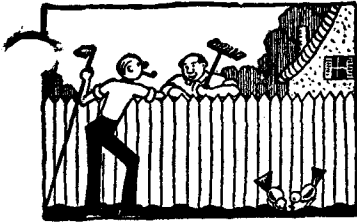


# THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAP



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

June, 1953  
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G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

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## 3 BIG EVENTS IN JUNE

- (1) Tuesday, June 9 - Monthly Club Meeting
- (2) Saturday & Sunday, June 13-14  
    Club Flower Show
- (3) Thursday & Friday, June 25-26  
    National Rose Show

We are going to have a regular monthly dinner meeting in June -

The second Tuesday in the month, June 9.

At the usual meeting place - Hasty Tasty,  
50th & France Ave. South

Time: 5:45 P.M.      -      Dinner \$1.50

Bob Adams has a really fine program arranged for us - Lilies will be the main topic. W. A. Rowell, well known authority on lilies particularly adaptable to this climate, will be the principal speaker.

He will discuss lily culture and their place in our gardens. Colored slides of lilies that should be grown by our members will add much to the evening's entertainment.

Another of our famous Bull Sessions will follow the discussion on lilies - come with your questions and be prepared to give some answers! ! !

## OVER THE FENCE



"How come you won so many ribbons at the show, Mike?"

"I'll tell you, Al, it was easy but don't give my secrets away."

"Okay, let's have it."

"I went around to the other fellows' gardens and gathered the stuff they thought was too poor to show."

## SPRING FLOWER SHOW

It's not too early to start thinking about the specimens you are going to enter in our June Flower Show. Keep those babies sprayed, dusted, staked and well-fed. Remember rarely have we had a member who entered the show who didn't come away with at least one ribbon.

Mark the dates on your calendar - Saturday, June 13th and Sunday, June 14th, at the Park Board Greenhouses, 38th Street and Bryant Avenue South.

All entries must be IN-THEIR-PLACE-IN-THE-SHOW by 3:30 P.M. sharp SATURDAY. Judging starts at that time.

This is going to be a "wide-open-show" which means that you can show as many different entries in a class as you have varieties, but each variety must be specified. For example, you may enter three different varieties of pink peonies in the pink peony class or as many yellow iris, providing each variety is different.

Where varieties (unnamed) exist in color only, the color must be specified and only one entry may be made of each color, as in pansies, aquilegia, hemerocallis, etc.

Judging will be strictly on the merit of the entry with no consideration given to the number of places awarded an exhibitor.

"P. W." Young, Chairman

### SHOW SUGGESTIONS

Remember the judging takes place the moment the judge sees your entry, therefore, it must be well hardened to withstand the heat of the room and be immersed in water.

When more than one bloom is required be sure your entry has the exact number of blooms specified in the schedule. Select the best you have but strive for uniformity if possible.

Identify your stuff. Be sure to put your entry number on the entry tag, as well as your name folded-in at the bottom. Also place your name on the bottom of each container used for arrangements, house plants and potted material.

Place your exhibit early. If your entries are well hardened you've no need to worry about how many hours before judging time they are placed....they will keep for days

The Park Board Greenhouses will be open early on Saturday morning, June 13, so bring your entries over and get them arranged before the crowd arrives around noon.

### BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY

The Family Basket Picnic will be held at the Park Board Paint Shop, Saturday at 5:30 P.M. Plan to bring along the whole family and their friends.

### EVERY MEMBER PARTICIPATE

As Assistant Chairman of the Flower Show Committee, I have been assigned the duty of urging members of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis to contribute something to our June Flower Show. Each amateur gardener member who is in a position to do so, should exhibit a good, unusual, or interesting plant or flower. The winning of ribbons should be of secondary consideration; it is an obligation we owe to our Club and to the public we invite to our show.

If you cannot deliver the material to the show yourself, you can arrange with most any member to get the specimens or arrangements to the show for you.

Al Nelson

### FLOWER SHOW MUSTS

1. Watch the garden for ten days before the show.
2. Cut late the previous evening and harden off.
3. Cut long stems and extra flowers.
4. Use a sharp knife and cut on a slant.
5. Remove excess foliage.
6. Crush woody stems.
7. Sear, or dip in boiling water, the ends of milky stems.
8. Set in deep water immediately; place in a cool spot, out of a draft.

