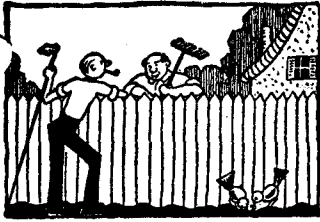


THE GARDEN SPRAY



BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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

November, 1953
Volume 11, Number 11
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors:
Don Methven
William Hull

NOVEMBER MEETING

Date: Tuesday, November 10, 1953
Place: Hasty Tasty Cafe
50th & France Ave. South
Time: 5:45 P.M. sharp
Dinner: \$1.75

PROGRAM

- 6:30 Business session
- 6:45 Report of the Nominating Committee and election of officers.
- 7:00 Report of the Awards Committee to be voted upon by the members.
- 7:15 Talk, with colored slides, on Day Lilies by E. C. Lehman, Lehman Nurseries, Faribault.

OVER THE FENCE

WITH
AL ALPHIS AND MIKE MILORGANITE

"Mike, what is *poa compressa*, *digitaria sanguinalis* and *trifolium*?"

"Why, those are weed seeds, Al. Wiregrass, crabgrass and trifoil. Why do you ask?"

"Oh, no, Mike! That black dirt I spread all over my lawn was guaranteed to contain those 'grass

Officers

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

This is a MUST meeting - you cannot afford to miss this one if you are at all interested in the activities and welfare of the club.

The first important order of business will be the election of officers for the year 1954. The grapevine has it that the Nominating Committee has a strong slate, but in the true sense of democracy, nominations are welcomed from the floor. So come on out - help to elect the men you want to run the affair of the club next year.

Second order of business will be to endorse by your vote the member selected by the Awards Committee to receive the 1953 MGCA Bronze Medal for meritorious service to our club. Come give him a well-deserved boost.

Next on the program will be one of our staunchest supporters, most generous contributor of time, talent and material as well as being one of our more able speakers - Dick Lehman. For several years Dick has gained a world of experience in the culture of literally million of day lily seedlings; he will tell you which varieties do best in our climate; those with good growing habits; the color range and varieties according to color; how, where and when to plant; and back

NEWS AND VIEWS

Seems like the boys started wandering off their beats pretty early this season; wonder who they left behind to put their gardens to bed?

As THE SPRAY goes to press, we find our most active president sojourning with his ancestors in France. Seems like he has been on the move almost as much as our hard-traveling President Ike! Joe and George Titus have been traveling Southwestward since early in September, being at this writing at Estacion Guzyuan, Chih. Mexico. In the opposite direction, traveling in a new Pontiac south and east to the Florida Keys, went Bill Hull in quest of business. Now, homeward bound, he hopes to dry out after those tropical rains before our November meeting. Another continuous sunshine seeker, Ernie Thompson, has already returned to his winter haven in Florida. The Midwest's greatest MGCA booster and hardest working Men's Garden Club organizer, Herb Kahlert, attended the charter meeting of the Cannon Falls Men's Garden Club on October 20, with a repeat performance coming up on November 9 with the Men's Garden Club of Superior, Wis. Good going, Herb.

Without question, one of the most attractive floral displays to be found in Twin City gardens this Fall is Harold Kaufmann's showing of mums. Should the weather hold out until THE SPRAY reaches you, by all means get in your car and drive over to 4127 Washburn Ave. S. You will be well rewarded. Day or night, it makes little difference for Harold has his garden well illuminated.

Writing of mums, did you know that George Luxton has again been honored by having a new chrysanthemum introduction named after him?

Need you be reminded that tulip and lily bulbs may be planted up until

help the second season of bloom along. Set tulip bulbs in groups of three to a dozen of one color, pointed ends up, and 5 inches apart in well drained soil.

A "reference garden" of old-fashioned roses has been established by the American Rose Society in Medina, Ohio. Here is presented a living history of rose culture for the garden contains varieties which go back several centuries in rose history. Correctly identified, these fine old roses make it possible for rose growers to identify old rose varieties whose names have been lost. Requests for identification of old-fashioned roses should be addressed to Roy E. Sheppard, Route 1, Medina, Ohio.

