

# 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:  
Don Methven  
William Hull

## MARCH MEETING

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 1953  
Place: Hasty Tasty Cafe,  
50th & France Ave. So.  
Time: 5:45 P.M.  
Dinner: \$1.50

## PROGRAM

6:30 P.M. Short business session  
6:45 "What's New In Roses" by Carl  
Holst of the Park Board  
7:45 "The Airwrap Method of Propagation"  
by J. R. Ellingboe

## Officers

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Our Program Committee has a double feature planned for March 10th that is sure to interest us all. Carl Holst of the Lyndale Rose Gardens will discuss new varieties that have successfully met the Park Board's testing program and he will recommend many varieties for our home gardens. Good information to have before doing your spring buying.

J. R. Ellingboe brings further interest in his discussion of rooting cuttings - a plastic sheeting that is apparently self-sufficient. Don't miss these two very timely talks. See you Tuesday, the tenth!

## WANTED

Suggestions for humorous conversations between Al and Mike so "Over the Fence" can continue as a regular monthly feature. Your ideas will make entertaining reading for us all.

## OVER THE FENCE



"I suppose you're an old hand at this breeding stuff, Mike?"

"Sure, Al. Dr. Wilcox's speech was an excellent one, too. I understood it all, of course."

"That's strange. Your wife said you came home talking to yourself, your rubbers were on the wrong feet, you still wore your club badge, and you'd left the car in the Hasty Tasty parking lot!"

## NEW PERENNIALS

G. G. Cerney

A partial list of comparatively recent introductions of perennial plants which have done nicely in this area and proved themselves worthy of recommendation:

Phlox Sir John Falstaff  
Phlox Mies Copyn  
Phlox Elizabeth Arden  
Phlox Red Glory  
Aster Janet McMullen  
Allium Azureum  
Allium Ostrowskianum  
Heliopsis Magnifica  
Ligularia speciosa  
Echinops Taplow Blue  
Rudbeckia The King  
Lythrum Morden Purple  
Campanula glomerata dahurica  
Campanula turbinata

The following is a list of some of the

more recent introductions:

Iberis Purity  
Polemonium Blue Pearl  
Alyssum Lemon Queen  
Achillea King Alfred  
Phlox subulata Alexanders Wild Rose  
Geum Dolly North  
Campanula persicifolia White Pearl  
Campanula persicifolia Blue Gardenia  
Painted Daisy Helen  
Painted Daisy Crimson Giant  
Monarda Mahogany  
Monarda Sunset  
Lythrum Robert  
Shasta Jennifer Reed  
Veronica Crater Lake

In addition, there are almost innumerable additions in varieties of delphinium, hemerocallis, lilies, chrysanthemums, e

IT IT'S AN EXTRA, SAVE IT FOR THE AUCTION

## DELPHINIUM

R. S. Bryant

Perhaps the most popular of delphinium strains at the present time is the Pacific strain. Originated by Vetterle & Reinelt of Capitola, California, it has many fine characteristics to recommend it. In this strain will be found the finest and largest assortment of colors, largest florets, and largest flower spikes. With me the plants are winter hardy without covering, but a certain percentage is lost during the growing year due mostly to crown rot. Seeds can be purchased in the various separate colors. Since a packet of seeds in any one color would produce many more plants than the average person would want, it might be well to consider the Round Table series, which includes some seeds of all their various colors. The latest development in color is in the Astalot series, which ranges from blush pink to raspberry rose. Preference in color is much a matter of personal taste, and while there would be some of these that one person would not care for, there would be others to delight his taste in color.

Where room does not permit growing a lot of plants from seed (and you want only a half dozen or a dozen plants), it might be better to go to a nursery and select your plants in bloom to be transferred in the fall. If you are not too particular about a specific color, get your plants very early in the spring. In any case, try to get young plants rather than large clumps as they seem to do better after transplanting.

