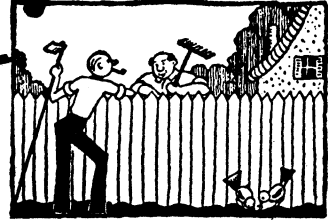




The Garden Spray

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

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Wm. H. Hull, Joe Witmer
Bob Adams

T U E S D A Y M A Y 1 2

O U R A N N U A L P L A N T A U C T I O N

at the

Park Board Greenhouses, 38th & Bryant Ave. So.

C O U N T R Y S T O R E S A L E

For Members and Their Ladies from 3 o'clock Tuesday Afternoon

P L A N T A U C T I O N S A L E

For members and men guests 6:30 P.M. immediately following a short business session. Dinner will be served to members and male guests at 5:45 P.M.

You will find some exceptionally good material at the Auction this year. Most of the annuals have been especially grown for us in individual aluminum planters where they can keep on growing for several weeks merely by watering. We will also have a wide assortment of very fine perennials.

The greenhouses will be open to receive material for the Auction Monday evening from 6 to 10 P.M. and from 7 A.M. Tuesday.

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE
by Bill Hull

I can't remember a time when we've had such a siege of illnesses and hospitalizations among our members. This seems to have been a bad winter. In addition to others we've mentioned in recent issues, there was Archie Flack's trying experience, the conclusion of which was encouraging. Now we learn that Burt Clark has just undergone surgery, flying home from Florida to get it performed. And Herb Kahlert had a very bad fall recently, resulting in severe bruises and badly swollen wrist.

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Remember Chris Christopherson's admonition to save some good material to bring to the May Auction, which is our principle money-raising activity for our own Club. Without this Auction, fellows, we'd have to dig deeper into our pockets to run our organization, so let's make it a success.

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How are the roses? Everybody seems awfully worried and reports are pessimistic. Of course, it's too early at this writing to tell anything, but those to whom I've talked fear a high loss due to our dry fall and winter, no snow covering. What can we expect from the driest eighteen months on record!

* * * * *

Business will take me out of town at the time of the civic appreciation dinner given for Charlie Doell, retiring as Superintendent of Minneapolis Parks. Certainly hope several members were able to attend. Our Club has been honored to have a member in this position and certainly both the public and our Club have benefited as the result. Thanks to you, Charlie, for a job well done.

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Congratulations to Les Johnson and his committee for the superb manner in which the Arboretum Auction was conducted. Ran without a hitch and in as smooth a manner as possible. Results were encouraging too, with a net total of \$301.10. At the Board of Directors Meeting Monday, April 20, the board voted to turn the entire amount over to the Arboretum, plus those amounts raised in 1957 and 1958 over the estimated \$250, which was given each year. This means the Arboretum will receive from us now an additional \$18.50 carried over from 1957, \$113.24 from 1958, and the \$301.10 for 1959, a total check at this time of \$432.84.

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Recently had occasion to record a talk on growing influence of men in gardening circles. Done for a group that will put that talk, along with two others, onto purchased radio spots over 500 stations this summer. Should appear eventually over WCCO.

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ARBORETUM AUCTION

First, our thanks to Leon Snyder for furnishing the material to make the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Auction a possibility.

Next, we thank all those, and particularly Ev Haedecke and Leo Stillman, whose persuasive, yes and clamorous, almost avaricious auctioneers for making the Auction so successful for the Arboretum, that is. It was fun though, and the material was excellent. Could you find an easier way to make over \$300 Net, all in the space of an hour or two.

The Honeysuckle Vine brought the highest price (\$7.25). Wonder what it would bring on the open market. Bob Bryant and Stan Lund are the lucky possessors. (Lowrie acting as agent for Stan and using Stan's money bounced the price along with Bob. Like playing the horses with your wife's winner -- sky's the limit.)

DEMOTED OR PROMOTED?

Whichever it was, it couldn't have happened to a nicer fellow, and with Dwight Stone's new Club responsibilities go our very best wishes.

For the benefit of those unlucky absent members, let it be known that the nominating committee, made up of Harold Kaufmann, and Tony Koester and Bob Adams as members, appointed by President Young, to recommend a candidate to fill the office of Secretary, did so by vacating the office of Treasurer. Dwight was, of course, unanimously elected Secretary of the Club and at our next monthly meeting, we will need to elect one to fill the office of Treasurer. In the meantime, Ev Haedecke has temporary charge of the Club's purse strings.