### QUALIFICATIONS TO WATCH

1. Color: Clear, not muddy.
2. Size: Uniform, large.
3. Form: Typical of the variety.
4. Substance: Mature and fully developed but not past prime.
5. Individual Blooms: Side buds showing color count as additional blooms and could disqualify your entry.
6. Stems: Long, uniform in length, straight and strong without blemish.
7. Formation: Flowers well set on stems; terminal flower looking at the sky.
8. Foliage: Remove all below water line. Remove imperfect leaves.
9. Condition: All entries should be free of disease and pests.

### \*OUR MAY PLANT AUCTION\*

What a fine auction we had! Practically the whole club attended en masse with a good sprinkling of guests besides.

Congratulations, "S. F." Pinkham - you and your committee did an excellent job and the club profited by just under \$450.

As for the auctioneers, they were not only in good voice but most seductive - a million thanks to Blackbourn, Holmberg, Stillman, Titus, and Janes. All in all it was quite a day; the club made money to carry on it's regular program; we all had a lot of fun outbidding one another; and we gardeners will profit from our purchases.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL. "Pink" Pinkham has asked us to express his appreciation to the members of the auction committee for their assistance and

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 1953 Auction is now history. It was another wonderful success and reflects credit on all members, to the committee in charge, to all who furnished material and to those who purchased.

Our sincere thanks are extended to Chairman Pinkham and his committee, to Chairman Bob Adams for the excellent dinner, efficiently served, to all our professional members who so generously contributed, to those who went on the outside for material and particularly to the outsiders who gave that material. To all a sincere "Thank you."

Our next objective is the Spring Flower Show to be held in June. I am sure that, too, will be a success.

"Rene"

## NATIONAL ROSE SHOW

This year the annual Rose Show of the American Rose Society will be held in Minneapolis at the Northwestern National Bank, 7th Street & Marquette Avenue, on June 25-26th. Everyone expects this to be the largest and most spectacular amateur rose show ever held in the Twin Cities and all amateur rose growers are invited to exhibit. The show is being sponsored by the AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY, MINNESOTA ROSE SOCIETY with the cooperation of the UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA and LOCAL GARDEN CLUBS.

### Officers

Chas. E. Doell, Supt. of Minneapolis Parks  
General Convention Chairman

Richard S. Wilcox, American Rose Society Director  
Joe Witmer, Convention Publicity Chairman  
Mrs. Joseph Vogel, President, Minnesota Rose Society

### Committee

Rose Show Chairman

Gregory J. Lucking, Park Board, 325 City Hall, Minneapolis

Rose Show Co-Chairman

Carl Holst, 5124 Beard Avenue South, Minneapolis

Assisted by:

Lawrence W. Bachman, Rene Dufourd, S. E. Halla, Sam Hunegs,  
Lester B. Johnson, Harold R. Kaufmann, Mrs. Stanley D. Lund,  
Stanley D. Lund, Albert I. Nelson, Arthur Ruedlinger, and  
Wm. Holmberg, all of Minneapolis; C. J. Hawkins, St. Paul;  
and Mrs. Ruth H. Brand, South St. Paul.

Organizations contributing Silver Trophy Awards are the Minnesota Rose Society, The Minnesota State Horticultural Society, Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, and the Men's Garden Club of St. Paul.

## JUNE GARDEN TIPS

Have an idea summer will be here by the time this issue of the Spray reaches you which means you should be getting into a position to sit back and enjoy your garden.

Of course, there are a few "musts" which you should adhere to but if you establish a regular routine you've no need to become a slave to your garden.

Keep your newly planted trees and shrubs watered well, soak the roots frequently throughout the summer.

Fruit trees, such as plum, pear and apple which have set a heavy crop of fruit need good fertilization. Spread four or five pounds of a good commercial fertilizer per tree in a circle beneath the outer tips of the branches.

Do not completely defoliate your peony plants and be sure to break off faded blooms..same is true of iris, their blooms should be cut as soon as they wither.

Geraniums bloom best if kept rootbound. Six inch pots are large enough; in order to keep them from drying out too rapidly place them in larger pots and pack with peat moss or other water-retaining substance.

Let the lawn clippings fall where they n Unless there is extremely heavy growth o grass, it is better plant food and humus economy to "let the lawn clippings lie." Experiments have shown that best grass g has been obtained by feeding the lawn re larly but lightly during the summer and retaining the clippings.

When the temperature gets to 75° or high go after those dandelions, plantain, buc horn, etc., that are crowding out your g Use any good weed killer but follow the directions exactly.

Be on the look-out for cutworms - Chloro is by far the best remedy - use at night best results.

A good mulching of your flower beds will keep down weeds and retain moisture in the soil.

Your house plants will be much better ne winter if set outdoors during the summer a cool, shaded spot - better still, if y place pots and all in the ground.

