornamentals. If interested, the price is one dollar; address Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn 25, New York.

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Added to George Luxton's many laurels is another just bestowed upon him by the American Seed Trade Association. From a list of more than 100 entrants, George was named "the nation's top newspaper garden writer." Nothing could make us more proud of you, George, than we are already, but we do revel with you over this new honor.

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It is difficult these rainy days to get the lawn cut between showering, but try hard to do so otherwise if you allow the grass to get too long before cutting, you will weaken its stamina to the point where it will be unable to resist the heat of the summer. When hot weather does arrive, be careful not to cut the grass too short or there won't be enough good leaf surface left to provide the needed food from the sun and air. Set the mower so it cuts no closer than two to two and a half inches.

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The Research Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has developed a new all-purpose insect repellent which will be on the market this summer.

The repellent is an organic chemical, Diethyl Toluamide, which has proven to be better than all other repellents tested against the stable fly, deer fly, sand fly and most successfully defends attacks by mosquitos, chiggers, ticks, fleas and biting flies.

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JULY GARDEN TIPS

July is the time for transplanting irises. Take divisions from the newer, outside growth. Some iris growers are setting plants deeper than formerly. The rhizomes are covered with one or two inches of soil, instead of being half exposed.

Cuttings should be made of coleus, geraniums, and any plants that may be needed for the house next winter. Root them in moist sand. It helps geranium cuttings to root if left to dry in a shady, airy place for several hours before putting them in sand.

After delphiniums have finished flowering, the stalks should be cut back, and a complete fertilizer worked around the plants to encourage a second blooming.

Hardy chrysanthemums will make a better Fall display if they are given a little extra feeding at this time. Pinch again --- early in the month but not later than July 15.

Leaf feeding (foliar feeding) is worth experimenting with. Have you tried it?

Most climbing roses are best pruned as soon as they have finished blooming. Those which send up new canes from the roots should have most of the old canes removed. Those which bloom on laterals need not be pruned until later in the season, when only the old lateral branches should be removed to within an inch or two of the main stem.

Madonna lilies should be divided as soon as flowering period is over -- not in spring.

Violas, including pansies, produce better flowers if cut back severely at this season. Fertilize them and a fine crop of flowers will result.

Peony seed pods should be removed. Cultivating in a good general fertilizer like 5-10-5 will help make good strong eyes for next season.

Early July is not too late to sow six-weeks

Side dress your vegetable plants. Make light furrows along the rows, about two inches from the plants, and scatter in a balanced fertilizer. Do this twice while the plants are growing.

Corn ear worm control has been greatly simplified. As soon as the silk on the ears has begun to turn brown and when kernels have started to form, the silk may be cut off, leaving no place for the worms. With a little practice, it becomes easy to determine just when this work should be done. Dusting the silk with DDT is also helpful.

The blackened, malformed buds or flower-spikes of the delphiniums caused by cyclamen mite can be partially controlled by a spray of rotenone or pyrethrum applied at weekly intervals.

Red spider mites do much damage to ever-greens at this season. Get after them.

Turn over the compost pile at least once in the summer to get the outside material into the center, where it will rot.

July is the time to get after your crabgrass. Whatever you use, follow the directions closely and don't expect to kill all of your crabgrass with the first application. Three applications at 10-day intervals will usually do the job, but be sure to do it when the temperature is above 75 degrees. To be effective each application should be allowed to stand 24 hours before rain. If the weather keeps up, that's going to be quite a trick.

For dandelions and other broad-leaved weeds in lawns, use 2-4D. However, remember if you have a lot of clover 2-4D may kill it and also avoid making the application when windy for any

HOW TO MAKE A WEEPING WILLOW STAND UP AND WEEP

Here's the best scheme we know for making a weeping willow tree grow tall fast. Put in a big stake at planting time. The whole scheme depends on this stake no matter whether you plant your weeping willow bare root or out of a five gallon can. This stake should be about twenty feet long. It could be a three by three inch post, an unfinished two by two or a section of three quarter inch pipe, painted an inconspicuous color. Place it about ten inches from the main stem of the young tree (the trunk will put on considerable girth). Bury or drive it four feet into the ground so it will stand strong through the training years.