BE SPARING WITH COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS

Too much fertilizer will get you into far more difficulty than not enough, so play on the safe side. Use not more than a tablespoon of ordinary fertilizer around the crowns of perennials and scratch it lightly into the soil. For small shrubs planted last year, spread a half a handful around the outer edge of the plant. In the case of older and larger plants, a full handful scattered evenly on the ground as far as the tops extend, is a good rule to follow. Fully developed trees can take considerably more, but don't overdo it and feed no more often than once a month.

COMMON SHRUBS FOR ATTRACTING BIRDS

Those of you who like the birds around all winter might consider the following colorful berry-bearing shrubs or small trees. Chokeberry (brilliant red berries), Northern Bayberry (lovely grey berries), Snowberry (white berries), Arrowwood (Bluish-black berries) and Black Alder (dark red berries).

NEWS AND VIEWS

Pleased to report that Tony Koester is convalescing at home and would enjoy your company.

Bob Savory is also coming along well and expects to be home in August. Has already spent a few weekends at home with his family. He, too, would appreciate a visit.

Was it ever good to see Charlie Kief looking hale and hearty at our last meeting after a forced absence from sickness for over 18 months.

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Too bad more members cannot get down to Jackson, Mississippi from May 5 to 8 to attend the Annual Convention of the Men's Garden Club of America. During May that part of the country should be ablaze with the colors of Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Redbud, Camellias, Dogwood, Magnolia to mention but a few of their favorites.

President "P.W." has appointed Herb Kahlert and Paul Kroeger to attend the Convention as our official delegates with Bill Hull acting as alternate.

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CASTOR BEAN PLANT ALLERGY

There was a time when Grandma introduced the oil from the Castor Bean as standard treatment for most of the ills of both big and little boys, now read what they have caught the rascal doing:

Allergic reactions to the castor bean plant in 101 adults and 51 children were reported by a French investigator in a recent issue of PRESSE MEDICALE. Of the group, 132 had asthma, 16 spasmodic episodes of the common cold and 4 bronchial spasm. The patients either lived in Marseilles where there are castor oil factories or in southeastern France where castor bean cakes are used as fertilizer for vegetable gardening. A positive scratch-test with rinicus extract always indicated allergy to this plant. Treatment consists of removing the patient from contaminated regions and in desensitization. Foreign Letters, J.A.M.A., February 7, 1959.

THANK RUSSIA FOR THE APPLE NOT EVE

In the current Minnesota Nurserymen's News Letter, it is reported that our first apples came from Russia, although they came to America via England.

In 1870 the United States Department of Agriculture imported several hundred varieties of Russian apples, such as Red Astrachan, Tetofsky, Charlamoff, Duchess, Hibernial, Lowland Raspberry, etc. The Duchess and Hibernial are the **only** two that have survived competition. Due to the tremendous demand for apples, the first material grown in the nursery was the apple.

The Wealthy apple was first introduced in 1868, having been imported from England.

The introduction of the Haralson apple from the Minnesota Fruit Breeding Farm in 1922 was the first real Minnesota winter apple.

CRABGRASS CONTROL

by Dr. R.J. Stadtherr, Horticultural Dept.
Univ. of Minnesota

There are three basic types of chemical herbicides, based on application time, which can be used to control crabgrass.

The first is applied during the dormant season in advance of the normal germination of crabgrass seeds. Lead arsenate at 20 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. or calcium arsenate at 12 to 15 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. have been used very successfully in greatly reducing crabgrass stands. PAX, a commercial arsenical formulation, has given almost complete control in tests we have conducted the past three years. Applications can be made in early spring after the soil has thawed up to mid-May or in fall. Control has been good for more than one season from a single application of 25 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft.

The arsenicals appear to be specific in preventing crabgrass and other weedy grasses from becoming established but not the good turf grasses such as Kentucky blue grass and Creeping red fescue. Seeds of Highland bentgrass germinated very well, too. In greenhouse tests in which seeds of these lawn grasses were sown in flats treated with arsenicals just after treatment and at one, two, six and 12 week intervals, seeds of these grasses germinated. Crabgrass control was excellent. Crabgrass seed was planted in some of these flats four months after application. These seeds germinated; however they became chlorotic and died before they reached the four-leaf stage. Applications made just after crabgrass seeds had germinated were very effective in killing the seedling plants in other tests.

