

# 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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## MAY AUCTION MEETING!

Date: Tuesday, May 12, 1953

Place: Park Board Greenhouses  
38th St. & Colfax Ave., So.

Time: 4:00 P.M. for Country Store  
(Store closes at 6 P.M.)

5:30 P.M. for Dinner - \$1.50

6:30 P.M. Auction Sale

## Officers

R. J. Dufourd President  
A. H. Flack Vice President  
C. G. Harkins Secretary  
T. P. Hughes Treasurer  
G. "Vic" Lowrie Past President

## IMPORTANT

All members are invited, yea encouraged, to bring their friends (male) to the May 12th dinner and the auction that follows. Your friends are sure to enjoy it and will, no doubt, want some of the choice items offered for sale. Their participation will add zest to the bidding - if that's possible!

However, because a caterer will provide the dinner and an unusual number will be present, it is extremely important that our Program Chairman knows how many to provide for.

You will receive a postcard for making your reservations - won't you FILL IT OUT AND MAIL IT EARLY, so that it will get back to your Secretary well ahead of the meeting?

Of course if you can't attend the dinner meeting, don't let that keep you from coming to the auction, things will really begin to

## OVER THE FENCE!



"Say, Mike, did you donate anything to the auction?"

"Sure did, Al, among other things I also potted some slips from those yellow mums of yours."

"Now, Mike, you don't mean those tall ones I told you to take any time?"

"Sure, Al, but why?"

"I'll be darned if I didn't buy

### OUR ANNUAL GARDEN CLUB AUCTION

Now you can't afford to miss this annual garden auction to get the best of a lot of things you'll want to grow and can't buy anywhere else at the price you are willing to pay.

Here you will find the finest selection of shrubs, plants and seedlings ever assembled under a single roof - all painstakingly cultured and carefully hardened, ready for immediate transplanting in that spot where they will do their best.

Just read over this list: Mums, clematis, tuberous begonias, roses, lilacs, fruit trees, ornamental shrubs, vines, annuals, biannuals, and perennials; garden tools, insecticides, fertilizers, grass seed and weed killers. You'll be surprised what turns up at these auctions, both for the garden and for the home.

Be sure to bring your own boxes, baskets, or crates to carry your bargains homeward - better bring ample containers for those purchases bulk large and you'll probably be bidding and buying aplenty!

### THE COUNTRY STORE

A well-stocked "Country Store" will be open for business at 4 o'clock and remain open until 6 P.M. Of course it's for men only and for those of you who can break away from work early - but here is a good opportunity to pick up just about everything you will need to complete your spring planting and carry on through the summer. As to prices, they will please you. Do a good turn to a gardening friend, bring him along, and his friends too if you wish. We aim to spread our blessings far and wide - this goes for the auction too.

### DELIVER YOUR MATERIAL EARLY

Contributions to the Country Store and Auction can be made at the Park Board Nursery on Sunday up to 3 P.M.; all day Monday until 6 o'clock, and throughout Tuesday until the first blow of the auctioneer's hammer.

### CHLORDANE TO THE RESCUE!!

By the Master Gardener

Among the most useful insecticide materials developed in the last few years is chlordane. It's usefulness lies in the fact that it is highly effective against many types of pests that are hard to kill through other means, or, are hard to get at. Take this list for instance: ants, roaches, chiggers, cut worms, chinch bugs, grasshoppers, mole crickets, Japanese beetle grubs and June beetle or "white grubs." Each of these is either very hardy or else its habitat is such that it is hard to reach. Chlordane-containing insecticides will effectively do away with each of these pests.

If household insects such as ants, roaches, spiders or silver fish are the main problem, the best method is to mix two teaspoonsful of the chlordane preparation in a half pint of water and paint infested areas of base boards, window sills, around the sink, water pipes, or around cracks and crevices where these pests are likely to hide. Chlordane can be combined with a transplanting solution to prevent the cut worms from toppling your tomatoes or other transplants. Add two teaspoonsful per gallon of starter solution. Pour a cupful around the roots of each plant.