Pansies will bloom better and longer if cut the flowers regularly and head back long straggling stem growth that develop They do better exposed to half a day's s than they do in a whole day's exposure.

### KAHLERT HONORED - M.G.C.A. RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

**WHEREAS:** It appears that within the membership of the Men's Garden Clubs of America there is one man who considers loyalty and service far above personal ambition, and

**WHEREAS:** It is fitting and proper that we now recognize faithful service and execut ability, now therefore be it -

**RESOLVED:** That in acknowledgement of the loyalty and ability of Herbert E. Kahlert, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, a man who so dutifully accepted the office of Secretary o the Men's Garden Clubs of America when in a few short years he might have occupied the highest office available at our disposal, we hereby express our gratitude and confidence, and be it further -

**RESOLVED:** That as a lasting tribute, this resolution be presented to Herbert E. Kah duly authenticated by the signature of the President, attested by the Secretary.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA  
Annual Convention, Memphis, Tenn., April, 1953

## M.G.C.A. PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY LETTER

To All Club Presidents, Secretaries and Editors:

Greetings! May I start this my first President's Letter by repeating something I said at the Convention in Memphis? - "National is a creature of the local club - the local club is master and National is the servant." To this end it will be my purpose to direct the Office of the President in a manner as to be of the most possible service to the local club. Please feel free to call on me at any time that I can serve in any way. If you have a thought that will improve our service to the local club and its members, or an idea that would improve our organization, please let me have it.

\* \* \*

We regret exceedingly that Herb Kahlert decided to resign as Secretary and asked to be relieved of these duties. We shall be forever grateful to Herb for coming to our aid and taking over the Secretary's Office when Mark Taylor was stricken. We feel most fortunate in having a man like Woodson Jones to take over the job as Secretary - a person who is not only capable, but a man who is a tireless worker and one who is most enthusiastically interested in the Men's Garden Club movement. While it will take a little time for him to become familiar with the duties of the office and get it organized on an efficient basis, he is no stranger to garden club work and we can expect a very fine service from him.

The two things that received the most consideration at the Convention in Memphis were our Test Program and Regionals. No definite decisions were reached, but much information was obtained and strong and capable committees will be appointed to work on these and we hope that we will be able to present a program on each of these very soon. If you have any thoughts along this line, we would like very much to have them.

The best money any club can spend is to send some of its members to a National Convention. Begin NOW to plan to send a good representation to Denver by adopting some fund raising program to finance their expenses.

Sincerely,

Ray Tillman, President  
Men's Garden Clubs of America

### USE AND MISUSE OF DIOECIOUS AND MONOECIOUS

The male and female sex organs are present in most flowers, that is, both the stamens and the pistil. A flower possessing both is said to be bisexual (hermaphroditic or perfect). When only one sex is represented the flower is unisexual and is then said to be staminate (male) or pistillate (female). If both staminate and pistillate flowers are on the same plant (as in corn, where the tassel is the staminate part and the ear with its silk the pistillate part) that plant is said to be monoecious (pronounced moe-neesh-us). If, as in many kinds of holly or yew, the staminate flowers are on one plant and the pistillate on a second, then that species is said to be dioecious.

Frequently one reads of flowers being monoecious or dioecious. This usage is incorrect. Flowers may be unisexual, but one cannot determine from examination of a single flower whether dioecism or monoecism exists. It is necessary to examine the nature of the unisexual flowers on the plant to learn whether flowers of one sex (dioecism) or both sexes (monoecism) are present.

## FUNCTIONS OF PLANT NUTRIENTS - SULPHUR

Few soils, with the exception of some in arid regions, contain naturally-occurring sulfur compounds. These mineral compounds of sulfur, the sulfates, are water soluble and are rapidly leached out of the soil by the percolation of rainfall. Not many soils, however, are deficient in sulfur, since quantities of this nutrient element are brought down from the atmosphere by the rainfall and from atmospheric dust fall. Each chimney and smoke stack sends sulfur into the atmosphere as a waste product of combustion of coal, natural gas, or fuel oil. The Pacific Northwest and northern Minnesota have localized sulfur deficiency areas because their prevailing winds do not pass over populated areas and therefore do not pick up gaseous sulfur compounds.

Sulfur is one of the "building blocks" in plant growth. It is a constituent of a group of proteins formed in growing plants. Alfalfa, for instance, requires as much sulfur as it does phosphorus. Sulfur-deficient alfalfa shows an over-all chlorosis of the leaves and a stunting of growth. The typical odors and flavors associated with onions, mustard, and members of the cabbage family are imparted by sulfur compounds.