We're a little late reporting, but we "tip our hats" nevertheless to Bob Bryant who took 28 firsts out of 29 entries of dahlias at the Minnesota State Fair this year. That's really setting them up, Bob!

Were we ever surprised and delighted to have Otto Erickson back with us again sans crutches.

Elsewhere in THE SPRAY you will find a news item from George Titus announcing the opening of a Garden Center in El Paso, Texas, which prompts your editors to ask "What steps are being taken, or is any progress being made toward the basic planning for a Twin City Garden Center?"

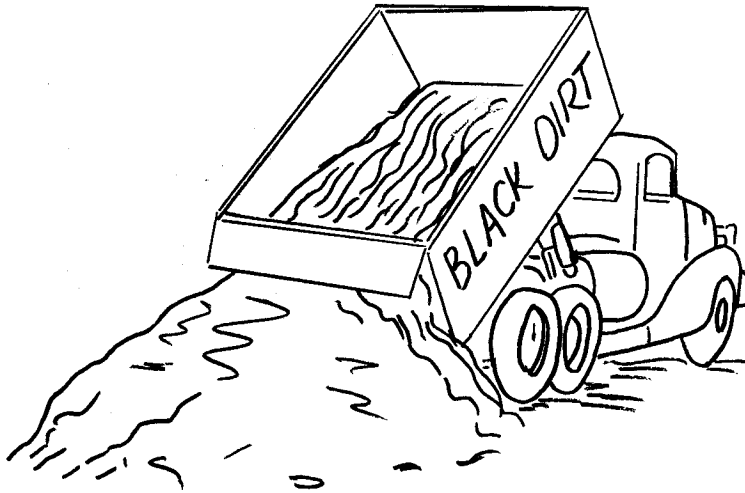
Greg Lucking reports favorably on the growth and development of our little Flowering Crabapple Tree project and assures us that the Park Board will again protect the trees against rodents and rabbits this Winter. Thank you, Greg; we are indeed appreciative.

We have had a delightfully warm and sunny Fall but dangerously dry. Too dry for safe wintering over for most shrubs, particularly young ones and

SHOPPING FOR TOP SOIL

No buyer is more at the mercy of the seller than the home gardener in the market for topsoil, or "black dirt," as it is called in some areas. Most folks just have insufficient knowledge of what constitutes good topsoil when they buy it by the cubic yard. About the only criticism of quality used by the majority is the color of the soil. They reason that the darker the soil, the more productive it is. Sadly enough, color alone means little, but unscrupulous peddlers have taken advantage of the myth and have foisted off material that was dark-colored, true, but due to its poor physical condition, would grow practically nothing.

To help the buyer "beware," here are some points to remember when you must purchase some topsoil:



Don't buy this either - it's muck, and is 90% organic matter, which blows easily when dry and is very drouthy when added as a thin layer on top of clay or sandy subsoil fill.

4. In the North Central States, watch out for long, jointed underground stems with new shoots arising from them. These are quack grass rhizomes and woe is he who has to eradicate this pest from his garden or flower beds - especially if he paid good money for the source of the infestation!

To sum up, choose a soil that is easy to work, rather than one you think is "rich." Remember that few things are so perennially discouraging in gardening as hard, intractable soil or light, drouthy soil.

YOUR DUES ARE DUE DECEMBER 1

Tom Hughes would appreciate your check for \$4.00 - earlier than December 1 if you please.

Why not send him a check today made to the order of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. Address: 3036 11th Avenue South.

CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 10

Ring this date - Thursday, December 10 - on your calendar and make your reservation NOW for the merriest Christmas party ever. Write, phone or register with Chet Harkins how many adult members and guests will attend, and in the December SPRAY we will give you full details.