I grew a number of Chinensis Delphinium this past year and was delighted with them. Seed was started in the greenhouse in January and they commenced blooming in July, giving about two months of color. These are low growing - about 2 feet - have wiry stems and cut-leafed foliage. There is a white and a very pleasant shade

## LILIES IN MY GARDEN

Maurice Lifson

Auratum Lily (Gold-banded Lily). The few lilies growing in my garden actually stole the show from August 10 to September 2. Last year I lost two that showed signs of mosaic. They were sprayed three times before blooming. To extend the blooming season, one should plant three types: Auratum Platyphyllum, Praesox and Pistum.

Lilium Candidum. I planted six bulbs last fall; all bloomed at the same time as the delphiniums with which they were interplanted. They are the Cascade type supposed to be hardy.

Lilium Canadense. They are growing in two locations in full sun and semi-shade. Blooming dates varied by one week; those in full sun reached a height of five feet.

Lilium Centifolium. Performed beautifully. They are hard to distinguish from the Regal Lilies. One could easily understand why one of its grandparents is the popular Regal Lily. Centifolium lilies bloom somewhat later than the Regals. They reached a height of 3 1/2 to 4 feet carrying many trumpets.

Lilium Regale. Bloomed from end of June to July 5th. Have over 30 of these accommodating lilies throughout the garden and this fall I planted 12 more. They are planted as companions to various types of plants; delphiniums, thalictrums and astilbe.

Lilium Croecum. These have strong, 3 ft. stems bearing deep green foliage with umbels of orange colored upright blooms. They are as easy to grow as tiger lilies blooming in July.

Lilium Henryi. Have a colony of these growing in semi-shade and another in sunny location. Those in the sun are well advanced before the others are making up their minds to appear, but the blooming schedules are about the same. Those in semi-shade keep their color much better.

Lilium Phillipinese Formascanum. Lost all the original bulbs, but have some nice seedlings planted last fall. These are short-lived lilies, but they are worth the effort and can easily be grown from seed. It is gratifying to have white trumpet lilies in August.

Lilium Speciosum Rubrum. These performed as beautifully as the Auratum lilies and bloomed about the same time - from August until September 5.

Lilium Tennifolium. These too are easy to grow. They grow on stems about 24" tall bearing recurved deep scarlet blooms in June.

Lilium Umbellatum. These bear large flowers with shadings of orange and crimson on 24" stems. I have some hybrids whose color is almost like chocolate growing in front of a blue clematis. They make a beautiful picture.

Estate Lilies. Croft variety. Similar to Easter lilies, they are top performers from the last week of June to the third week in July. Hardy if well protected. I cover them with several inches of sawdust plus a bushel basket.

Lilium Longifolium Ace. Similar to Estate lilies but bloom in August. This lily needs the same winter protection as the Estate lilies.

Lilium Rubellum. Another trumpet lily; blooms on a two-foot stem. It is

Tiger lily since they carry the germs of the mosaic disease to which Lily Auratum and Rubrum are susceptible.

Lilium Amabile Luteum. One of the best yellow lilies blooming in late June on 2 1/2 - to 3 feet strong stems.

Lilium Dauricum Wilsoni. A very valuable lily, deep apricot blooms spotted mahogany held upright on 2 - to 3 feet stems, blooming in August when no similar lily is in bloom.

The lilies in my garden grow in borders interplanted with suitable companions, either annuals or perennials. As most lilies prefer protection from the hot mid-day sun, they should have ground covers which also protect early starting lilies from frost injury. Of the bulbs sent me for trial two years ago, most look like tiger lilies. They reached a height of over 10 feet. The umbellatums type, however, are lovely. They have multiplied to the extent that I now have a colony of lemon yellow and another of deep red.

#### SNAROL FOR SLUGS

I had used Snarol for slugs for a couple of years and was not too well satisfied with the results. I had placed it in dabs, here and there, according to one of the directions. Last year I got the 6-lb. package and about every 15 days I took a 1-lb. coffee can of Snarol, moistened it with water, and scattered it as thinly as

possible over the area to be protected. This was done after sundown on a day that no rain threatened. This method gave the best control I had achieved up to date. Another way is to give periodic inspection under sweet alyssum, coral bells, plantain lily, etc. The slugs hid out there during the day. This method gives moderate control.