White grubs and Japanese beetle larva can be killed by using three tablespoonsful of chlordane in one gallon of water. This will cover 200 square feet of lawn. After spraying, wet the treated area down with a sprinkling can or a fine spray from the hose using about three gallons of water to each 100 square feet. More water will be needed if the soil is dry.

## THE APRIL MEETING

"What to Grow and How to Grow It" proved to be a most interesting and informative series of talks and discussions, an evening that overflowed with horticultural knowledge which was readily absorbed by every member present. To our panel of experts Kim Andrews, Lloyd Bachman, Larry Corbett, Charles Okken and Hank Elieff who acted as moderator, we extend our deepest gratitude. And to Bob Adams and his program committee we say "Thank You" for an extremely timely and worthwhile program.

Following are a few of the highlights recommended by each panel member:

### Kim Andrews - What to look for:

The newer roses..... Chrysler Imperial, red hybrid tea  
Buccaneer, yellow hybrid tea  
Chief Seattle, buff hybrid tea  
Ma Perkins, pink floribunda  
Orange Ruffles, orange sub-zero hybrid tea  
White Dawn ) ~~everblooming climber~~  
New Dawn ) blooms on new wood

Pyramidal flowering crab trees..... Grow in the general shape of a Lombardy Poplar. Ideal for screening, will live longer than the poplar, grow from 10 to 15 feet high. The variety Strathmore has reddish leaves turning to scarlet in autumn. Flowers slightly darker than Hopa.

Modern shade trees.. MAPLE CRIMSON KING. Perfectly hardy. Holds its color throughout the summer. MORaine LOCUST. Fast growing, long-lived and seedless. An ideal lawn shade tree. Is hardy and will grow anywhere.

Fruit bearing crab.. CHESTNUT. Excellent eating quality. Ripens in early September but keeps into November. Good for pickling and sauce.

New pie cherries.... NORTHSTAR, introduced by the Minnesota Fruit Breeding Farm. The tree is hardy; small but productive and is self-fertile. Fruit ripens early, July 5 to 10.  
METEOR, a strong, vigorous grower, large fruit, excellent quality, ripens 10 days to 2 weeks later than Northstar.

Everbearing red raspberries..... INDIAN SUMMER. Grows vigorously, bears heavily, requires little care. Fruit is large, juicy with rich raspberry flavor.

### Larry Corbett - The newer annuals:

Alyssum Royal Carpet..... Four inch, 1953 All American Silver Medal winner.

Aster Kirkwell..... An early wilt-resistant aster.

Celosia (Cockscomb) Golden Fleece.... Pure gold with tremendous plumes.

Dianthus Brilliant.. A large flowering strain, 18 inches, rich color patterns in crimson, cerise, pink, white and red.

Dianthus Double Gaiety.... Large double flowers in red, white, pink and maroon

Larry Corbett - The newer annuals (continued):

- Marigold Color Magic..... French dwarf, red to pure gold.  
Marigold Fluffy Ruffles... Bright medium orange, 20 inches (African).  
Pansy Felix..... In shades of bronze with interesting markings.  
Petunia Commanche (F-1)... 15 inch, 1953 All American Bronze Medal. Flowers are red, 2-1/2 inches across.  
Petunia Lipstick..... Rich carmine rose, medium size, single flowers, 12 to 14 inches high.  
Sweet Peas Unwin Stripe... Multiflora, 6 blooms on a stem.  
Tetra Snapdragons..... All colors, sturdy and strong.