EL PASO GARDEN CENTER

Climaxing 12 years of planning and effort, El Paso Garden Club Council, Inc., officially opened its new Garden Center in Memorial Park on October 11. Finishing touches were applied that week to the \$27,272 building, located facing Grant Avenue at the entrance to the park.

Designed by Carroll and Dauble, architects, the brick and native stone center was begun in the spring by Garrett Construction Company. It contains lounge and entrance hall, a large meeting room, kitchen facilities and powder rooms. It is air-conditioned.

Funds for construction of the center, to be used by all garden clubs of the city, were derived primarily from the Council's annual spring flower show. Various garden clubs have also made gifts to the building fund and have contributed toward the purchase of the furniture.

Conceived by Mrs. Helen Thompson in 1941, the idea of building a center has been a main aim of the Council since, says Mrs. John Caldwell, who was president of the Council when construction began.

(El Paso Times, September 28, 1953.
Submitted by George Titus.)

THE FLOWERING HOBBY

A well-chosen hobby growing naturally out of innate desires, needs and abilities makes a joyful contribution to the art of living when things go well in the practice of medicine, and at the same time provides a sphere of activity to which it is possible to turn for solace when the problems of a busy medical life enlarge. High on the list of activities that can be pursued as a hobby is the ancient and enjoyable art of gardening. Raising flowers appeals to several senses and is full of rewards and surprises, for, besides the fact that it can be shared with others and thereby doubly enjoyed, its study and cultivation may also be carried as far and wide and made as specialized as the interested hobbyist wishes. Actually, horticulturists are ideal hobbyists for riding their hobby horses along garden paths and through the by-paths of suburban and metropolitan back yards, pausing to sniff graciously at the humble flower pot. To enter this kind of world, a love of flowers and plants and a bit of earth are the only equipment necessary to start the busy physician off on an interest that can lead to such highly specialized activities as the cultivation of prize-winning flowers. (Excerpt from the Journal of the American Medical Association, September 5, 1953 issue.)

ANNUAL MUM SHOW

The Minneapolis Park Board's annual Chrysanthemum Show will be on display in their greenhouse at Bryant and 38th St. South from Sunday, November 8 through Sunday, November 22. Open daily from 1 P.M. to 10 P.M. at no charge, this colorful showing of expertly grown mums is a city-wide attraction all flower lovers should see. This year the setting will be styled on the order of a Western theme and Greg Lucking

considers that it will be one of the most beautiful arrangements ever presented.

Now don't miss out on this unusual treat! Take your friends and tell your friends and neighbors. As well as being well rewarded for your effort, you will be supporting one of the Park Board's major projects and they are deserving of the patronage of every one of our members.

FUNCTIONS OF PLANT NUTRIENTS - IRON

The actual function of iron in plant growth is one of nature's secrets. However, a deficiency of iron in the plant results in failure of chlorophyll production. Although this element is not a constituent of the chlorophyll, it must be present when it is being formed. Typical iron deficiency symptom is yellowing of the leaf tissue between the veins and is most severe on the young growth, while older leaves remain green. Very acute iron shortage is characterized by the leaves at the tips of growing shoots turning nearly white. Plants become stunted and the affected leaves soon die.

In most soils iron is the third most plentiful element, preceded only by silicon and aluminum. An actual lack is uncommon, but in home gardens iron deficiency is brought about by excessive alkalinity of the soil, either because the soil is naturally highly alkaline, or, more commonly, because of indiscriminate applications of lime. The alkaline condition causes the normally plentiful iron supply in the soil to become unavailable to the plant roots and the effect is the same as if the iron were totally absent. To avoid iron deficiency, then, be sure your soil needs lime before you apply it. Even in regions of acid soils, it is unnecessary to lime the garden more frequently than every four years.

Should your garden evidence iron deficiency, take steps to correct alkalinity by applying powdered sulfur at the rate of four or five pounds per hundred square feet, or four ounces of aluminum sulfate per square yard. These materials should be worked in, and the aluminum sulfate, in addition, must be soaked into the soil.