The second type is applied just prior to the time that crabgrass seeds germinate usually from late May to mid-June depending on weather conditions. Products containing naphthyl phthalamic acid have been the most effective; however not nearly as good as the arsenicals. These herbicides in this type are effective usually for from 3 to 5 weeks, thus three or more applications are necessary to obtain good crabgrass control.

The last type of herbicide is used after the crabgrass plants have appeared and are called post-emergence chemicals. Generally these herbicides are most effective when applications are made when crabgrass plants are only one or two inches tall; however good control has been obtained up to the time the seed heads appear. In our trials, the methyl arsonates, phenyl mercuric acetates and potassium cyanates have been most effective. Liquid applications have given better control than the dry and granular types even though comparable amounts of active ingredients were used. There are many different trade names of products available commercially that contain one of these chemicals. To be successful with these herbicides closely follow the manufacturer's recommendations. The drawback in using this particular type is that repeated applications must be made every 7 to 10 days to obtain satisfactory seasonal control. They do not possess much, if any, residual effects. The plants are killed by contact or absorbed into the plant system. One must be very careful when using these chemicals when temperatures exceed 90° F. or excessive injury could occur to the good grasses. Injured turf opens more areas for crabgrass and weeds to take over. These chemicals are very effective in reducing the crabgrass population if applied repeatedly. This will mean four or more applications per season.

At the present time, the arsenicals which require a single application early in spring or in mid-August to early September appear to be the most promising. However remember that when using compounds that contain an inorganic nitrogen fertilizer on actively growing turf that you make application when the grass blades are dry and water thoroughly after covering the lawn.

TREATING SOIL WITH WATER
SOLUBLE FUMIGANT

One Treatment Prior to Planting Controls

Annual and perennial weeds and germinating weed seeds of both grassy and broad-leaf species.

Soil fungi including Pythium and Rhizoctonia which cause seed decay and damping off as well as those which cause root rots and vascular diseases.

Nematodes, including both gall-forming and free-living types.

Certain soil insects and other pests such as the garden centipede (Symphylids).

How to Treat Soil with Soil Fumigant

1) Before applying, keep the soil moist to a depth of at least 6 inches for 5 days. This germinates weed seeds and permits gas to reach deep roots. Cultivate crusted soils immediately before applying. NOTE: Do not apply to dry soils.

2) To apply with watering can: Place 1 pint of Vapam in a sprinkling can, fill with water, stir and sprinkle uniformly over 50 sq. ft. Immediately apply additional water to wet soil to 4 to 6 inches. Hose proportioner: apply 1 quart Vapam per 100 sq. ft. with proportioner having a dilution ratio of about 1:15. Drench area immediately with additional water. Sprinkler system: run sprinklers 5 to 10 minutes. Within next 10 minutes inject into the line 1 quart of Vapam for each 100 sq. ft. covered by system. Continue sprinkling until soil is wet to necessary depth.

3) After applying, immediately sprinkle with enough water to insure Vapam penetration to the desired depth and to seal in the gas. Fifteen to twenty gallons of water per 100 sq. ft. will penetrate to about 4 inches in light textured soils.

4) Before planting allow at least 14 days for well drained soil to dry and gas to dissipate after application. Allow 21 days on heavy soil. Allow 30 days if soil remains cold or wet. Cultivate 7 to 10 days after application to help gas escape. Do not cultivate below treatment levels.

How to Sterilize Pots, Flats and Tools

Avoid contaminating treated soil with containers and tools. Dip them into a solution of 1 part Vapam to 10 parts water for several minutes. Then stack loosely outdoors until thoroughly dry before using.

Follow These Precautions

Protect desirable plants: Do not apply Vapam within 3 ft. of the drip line of plants, shrubs or trees. On a slope be sure Vapam solution will not drain into areas of desirable plants. Vapam fumes can damage leaves of nearby plants if there is no air movement.

To clean equipment rinse thoroughly with water. Vapam may discolor copper or brass but will not harm equipment if removed after each day's use.

Do not apply Vapam when soil temperature is below 50°F. 30 days should be allowed between application and planting when soil temperatures are below 60°F. The soil must be well aerated if it remains wet.