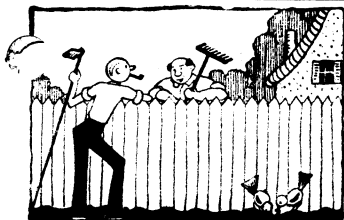


THE GARDEN SPRAY



BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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

May, 1951
Volume 9, Number 5
Vic Lowrie, Editor

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MAY AUCTION MEETING

Date: Tuesday, May 8, 1951
Place: Park Board Greenhouse
38th & Colfax Ave So.
Dinner: 5:30 P.M.
Price: \$1.50
Auction Sale: 6:30 P.M.

Officers

Fred Paul, President
Vic Lowrie, Vice-President
Rene Dufourd, Secretary
Bill Brooks, Treasurer
Cortis Rice, Jr.,
Past-President

Office of the Secretary and Exchange Editor

5020 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis 19, Minn.

OUR ANNUAL GARDEN CLUB AUCTION

You can't afford to miss it, no matter how many seeds you have apopping, nor how little new material or few garden accessories you think you need. For in this auction you always find something new and different with plenty of experts around to tell you what to do with it.

No kidding, fellows, Tony Koester, our Auction Chairman, tells me he has some outstanding stuff lined up: annuals and perennials, seeds, seedlings, and young plants; shrubs and bushes; fertilizers and insecticides; gardening tools, and what have you.

To those making contributions, deliveries can be made at the Park Board Nursery, 38th & Colfax Ave. S. as follows: Up to 3 o'clock on Sunday; until 6 bells on Monday; and as late as the first fall of the auctioneer's hammer on Tuesday.

Don't forget to bring at least two male gardening friends and come prepared with bags, boxes or cartons to truck your purchases home.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE M.G.C.A. 16th ANNUAL CONVENTION IN DETROIT, JUNE 11-14

ANNUALS AND THEIR USES

By Henry Bachman

Henry, with his exceedingly charming manner, gave a most interesting and informative talk at our April meeting and we are indeed indebted to him for the time he gave up during his busiest season so he might be of help to us. (This is a very brief outline of the essential facts given in his talk.)

An annual is a plant that completes its life cycle in one year. Its one ambition is to produce seed; therefore, unless faded flowers are plucked, the plant will quickly stop blooming. Further, the more blooms you pick, the more you get. Annuals offer many advantages. They are inexpensive, easy to grow, give long periods of bloom, and are unequalled for cutting. Many re-seed themselves and are often permanent.

There are annuals to fit almost every garden situation; to cover unsightly fences or buildings; to fill in where perennials have bloomed earlier; to replace plants that have died. They are invaluable for window box plantings, porch vases, hanging baskets and many can even be used as house plants. There are tall ones for background use; climbers for fences and trellises; annuals of medium height and low growing ones. Some suitable for edging and many will grow in partial shade. Below are a few classified according to their growing habits:

Climbers - Morning Glory; Scarlet Runner Bean; Sweet Peas

Tall and Background Annuals - Castor Oil Bean; Cleome; Cosmos; Marigold (tall); Sunflower; Tithonia; Zinnia

Edging Annuals - Alyssum; Anagallis; Lobelia; Portulaca; Sanvitalia; Thunbergia

Annuals for Very Late Bloom - Alyssum; Browallia; Calendula; Cornflower; Petunia; Phlox Drummondii; Rudbeckia; Snapdragon; Verbena

Annuals for Light Shade - Alyssum; Anchusa; China Aster; Cornflower; Cynoglossum; Snapdragon; Torenia

Here are listed the most popular varieties, those most often requested by Bachman customers:

Ageratum - Blue Bedder; Blue Perfection; Widgeot Blue

Alyssum - Little Gem; Snow Cloth; Violet Queen

Asters - Crego; Royals; Princess Crested; Heart of France (large, single)

Balsam - Bush

Begonia - Scandinavia; Red and Pink

Browallia -

Calendula - Sensation; Orange and Gold

Carnation - Enfant de Nice

Celosia

Cornflower - Blue Boy; Pinkie; Snowman;