Charles Okken - The newer vegetables:

- Beans - Wade, Contender and Top Crop..... All high quality.  
Beets - Crosby Special, Detroit Red..... Good quality. King Red, shorter top.  
Carrots - Imperita..... Dwarf root, small bunching type.  
Cucumbers - Hybrid C..... Disease resistant.  
Mincu..... For both salad slicing and pickling.  
Peas - Tiny Tim..... Dwarf, early, high quality, very sweet.  
Squash - Hybrids R & G... Turban type, 6 lb., heavy yielders.  
Tomatoes - Hybrid E..... Early.  
Hybrid SE..... Second early, 5 or 6 days later.  
Hybrid S..... Comes in same time as SE; smoother and larger fruit.  
Hybrid M..... Large, 8 oz., fruit.  
Watermelon - Faribault Midget..... Good flavor, few seeds and good producer.  
Midget Vegetables: Tiny Tim Tomato, Dwarf Cucumber #12, Minn. Midget Muskmelon,  
~~Tiny Tim Pea, New Hampshire Watermelon.~~

Lloyd Bachman - Fertilizers and insecticides:

Always look for the contents of the fertilizer as printed on the outside of the sack. The first figure represents the nitrogen content; second figure the phosphorus; and the third figure the amount of potash. The most common fertilizers are those with a formulae of approximately 5 - 10 - 5.

To help activate the nitrogen and potash in commercial fertilizers, bone meal and super phosphate should be added to the soil.

Applications of compost, manure, agricultural peat or similar organic material will improve most garden soils. Such material should be added to the soil at least once a year, twice a year would be even better.

Liquid fertilizers are highly recommended, particularly Instant Vigoro - but follow

Lloyd Bachman - Fertilizers and insecticides (Continued):

In the continuing fight against pests and disease, attention should be given the pest just as soon as they show signs of life. There are a number of all purpose dusts on the market that do an excellent job.

The most important newcomer in the field of insecticides is Malathon, which will be helpful to home gardeners as is Parathion for commercial growers, but without the toxicity to man and pets. It is especially effective against hard-to-kill insects such as mite, mealybug, and many forms of scale.

Chlordane is excellent for control of chinch bugs, cutworms, and grubs of beetles.

For red spider, use sulphur.

Slugs can be eradicated through the use of copper sulphate, or better still, a bait preparation containing metaldehyde such as Snarol.

D.D.T. sprays and dusts are effective against chewing insects, thrip, borers, lilacs, dogwood, apple and mountain ash also the iris borer, but spray early.

Lindane is another new insecticide for soil insects and lace bugs on hawthorn oak, and sycamore.

Delphineum and phlox blight can be controlled with copper dust.

There are several other excellent new insecticides, Aramite, Dimite, and Ore

Incidentally, the "Garden Information" folder issued by The Minnesota State Horticultural Society contains much valuable information on insecticides and fungicides.

AT EASE IN YOUR GARDEN

The most enjoyable garden is the one grown with the least amount of work. Sure, gardening is good exercise but there is no use in working so hard that you have no time to enjoy the fruits of your labors. There are all kinds of commercial labor savers; some are within every gardener's means, some are quite costly. There are, however, of cutting garden chores that cost you nothing with just a little thought.

For instance, when planting rows of vegetables, is the hoe always at the wrong end of the row? The thing to do is to sit down and make out a logical step saving procedure. For instance, put your seed packets in your pocket, then go down the row making a planting trench with the hoe. When you reach the far end, heave the hoe to the other end, then retrace your steps, planting seeds as you go. Now you will be back to where your hoe is lying and you are now ready to use it to cover the seeds. When you reach the far end return along the next row, making a seed furrow as you go along. If you want to add plant food as a band along the side of the row, consider that operation too, and save steps accordingly.

Space vegetable rows exactly. Make sure that they are two or three times the width of your cultivator and you can save yourself an extra trip which might be necessary to cultivate a one or two-inch strip that you couldn't quite cover.

Grow your own bean poles - sunflower stalks dried from the previous year. Where sumac is a weedy shrub, folks are glad to get rid of it, so use it for tomato stakes.

Keep annual flower heads picked off and save yourself some extra cultivation next year. If the seeds are allowed to mature, they will scatter and come up like fuzz next season, all over your border.