ALBERT NELSON

TO THE SECRETARY, Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis:

I hope you will excuse the delay in acknowledging the fine co-operation of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis in our soil-gathering project. As you can well imagine, there is a considerable amount of record keeping and correspondence entailed in this work and I have, unfortunately, gotten behind. In the March 1953 MEGA there will appear a general report of the encouraging progress of this whole project.

Through the fine efforts of the Men's Garden Clubs of America, a great many soil samples have been collected and micro-organisms isolated from them. I wish we could give individual soil collectors a report of their particular samples, but ~~because of the type of laboratory work that has to be carried out on the soils, they~~ lose their identity in the process. Extensive work on the soil samples is going on in the research laboratories of Bristol Laboratories, Inc., as well as in various national foundations, and it is hoped that this work, combined with the soil-collecting activities of the Men's Garden Clubs of America, will lead to the discovery of a new antibiotic that will be useful in the treatment of disease.

I should like to express appreciation for the efforts of the Minneapolis Club members who have contributed soil samples to this program and I hope that you will inform them of this.

Kenneth S. Upson, Chairman,  
Bristol Antibiotic Project  
Men's Garden Club of Syracuse

AN EXTRA FLAT FOR OUR PLANT AUCTION

## REPORT ON DAHLIAS 1952

William Holmberg

The past season proved to be quite a test, with very hot weather and no rainfall during the blooming season. Growing dahlias to perfection was a real chore. In spite of the aforementioned handicaps and plenty of red spiders, I am happy to report that at the Fall show of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis and the Minnesota Dahlia Society show, first class blooms were exhibited; and after viewing the quality of blooms at both these shows, one would think it had been an ideal season!

In my opinion this proves that with advanced cultural methods, higher exhibition standards, more careful selection of varieties, plus knowledge gained at monthly meetings over a period of years, we all have become better growers and exhibitors. We visited a great number of gardens in various cities last fall, and I am glad to report that it is my opinion that we are leading the field by quite a margin!

I am submitting below a list of 48 varieties that have proven themselves in our garden. We feel that these varieties of dahlia hold their own against any competition, as well as being most decorative in the garden. We tested over 175 new varieties from all over the world last season and will be glad to furnish data to any clubmember. It was our good fortune to grow and exhibit the dahlia that won the American Home Achievement Medal for 1952. This dahlia is a very large orange-colored semicactus named Prairie Fire. Below are the tested varieties:

| <u>"A" Size<br/>(Over 8")</u> | <u>"B" Size<br/>(4 to 8")</u> | <u>Miniatures</u> | <u>Pompon</u>     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Emil Doukopil                 | Good Morning                  | Purity            | Mrs. French       |
| Croyden Masterpiece           | Orfeo                         | Little Diamond    | Margaret Williams |
| Prairie Fire                  | Amb. Von Keffens              | Grace             | Rifleman          |
| Pirate Treasure               | Desiree Draps                 | Fusilier          | Rudd              |
| Arthur Godfrey                | St. Lambert                   | Helly Boudjewin   | Zonnegoud         |
| Pride of Holland              | Aumonier Chandelon            | Glory-Heemstede   | Fanny             |
| Kelvin                        | Simone Saccomen               | Ming              | Roi des Jaunes    |
| Wosal                         | Finesse Anversoise            | Rose Fletcher     | Golf Ball         |
| Kidds Climax                  | Golden Treasure               | Melvin Grevell    | Rosie             |
| Quinns Tidal Wave             | Aristocrat                    | Jubilant          | Willows Violet    |
| Great Lakes                   | Gerrie Hoek                   | Bo Bo             | Betty Ann         |
| Jane Lausche                  | Inspector von de Plassche     | St. Therese       | Clover            |