Jubill Jenn Blue Dwarf; and New Pink

Cosmos - Sensation

Dahlia - Urwin Hybrids

Fuchsia

Gypsophila

Lantana

Larkspur - Base Branching

Lobelia - Mrs. Clibran; Williams; Blue Gown

Marigold - Tall African, all double; Bur-

Morning Glory - Heavenly Blue; Scarlet O'Hara; Cornell; Pearly Gates

Nasturtium - Double Gleam Varieties

Pansy - Swiss Giants; Maple Leaf Giants

Nicotinia - Affinis White

Phlox - Drummondii

Petunia - All Double, California Giants;

Carmencita; Salmon Red; Snowstorm; Rose

Charm; Fluffy Ruffles. Singles: Elks

Pride; Purple Prince; Celestial Rose;

Elks Star; Admiral; Blue Ball; Cheerful;

Firechief; Glow; Gowing Rose; King Henry;

Rosy Morn Select; Salmon Supreme

Scabiosa - Blue Moon; Loveliness

Snapdragons - R.R. Maximum or Super Giant

Alaska; Campfire Canary Yellow; Copper

Queen; Crimson Loveliness; Deep Rose

Stock - Ten Week

Sweet Peas - Spencer

Torenia - Fournieri

Verbena - Beauty of Oxford Rose

Zinnia - California Giants and Dahlia;

Pumilla Cut & Come Again; Lilliput, Cupid

GARDEN TIPS

Don't allow tulips to go to seed & break off flower heads as soon as petals fade, but retain leaves until they wither. If they become diseased, remove immediately and burn. Keep them well watered during the blooming season. Keep a record of both tulips and daffodils that have special appeal so that the information will be available at bulb-ordering time.

Start early to control disease in the garden. Spray or dust with Bordeaux or sulphur phlox, lilies, hollyhocks, delphiniums and peonies. Be on the lookout for aphids on tips of plant shoots and beneath leaves, and apply nicotine sulfate and rotenone every fourth day until pest is eliminated.

For a long season of bloom and for stronger, healthier plants, keep cutting faded flowers. You weaken your plant by allowing seeds to develop and mature, and you dress up your garden if you dispose of blooms as soon as they pass their best.

Keep roses well fed with a complete fertilizer. A handful placed around the plant but away from the root about once a month until the middle of August will give you maximum bloom and strong, healthy plants - but wash it in. Spray regularly every ten days and you'll be well repaid for your efforts.

Don't be surprised if old man frost lingers long - keep some covering handy for more tender annuals.

Pansies, violas, larkspur and snaps, if properly hardened off, can be set in the ground now.

Be careful when cultivating not to cut off the tips of lilies or other slow-growing perennials.

When watering newly set plants which were moved with balls of soil about their roots, be sure to direct the water into the soil balls rather than into the loose earth surrounding them.

It is not wise to bury the roots of young plants more than a half inch deeper than where they were rooted in the flats or other transplant containers. Also, choose a quiet, cloudy day for transplanting outdoors.

Be prepared for the hot weather - which is sure to come - by working plenty of humus into the soil. Rotted manure is excellent; so is peat moss and leaf mold.

Peonies can stand plenty of water and an application of commercial fertilizer will show results. Stake them before they become very large. Early staking is good to keep in mind for all tall-growing plants. For large blooms, pick off the side buds.

Sweet peas should be thinned to about 6 or 8 inches apart. Spray with Bordeaux mixture for mildew; with nicotine for lice.

Chrysanthemums, perennial asters, delphiniums, Shasta daisies, phlox should be divided early. Smaller plants will do better and give more bloom.

Dahlia planting time is a little later, for the ground should be fairly warm and the weather settled. Set out your stakes first, then plant the tubers or young plants. Keep them well watered.

Wait until all danger of frost is passed before sowing mowbats, melons

By the time we go to press, onions, radishes, peas, early turnips, lettuce, spinach and Swiss chard should be in the ground.