Complete plant foods contain sulfur as one of the ingredients of superphosphate. Superphosphate is manufactured by treating ground rock phosphate with sulfuric acid. This process renders the phosphate more available to the roots of growing plants, and in the process, the acid is neutralized completely. Superphosphate is a combination of several compounds, one of them being gypsum, or calcium sulfate. Contrary to some statements we see occasionally it leaves no "acid" residue in the soil.

Sulfate of ammonia is another important sulfur-bearing plant food raw material. Used alone for several seasons as a nitrogen source, this compound will increase soil acidity; it is, therefore, a rather risky source of nitrogen for use by gardeners unless they are aware of its drawbacks. However, when it is included with other materials in mixed complete plant food, the acid forming properties of sulfate of ammonia are neutralized.

## AN HERB GARDEN FOR THE MRS.

In a very small garden plot - no more six feet square - you can grow a good variety of herbs with little effort. Many herb such as basil, marigold, poppy, sweet marjoram, saffron, and parsley, are, in addition, as valuable as flowering plants. Herbs do have particular soil requirements; in fact their growth will be more compact if no food at all is used in ordinary good garden soil. The leaves of herbs that are to be dried for winter use should be gathered previous to the appearance of the flowers. These leaves should be picked at mid-day, dried in a cool, shaded place in order to retain as much as possible of the essential oils which impart their flavors. When thoroughly dried, the leaves may be crushed and stored in tightly stoppered bottles or jars. When the crop consists of seeds, heads, or seed pods, they should be gathered just before the seeds start to fall and on papers to complete the drying.

Here are a few of the most popular annual herbs with notes on their culture and use.

Dill - grows two to three feet high with yellowish flowers. Its seeds are used for seasoning and the leaves may be used for flavoring soups or with cucumber pickle seeds very early in the spring.

Borage - is valued as a pot herb and as salad plant. It has blue or purplish flowers and reaches a height of two feet. The seeds may be sown in the garden in the spring.


Mustards - are annuals easily grown from seed sown in the spring. Variants of them are used as pot herbs, for salads, while the seeds are often used for seasoning pickles.

Coriander - is a slender plant, one to two feet high, bearing white flowers. The leaves may be used for flavoring soups and salads.

Basil - grows about a foot high with small white flowers. The plants may be pottered in the fall and grown in the window garden to supply fresh leaves during the winter.

Marjoram - is a perennial treated as an annual. It grows one to two feet high with whitish purplish flowers.

# HOW TO GROW MANY TOMATOES ON FEW PLANTS!



By the Master Gardener

There is nothing so typical of the "good ol' summertime" as fresh tomatoes. By June of every year, folks can hardly wait for the first outdoor-grown tomatoes to appear on the market - and the prices you pay for early tomatoes reflect the demand occasioned by the nation's reawakening tomato appetite.

No garden is too small for a few tomato plants; if staked and pruned to a single stalk, you can place them two feet apart. Whatever space you have available, you will want to make your plants produce their utmost.

For earliness, obtain plants of varieties bred for earliness. These include Bonny Best or Valiant, started in pots or plant bands. Plants started thus will receive no transplanting shock nor a setback in growth when planted in the garden. After fertilizing well and spading or hoeing it into the soil, make the planting holes and set the plants a little deeper than they were in the bands or pots. Make up a starter solution following the directions on the label and pour a cupful around each plant. If the nights are still cold, get some hot caps or paper tents and place them over the plants. If, when the first blooms appear, night temperatures are still below 60°, you will insure formation of tomatoes on the first cluster of blossoms by spraying them with a fruit-setting hormone spray.

If you want to stake the tomatoes, set a four or five foot stake right now before the root system begins to spread out. Keep each plant pruned to a single stem by removing the shoots that appear at the axils of the leaves and tie the stalk loosely to the stake every eight or ten inches.

Additional plant food applications are not usually necessary except on very infertile or very sandy soils. Such soils benefit by midseason side dressings or foliage feeding.

Pest protection includes early dusting to discourage flea beetles, and later on to prevent early or late blight. Blights can effectively defoliate plants and cut yields severely. Don't let the tomato horn worms ruin your carefully nurtured plants just about the time they get into production. It is difficult to take preventive measures against these large green worms, the size of your finger, so be on the lookout for them from the first of July on. They are exactly the color of the foliage that they consume, and are, therefore, hard to see, but the damage they cause is quite obvious - full branches stripped down to the stem and green fruits gnawed.

For canning crop tomatoes, less individual attention is required, although they need to be watched for insect damage and disease.