Don't bother with a grass catcher on your mower. Removing grass clippings removes grass nutrients as well as a valuable mulching material. Besides, did you ever see a power mower with a grass catcher, outside of a golf course?

When summer comes, do you think you ought to get around to giving the lawn a light midsummer feeding or two but just can't seem to get around to it? Don't forget the

## MAY REMINDERS

Tulips should not be allowed to go to seed - break off flower heads as soon as petals fade but retain leaves until they wither. Should bulbs become diseased, remove immediately and burn. Keep plants well watered to prolong flowering period. Might be well to stake their location at the time withered leaves are gathered, then you won't accidentally be digging them up.

One cannot start too early to control disease in the garden. Watch for aphids on tips of plant shrubs and beneath leaves - apply nicotine sulphate and rotenone every fourth day until pests are eliminated.

Keep your garden well dressed by disposing of blooms as soon as they have passed their best. By so doing you will not only enjoy a longer season of bloom but help strengthen your plants by not allowing them to go to seed.

Dahlias should not be planted until all danger of frost is over and the air warm. A good practice is to set your stakes first then plant the tubers or young plants. Be generous with water.

Seeds of tender annuals can be sown directly into the ground at any time, if protected by hot-kaps. As a matter of fact extra-early-set plants can be protected from frost with hot-kaps.

In place of tangle-foot or similar products. try spraying your trees with a 50% D.D.T. emulsion.

~~Keep in mind that strong healthy plants are more resistant to disease, therefore, feed them well for less doctoring.~~

Roses are heavy feeders so give them lots of nourishment. An application of commercial fertilizer once a month until the middle of August will strengthen the plants and give you more bloom. A handful placed around the plant about six inches out from the main stem, worked lightly into the soil and watered in, will do the trick. Plus a regular program of spraying every ten days and immediately following a heavy rain.

Watch your plants as they grow up and begin staking them early - don't wait for the wind to break them down.

Peonies are thirsty plants, giving them lots of water and an application of commercial fertilizer will give you better growth and fuller blooms. For extra large blooms break off the side buds.

It is not too late to divide perennial asters, delphineums, shasta daisies, phlox, chrysanthemums and later blooming perennials. Smaller plants usually do better and give more blooms.

In transplanting young plants try not to bury their roots more than a half-inch deeper than where they were rooted in the flats or other containers. Also, choose a quiet, cloudy day for transplanting outdoors, if at all possible. An application of liquid fertilizer mixed lightly according to directions will in most instances eliminate any set back in growth.

Newly set plants moved with balls of soil around their roots need plenty of water - be sure to direct the water into the ball of soil rather than into the surrounding loose soil.

## NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome into our Club as professional members, SAM HUNEGS, 1501 North Washburn Avenue (nurseryman, representing Hardy Northern Rose Nursery); and CHARLES R. OKKEN, 809 Willow St., Faribault, Minnesota (horticulturist, representing Farmers Seed & Nursery Company). Be sure to make yourself acquainted with these two fine gentlemen for they will contribute much to our knowledge from their broad experiences.

## FUNCTIONS OF PLANT NUTRIENTS - POTASSIUM

Potassium or "potash" is the third member of the "big three" major plant nutrient elements. It is classed as a major element because plants require considerable quantities of it and it is usually necessary to supply more potash than the soil is able to furnish. Potassium, in a large number of soils, is in a better supply from native soil minerals and organic matter than is either phosphorus or nitrogen. Soils which are usually extremely deficient in potash include very sandy soils, many of the reddish clay soils of the South and highly alkaline soils. Whether they are sandy or clayey, poorly drained soils, and most farm soils that have been over-cropped are deficient in potash.

Native soil potassium is found in a group of clay-forming minerals called "feldspars". As these weather down, the potassium is released as forms that plant roots can utilize. This element is one of a group - the so-called basic elements - that are held by the clays in the soil so that plant roots, by an exchange mechanism, can take them up from the clay. Not all clays have this ability; many of the soils of the Southern Piedmont and the sandy clays of the Coastal Plains are in this class.