Next plant carrots, beets, cabbage, broccoli, Brussel's sprouts, celery, endive, parsnips and potatoes.

Later, when all danger of frost is passed, plant corn, beans, melons, cucumber, squash, parsley, pepper, tomato and eggplant.

Protect any extra-early-set plants or tender plants with Hotkaps or inverted flower pots to guard against nippy nights.

Rake, fertilize and top dress the lawn; seed where necessary, then roll thoroughly.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Cort Rice, Jr., our immediate past-president, has accepted an invitation from Governor Youngdahl to serve as a committee member of the "Plant Minnesota Program."

George Luxton, garden editor of the Minneapolis Morning and Sunday Tribune, has had a new type of gloxinia named in his honor. Dick Miller, a hybridist with Bachman's, worked for two years creating the George Luxton Gloxinia, rated by experts as the finest gloxinia in the U.S. George was presented with one at the Builder's Show two weeks ago. Ralph Bachman made the presentation.

Please correct E. R. Thompson's address on your roster to read 5221 Winnehaha Blvd.

Fred Paul just returned from a visit to sunny Tennessee where he enjoyed visiting many lovely gardens. But, said Fred, "They were no better than will be our own come June."

Say, fellows, how about a little news? An experience or two with a new plant or gadget; an idea or plan or cultural program. Send them to Ye Editor. He guarantees to publish them, as is or with fixin's. You call the turn.

Did you know that the bulging eyes of the rabbit allow it to see to the front, to both sides and partly to the rear without changing position? Now I can understand how they do so much garden damage in so little time.

We regret to report that Bill Holmberg had a painful fall resulting in injury to his back. He is home at 5303 Fremont Ave. No.

and would be delighted to have you drop in for a visit.

There is a new product on the market called TAM which is reported to be effective in treatment of poison ivy. It is based on zirconium carbonate and is the result of an exhaustive search for a chemical that will affect urushiol, the poisonous part of the oil from poison ivy that does the damage.

As you probably know, the famous so-called Japanese cherry trees in the nation's capitol were discovered to be Korean and not Japanese. The question now raised is South Korean or North Korean?

Russia now claims to have a tomato that will resist cold. At the Kiev Vegetable Breeding Center, a garden type tomato was grafted to a potato root. This hybrid was then fertilized with the pollen of a small-fruited hardy wild species. The result - seeds sown in the winter lay dormant until spring and grew!

Chuck Crewe, 3009 James Ave. So., phone RE 0647, has some lots around Cedar Lake available for vegetable gardens. They are approximately 25x100 feet in size and he is offering them to our members on a first-come, first-served basis.

That was a honey of a meeting we had in April, thanks to our program chairman, Archie Flack. Large attendance, good food, snappy business session, fine speakers who spoke on helpful subjects. Following the regular session, we broke up into groups according to our special gardening interests. Much progress made!

ROCK GARDEN PLANTS IN THE FLOWER GARDEN

By Edmund T. Montgomery

There are many low-growing perennials ordinarily classed as rock garden plants which are useful in the foreground of borders or along paths of the garden in place of the conventional low-growing annuals such as sweet alyssum. The following is a list of such plants found to be hardy in this climate. Most of them bloom in the Spring and early Summer when other perennials or annuals have no color, and they give a neat green effect during the remainder of the year, acting as a neutral edging for the flamboyant blossoms of later Summer. Most of these plants prefer a sandy soil.

Ajuga reptans has blue flowers in June which give a nice dark blue effect.

Androsace Sarmetosa. This plant is rare but its small wool rosettes send up delightful little pink flowers like primroses about 3" high; should be given a gravelly soil and protected from marauding neighbors which might cover it.

Arabis alpina fl. pl. The double arabis is beautiful and seldom seen. Not too hardy but satisfactory if given a well-drained place and proper attention.

Campanula. The carpathica varieties, though seldom seen in our local nurseries, are available in blue and white and should be standard material.

Dianthus, neglectus and deltoides. These varieties of pinks have blossoms growing from 1 to 4" above the plant and will persist for years in sandy soil.