If wind blows from one direction for very many weeks at a time in your neighborhood, make the stake lean slightly into the wind. For extra safety stretch a guy wire out to brace the tree against the prevailing wind. Anchor the wire ten to fifteen feet from the base of the stake.

Now, examine the droppy branches that grow out from the top of the little tree. Decide which one is the most promising (most erect, longest, thickest, or most foliated). Pull this branch up and tie it to the stake. But don't try to force it to lie flat along the stake. If you force it too much, it may break at the bending point.

For ties, use strips of old cotton sheeting. Tear pieces about thirty inches long and twelve inches wide and fold them to make strips about four inches wide. The ties will look like big bandages for a while, but they will do the job until the trunk begins to expand. While the trunk is growing, the sheeting will rot enough to pop open and fall when the trunk fills it to the breaking point. Cloth ties do not cut big creases in the bark, as wire or plastic does.

Pruning and Training

The next step requires some courage on your part. The best way to hasten vertical growth is to cut off all the remaining branches. If you cringe from taking such a step, cut out just a few branches, or head back all of them about halfway.

If you cut all but one of the tree's existing growing points (terminal tips) and if the one that remains is on the vertically-trained branch, much of the initial growth spurt will be channeled into that tip and you will get the fast vertical growth and high trunk you desire. This heavy cutting would check or dwarf growth of many slower-growing trees, but the willow is so vigorous that it quickly overcomes any setback.

Two or three times during the first growing season, tie up the newest extension of the selected vertical stem. The trunk may triple its girth the first season and you may have to replace a few popped ties. Side shoots will come out at a rapid rate. Cut them off the lower six to eight feet of the trunk, lest they take over and become big branches placed too low. Above eight feet let the side branches grow.

When the trained trunk passes the sixteen or eighteen foot mark (perhaps in the second or third growing season), cut it back a few feet. The side branches will begin to grow as strong primary branches. At that point you have the beginning of a full-blown, high-crowned weeping willow. When the trunk becomes large enough to stand alone, remove the stake.

HOW TO MAKE A WEEPING WILLOW STAND UP AND WEEP (Cont)

If you have an untrained willow that has been in the ground for several years and is branching too low, you can use this same plan to make it grow and branch higher. The branch you choose to train up along the stake may be too thick to pull up straight. You may have to leave a kink or bend where you pull it up. But, in the long run, this won't hurt the tree's appearance, for the bend will eventually become a graceful curve.

The culture that makes a willow grow fast and luxuriant is simple: just water and feed it as often as you possibly can. Never worry about supplying too much of either --- especially water. If you cover the root area with a four inch layer of shavings, sawdust, gravel, sand, or similar material, you can water and feed your willow as much as you wish without discomforting nearby plants, as you might if it were in a lawn or garden bed.

You can contain the vigorous root system of a willow fairly well within an area of five hundred to one thousand square feet if you cover the area with a water-retentive mulch and keep it moist all the time. Feed the willow by scattering complete commercial fertilizer over the entire mulched surface --- a lawn spreader is good for this job.

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HOW TO CONTROL GLADIOLUS THRIPS

The control of gladiolus thrips should start the third or fourth week in June. Spraying, dusting should be started early enough to control the thrips before heavy infestations build up.

It is recommended that sprays be applied every seven to ten days, or dusting be done every week as long as the foliage remains green. When spraying, add enough sticker-spreader or a wetting agent to wet the leaves thoroughly. Aim sprayer nozzle to wet the plant and the soil along the rows.

The recommendations made below are based on the actual amount of chemical needed. Dieldrin is rated the highest for control of thrips. You might like to try it for comparison with the old stand-by, DDT.

Formulations

1. Dieldrin - One teaspoon to each gallon of water. A gallon of water in most sprayers will cover a 100 foot row of gladiolus.

2. DDT 5% dust, two tablespoons per gallon per 100 foot row of gladiolus. If 5% DDT as a dust does not control the thrips, use 10% dust, or try Dieldrin.

3. Chlordane - One teaspoon of the 72% emulsion to a gallon per 100 foot row or two teaspoons of the 45% emulsion, or two tablespoons of 50% wetttable powder, per gallon per 100 foot row of gladiolus.

4. Lindane will give a quick kill of thrips. Use a 1 1/2% dust. The residual effect of Lindane is shorter.