Potassium may be classed as a "tool" rather than a "building block" in plant growth. It serves important functions as a catalyst or "pepper-upper" of many chemical processes that constitute the metabolism of growing plants. These functions have to do with the synthesis of sugars and translocating them throughout the plant, formation of protein and cell division. The element engenders vigor and disease resistance and is of great importance in starch or fiber producing plants. Even with all these functions, potassium never actually becomes a part of the plant tissue. It seems to remain in a mobile form that is used over and over again throughout the plant. Adequate potassium is most important in the growing of high quality flowers and vegetables. Grasses and clovers need it too. You can keep an adequate supply of potassium in most garden soils by not permitting the soil to become too alkaline nor too acid, by maintaining a good organic matter content and by regular plant food applications.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

Well, well, well, seems like we chemical guys haven't been so wrong after all. According to latest reports from Denmark, tests show that chemical fertilizers will increase crop yields substantially over yields of plots where barnyard manure is used as the fertilizer. Now this was no dinky little test but one conducted at the well known Askov testing station over a period of 50 years, yet no superiority could be shown for the manure treated soils during the latter years of the trials.

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You can keep your iris clean by spraying them weekly with D.D.T., until the flower buds appear.

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If you have a hot, dry spot in your garden, maybe Portulaca will add that necessary bit of color. As you know, it is a low growing annual with both single and double flowers resembling a wild rose. They range in color from red through pink and yellow to purple and mauve. The hotter it is the better they like it, opening only when the sun is shining. You can use them for massing in beds, or as edging plants for borders they will grow well even when planted along a hot sidewalk or roadway. They are not a bit fussy as to soil, will grow and flower in any good garden soil but they do their best where it is sunny and warm.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

With your membership card from The Minnesota State Horticultural Society you received a small, yellow pamphlet entitled "Garden Information." There is more sound horticultural information for Minnesota gardeners packed into this tiny folder than you will find between the covers of any gardening book available. If you have set it aside, by all means go, pick it up, and study each individual page - it's a horticultural gold mine.

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Read somewhere about a cute idea for supporting vines or canes that will not cling to walls. Look for small holes in the wall near where the vine should climb, insert the ends of a wire loop into these holes, properly spaced. Squeeze some liquid solder into the hole, let it set, and your vine will be firmly held. If no holes can be found, they can easily be made in the mortar between the bricks or stones. Holes 1/4 inch deep are all that's necessary.

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On Saturday afternoon, May 23, the Minnetonka Men's Garden Club will hold a plant sale at Hart's Cafe in Wayzata. Our members are cordially invited to participate.

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Dr. R. Milton Carleton writes in the current issue of Better Homes and Gardens that "tests by agricultural experiment stations and big-scale vegetable growers have shown increase in yields of as much as 100% where soil was treated with vermiculite, which is an expanded mica that is prepared for garden use.

"I made tests of my own and found striking results with snap beans on clay soil. How to get these results? Sow seed in drills and sprinkle horticultural-grade vermiculite over it instead of covering with soil."

"Vermiculite lets plenty of water and air - necessary for germination - reach the seed. You don't need to work it in. Just pour out of a sprinkling can with the nose removed. Half an inch is deep enough, but more won't hurt. Sprinkle with water afterwards to help speed germination."

~~"My tests also showed that high-insulating properties of vermiculite apparently protect seed from cold, and from excessive midsummer heat."~~

"A 4-cubic-foot bag of horticultural-grade vermiculite - the kind you must use - costs less than three dollars, will treat 5,000 to 8,000 square feet of garden."

"But be sure you don't use vermiculite that has been treated with oil or chemicals to make it more suitable for construction work. For this job, as I've said, use only the best grade prepared for home-garden use."

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"Did you happen to see George Luxton's "May Garden Calendar" containing thirty-one helpful hints and suggestions - you might paste it where it can be readily seen as you go about your gardening activities every day.