Gypsophila repens. This one will give you typical baby breath flowers 2" above a neat greet mat in August.

Iris. Dwarf iris bloom from 3 to 6" from the ground and are available in many varieties and colors. In addition the pumila kinds which blossom much like the larger varieties, there are other gems which have small, delicate blossoms, such as cristata, which is lavender, and arenaria, which is yellow.

Phlox. The sublata varieties in white, pink, lavender and dark red are well known and they are absolutely hardy in sandy soils. Phlox ovata, which has pink blooms at 6" and leathery green leaves, which are evergreen, is also good.

Potentilla. These plants do not have outstanding blossoms, but they are easy to grow and the dwarf varieties with bright yellow flowers from neat rosettes of dark green are useful.

Primula. The common red variety divided from time to time and given some shade by adjoining plants during the hot summer days is very attractive in the Spring with white flowers, but keep it away from pink tulips or phlox.

Thymus. The lemon thyme is covered with a mat of soft lavender flowers, and these have a lemon smell when crushed. Serpyllum is available in white and lavender.

Veronica repens with blue or whitish flowers is a creeper that stays very close to the ground.

Rupestris covers itself with dark blue spikes two to three inches high in midsummer and retains a neat evergreen mat throughout the year.

These plants are not easy to find in this territory at any one place, but here and there they can be found or they can be ordered from some of the out of town nurseries that have complete rock garden catalogs.

ANNUALS PERENNIALLY

By G. G. Cerney

Partly due to habit, partly due to environment, and partly maybe to being lackadaisical, most of us are growing pretty much the same kind of annuals year after year such as petunias, more petunias, snapdragons, marigolds, zinnias, portulaca, etc. We enjoy them; they are easy to grow. They provide an abundance of cutting flowers and a wealth of garden color at a time of the season when most perennial borders are at a lull.

Every now and then some grower introduces a new variety of one or more of these old favorites with enough ballyhoo to get many of us to try them out. We get extra enjoyment and often an improvement in quality or color of blooms. But we could have even more fun by growing each year one or two kinds of annuals we have never seen growing here before. It would add the thrill of anticipation and expectation (sometimes the unexpected) to our somewhat routine pleasures of flower gardening. If only half of our Club members would embark on a mild sort of a planting spree and report the results to the chairman of the Special Interest Group on Annuals (Ray Edlund), we would soon find some real flower garden gems to mingle with our old favorites.

Last year I tried a half-dozen annuals new to me, and among them I found some very good - and some equally bad - namely:

Cuphea Firefly would rate five stars as a bedding plant. Plants grew about 18 inches tall and nearly as much across. They needed no staking or support as the lateral branches acted as braces against the soil. From summer until frost, each plant was covered by hundreds of flowers appearing on dozens of terminal racemes. The flowers were about half an inch across and slightly longer. The color was the kind of red which we thought Fire Chief Petunia was going to be. In addition, the upper part of each flower had two bright blue petals. A good cutting flower. Watch Spring Auction for plants.

Asclepias Curassavica would rate at least three stars to fill a vacant spot in the border, such as develops after Oriental Poppy or Mertensia. It grew about 2½ feet tall. The blossoms were typical milkweed-like flowers, except that they were bright red with orange standards - very flashy. Foliage dark green, clean and glossy. Plant about 8 inches apart.

Hibiscus Manihot grew to a height of 7 feet with blossoms typically mallow type about 4 inches across. The color was lemon-yellow with purple-maroon blotches at base of petals. They came into bloom after hollyhocks and continued until frost. A good plant for spectacular accents or for the background. Plant 1 foot apart. Start indoors for earlier bloom.

Aphanostephus, "Lazy Daisy" was nothing to brag about but did produce plenty of white daisies 1½ to 2 inches across after all other white daisies were gone. Bloomed until frost. A good cutting flower particularly attractive on account of the buds being pink. Needs support. Grew about 18 inches tall.

Othake ("Rosy Wings"), Annual Incarvillea, Golden Cleome are mentioned merely to save someone the time and space. My experience with them was such as to recommend not growing them.

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