YOU'LL FIND IT AT OUR AUCTION

### HOW LONG TO PROJECT SLIDES

All projectors vary as to the amount of heat they throw directly on the slide. Test your own projector (after it is thoroughly warmed up) by putting a slide in place, leaving it a reasonable length of time, and then removing it. If the glass or cardboard mount feels hot to the touch, it has been in too long. Experiment with it until you know pretty well how long it can stay in the projector before it becomes too warm. Mounted slides do not seem to be as much affected as unmounted ones, but it doesn't do them any good. An un-

"Pop" Halstead, chaplain of the MGCA has this to say about gardening:

"I firmly believe that gardening brings out the best there is in a man a brings him nearer to God than can any o effort. When you are down on your knee working in a garden, you have no place your heart for mean or unkind thoughts you come closest to the mystery of crea itself. You plant your seeds and you w God's own creative miracle at work. No chemist on earth can explain it; you ac ually see God at work and it is a wonde feeling to think that you are actually

## FUNCTIONS OF PLANT NUTRIENTS: NITROGEN

Although green plants manufacture 93% of their own food requirements, they must obtain the remaining 5 to 7% of their nutrient requirements from mineral nutrients in the soil. These essential elements are 12 in number: nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, sulphur, magnesium, boron, copper, manganese, zinc, iron and molybdenum. Soils vary widely in their ability to furnish all of these nutrients in adequate and balanced quantities; hence the need for regular application of complete plant foods to our yards and gardens.

Nitrogen is often called "the growth element" since it stimulates lush green growth. Unlike other elements, native soil nitrogen exists largely as a constituent of organic matter. Through decomposition of the organic matter by soil organisms, the nitrogen is changed into forms available to plants. Since the decomposition is caused by living organisms, nitrogen availability in the soil is influenced by temperature, moisture and aeration. Thus the supply is extremely variable and explains why plants sometimes are found to be starving for nitrogen in soil which is high in organic matter. This occurs generally during cold, wet seasons and sometimes during dry periods in the most fertile soil. Nitrogen deficiency results in stunted growth and chlorosis (loss of green color). The leaves first become light green and gradually yellow. The oldest leaves on the plant - those nearest the ground on an upright plant - are first affected. Complete plant food supplies nitrogen in three or more chemical forms of varying rates of availability to plants. Even so, nitrogen is the element most rapidly used up by plants or leached from the soil by rainfall, and in order to make sure that your garden is amply supplied with nitrogen and the other nutrients all through the growing season, it is a good idea to make supplemental feedings during the summer with easily applied material such as the water-soluble Instant Vigoro.

If you have suspected nitrogen deficiencies in your garden, do not attempt to remedy the situation with a one-shot application of a fertilizer very high in nitrogen. In this case, the cure can be worse than the ailment, since heavy nitrogen dosage can cause an unbalanced nutrient status and may intensify deficiencies of other elements.

### COLOR INTERPRETATIONS

Otto H. Erickson

Looking through one of my early scrap-books the other day, I came across a small yellowed clipping which caught my interest. It must have been cut from a Swedish paper or magazine many years ago and it gave hints, or rather interpretations, of colors that may yet be of value when choosing colors for home or garden. Captioned "Tell It In Colors," this is its translation:

Blue seems cold.  
Rose expresses femininity and love.  
Green gives impression of rest and repose.  
Light green denotes youth and the budding stage.  
Orange is for gaiety.  
Lavender hints of aristocratic and formal taste.  
Red is violent and dramatic.

White, not being a color (or all colors combined), was not mentioned in the clipping but we may safely assume that it denotes purity and serenity.

Other shades and pastels not mentioned may, of course, be given intermediate interpretations of the moods they convey, and together with the above suggestions, be applied when choosing colors for the garden borders.

When contemplating the implied significance of red, it seems ironical that while undoubtedly none of the members of our club is inclined toward violence and that most of them probably lean toward music and poetry than to the drama, usually our garden borders end up altogether too much in the red.