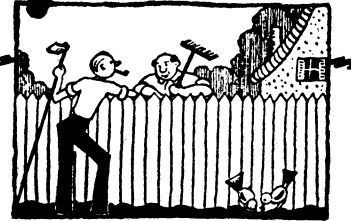




The Garden Spray

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. H. Hull, Joe Witmer
Don Methven, Bob Adams

J U L Y M E E T I N G

Season's First Garden Tour, July 8

Our dinner hosts will be the
Vic Jaeger's at 5321 Harriet
Avenue South.

Dinner will be served by caterers
at 5:30 P.M. Get there early as
there will be plenty to look over.

OFFICERS

W. W. Brooks	President
P. W. Young	Vice President
W. H. Hull	Treasurer
N. W. Christopherson	Secretary

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

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

Harriet Avenue South is between Lyndale and Nicollet Avenues, off
Diamond Lake Road (54th).

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

If you were not able to help plant the colias in Lyndale Gardens the other weekend, by all means drop by and take a look at our handiwork. Already the area, and it is quite sizable, has been transformed from a drab-looking garden plot into an attractively planted border. Later as the plants get larger, the whole area will develop into a colorful spectacle for all to enjoy. Tony Koester is to be congratulated, not only on his initiative in originating the idea but also in organizing the project, recruiting volunteers, furnishing the material, and getting the job done. He is most grateful for the help he received, and extends his thanks to all members who participated in the planting.

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Joe Witmer has asked all members, as they travel around the Minneapolis metropolitan area, to keep an eye open for unusually attractive landscape plantings of industrial and commercial buildings and report them to him so that his committee may take them into consideration for the Club's annual awards.

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We are glad to report that Cortis Rice, Jr., who has been on the sick list, is much improved although still taking it easy. Cannot think of a better therapy for you, Cortis, than a few hours each day in that attractive garden of yours.

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Spraying a perfectly healthy-looking plant might seem like a waste of energy, but it really isn't. Setting-up a 10 or 14 day spraying or dusting schedule before trouble really starts and keeping on that schedule is the only answer to disease-free plants. Also, following a regular schedule means less work. Ever try to delouse a plant when the leaves are curled with aphids--just try to get at those sucking pests with spray or dust.

As for the spray to use, they are all good. Just make sure your dust or spray contains the ingredients necessary to destroy all of the bugs plus a fungicide and then use it on everything. If you spray, add a sticker to your solution to keep the insecticide from being washed off by the rain.

You don't need a special formulae for roses or for anything else for that matter. Stick to an all purpose combination. Also, please don't double the dosages on the theory that twice the chemical called for will do twice as good a job. A double dose will no doubt hasten the death of the bugs but is likely to have the same effect on your plants.

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So far, nature has provided our gardens with an adequate supply of moisture, but the season is rapidly moving into a period when rain is unpredictable and a supplement will be necessary. Most plants, including grass, need almost one inch of water a week during dry periods -- in some localities depending on the character of the soil, a great deal more. Lack of water arrests growth--in some instances, it throws plants into dormancy.

NEWS AND VIEWS (con't)

According to many authorities, sprinkling should be done in daylight hours, preferably when the sun is hot. Further, many experts are against watering at night. By all means, water during the hot hours of the day, and if you cannot get enough coverage during the day, don't worry about any harm coming to your plants by irrigating at night, just keep the water off the foliage and your plants will be better off for it.

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LIKE TO GET INTO THIS ARGUMENT!

A month or so ago, we published in the SPRAY a tip on watering newly-set bagged and balled plants. It read as follows: "Newly set plants with balls of soil around their roots need plenty of water--be sure to direct the water into the ball of the soil rather than into the surrounding loose soil.

Hardly had we gotten over the fatigue of getting the SPRAY into the mail when along comes a letter from our lovable "Hard Boiled Crab," down Florida way, challenging such a procedure--the challenge being predicated upon one of "25 Easy Ways to Kill Plants" distributed by a nursery in Winter Park, Florida, which states, "Overwatering at time of planting, dissolves root ball, causes roots to lose firm contact with the soil, resulting in wilt, dieback and often kills the plant. Nursery plants are usually wet enough, you need use only enough water to settle the fresh dry soil you put around the root ball. NEVER force hose into the soil around the root system. DO NOT play stream of water into center of plant. Water lightly around edge of root ball after planting is completed."

Now our old friend, Rene, wants to know how the two opposing ideas can be reconciled.

Having spent a few short periods in Florida now and again, I was always impressed with the nature of the soil, at least adjacent to the East and West Coasts, it looked to be eight to ninety per cent sand.

I am astounded that anyone has the ingenuity to be able to ball a plant growing in that kind of stuff. As a matter of fact, the only growing plants for sale seen on display were contained in cans. How they ever got the darn things out of the cans to transplant without completely bareing the roots has always been a mystery--so you can imagine what even the smallest flow of water over those naked roots would do. As for bagging, looks impossible without first lining the sack with glue, then covering the outside with asbestos to keep the water off.

Listen, you Hard Boiled Crab, why don't you give up gardening in that Florida muck, come on back to Minnesota and rejoin the gang in some real gardening?

Anybody else have something to say?

G.V.L.

JULY REMINDERS

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 beans to give a supply of string beans for fall use.

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 evergreens 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 this weather keeps up, that's going to be quite a trick.

For dandelions and other broad-leave 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 plants that 2-4D touches will be injured or killed, including small trees and shrubs.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB TOUR

July 8, 1958

Dinner at Vic Jaeger's

Next stop is Andy Nyberg's home at 5505 Wentworth Avenue S.

To reach Andy's take 54th Street to Wentworth and turn right.

Next stop - Lyndale Rose Gardens

Go back to 54th, turn right and proceed to Lyndale. North on Lyndale to 42nd Street, left on 42nd to E. Lake Harriet Blvd., right to the Rose Garden.

Next stop is Les Johnson's home at 3919 Pleasant Ave.

Leaving the Rose Garden, go to 38th and Dupont, turn right onto 38th Street and follow 38th to Pleasant. Turn right onto Pleasant.

Final stop is Chuck Crewe's home at 3009 James Avenue S.

From Les Johnson's return to Dupont Avenue and proceed north to 31st. Turn left on 31st Street to James Avenue. Turn right to Chuck Crewe's.