OUR OCTOBER MEETING

What with Archie Flack's movies, Leon Snyder's professional presentation of the horticultural experiments and advancements being made by our Canadian neighbors to the North, supplemented with colored slides and ably assisted by Dick Widner, we learned much as well as enjoyed a most colorful and interesting program. Thank you, boys, for putting on such a good show, and once again, Bob Adams, we are indebted to you for a very pleasant evening.

There's rosemary, that's for remembrance; pray, love, remember; and there is pansies, that's for thoughts. There's fennel for you, and columbine; there's rue for you; and here's some for me. O, you must wear your rue with a difference. There's a daisy; I would give you some violets, but they withered all when my father

TWO NEW PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

We are proud to welcome into our membership Louis R. Fischer, St. Croix Farms, Hastings, and Felix K. Dhainin, landscape architect of the Minneapolis Park Board. Make yourselves known to these fine gentlemen; not only are they good fellows whose association you will enjoy, but they also bring a wide fund of horticultural experience into our club.

SOIL PREPARATION

Despite anything which may be written to the contrary, deep cultivation, say the experts, will always remain one of the greatest aids to good gardening. It is a good practice to dig deeply as much of the vacant land in our gardens as possible. Be sure to dig in lots of rotted manure or compost and remember deep digging in the Fall will be more beneficial than delay-

PRUNE GRAPES IN SPRING, NOT FALL

Should you prune your grapes this Fall, during the Winter, or next Spring? Wait until Spring, advises New York State Experiment Station. Tests show that when Concord grapes are pruned on one side in the Fall or Winter, and on the other side in Spring, the Spring-pruned side produces more fruit, Spring-pruned sides also show less Winter injury. If pruning is left until Spring, when air temperatures are above freezing, there seems to be less damage to the brittle wood.

(Better Homes & Gardens, Oct. 1953)

FROM OUR NATIONAL SECRETARY

From all parts of the country have come inquiries concerning MGCA since the publicity in the Eagles Magazine and The Saturday Evening Post. Ray Tillman has one inquiry

from Canada. We hope to have several new clubs to announce. New Men's Clubs have been formed in Oswego and Utica, N. Y.; Grosse Pointe, Mich. applies for a charter; Starksville, Miss., celebrated Charter Night on September 14, President Tillman doing the honors; Mobile, Ala. has set October 20 as their Charter Night.

I wonder how many of you realize the wonderful articles, short pieces of advice, etc. that appear in some of your bulletins. During the past eight years I have collected a filing cabinet drawer of such from local bulletins. I certainly enjoy reading each of these publications and am glad that I am not on the committee that judges them each year - I am afraid that I would award so many duplicate prizes that the MGCA treasury would be bare!

Woodson Jones.

CARE OF GARDEN EQUIPMENT

When the garden season is over, clean all the soil from garden tools and hang them up for Winter. Make an inventory of all damaged tools or broken handles and plan to make replacements before Spring. Clean grass clippings from the lawn mower and oil it before placing it in storage. Also sharpen and oil your pruning tools.

Clean all rusted surfaces with sandpaper or emery cloth and coat with oil. Hoes and spades can be cleaned and oiled by working the tools back and forth in a bucket of sand to which crankcase oil has been added.

Be sure your fertilizer spreader is thoroughly clean so no corrosion will develop during Winter. The same is true for sprayers and dusters. Empty out any spray or dust in the equipment before putting it away.

Don't leave your garden hose outdoors during Winter. Drain it of all water; then check it for cracks or breaks. Repair it and roll it up on a reel or some similar support for the winter.

Take an inventory of spray materials and store them carefully. Discard those that are several years old, since many will lose strength on standing. This is true of rotenone, pyrethrum and mixed Bordeaux. Be sure all are labeled and stored in a dry place, out of reach of the children.

Keep your fertilizer in a dry place. Most fertilizers take up moisture and become hard and caked if left in a damp basement or garage.

University of Minnesota Farm News