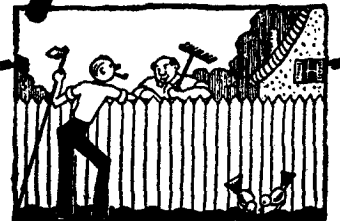




The Garden Spray

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, Wm. Hull
N. W. Christopherson
Joe Witmer

NOVEMBER MEETING

Date: Tuesday, November 9, 1954
Place: Evergreen Room, Curtis Hotel
Time: 5:45 P.M. sharp
Dinner: \$2.00

PROGRAM

6:30 P.M. Election of officers
Nomination of Award Committee
6:45 "Forcing Bulbs for Winter
Bloom"* Lloyd Bachman
"Propagating House Plants"*
Joe Witmer, Walter Menzel
"Winter Care of Trees &
Shrubs"* Greg Lucking,
Larry Bachman

* Question periods to follow

Officers

A. H. Flack	President
A. W. Koester	Vice President
P. W. Young	Secretary
O. H. Erickson	Treasurer
R. J. Dufourd	Past-President

Office of the Secretary
and Speakers' Bureau
P. W. Young, 4544 Beard Ave. S.

Office of Exchange Editor
G. Victor Lowrie, 417 Essex Bldg.

This month our meeting will be held at the Curtis Hotel. This is only a temporary measure; no permanent arrangements have been made with the hotel to hold our regular meetings there but we wanted to be sure to have ample space to accommodate the attendance expected at one of our largest gatherings. Further, it is felt that we should try it out and get an expression from the membership as to its suitability as well as location. Our Christmas meeting will take place at Stouffers, so we will have ample time to look around before our January meeting if the Curtis does not prove suitable.

Needless to say this November meeting should be a MUST for every member; don't miss this one if you are interested in helping to build and maintain a vigorous organization. Although our new slate of officers doesn't take over until the January meeting, we must elect officers at this all-important meeting, so do make it your first order of business come Tuesday, November 9, to attend this meeting and help elect those officers in whose hands you want to place the responsibility of running the organization during 1955.

Harold Kauffmann has an interesting program worked out for us whereby every member will have a chance to express his gardening experiences during the past season. It's going to be fun; we should learn a lot and hear and tell a few good stories. Come, now, let's make this one of the best November meetings

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

By Bill Hull

Maurice Lifson has an attractive semi-formal garden surrounded by a six-foot buckthorn hedge. The house opens onto this garden, which is apparently an extra lot landscaped to the house. Borders range along the hedge with four open beds of roses held within their beds by carpet of snow. Maurice has had lots of color this summer, with sufficient bloom to provide over 40 entries in our Fall Show. His use of balloon flowers, both singles and doubles, provides that helpful blue touch. One of his favorites is a new pink delphinium, Sir John Falstaff, which we saw earlier this summer.

Ed Culbert has some fine fruit trees, including apples, crabapples and plums. In addition, Ed has landscaped some attractive evergreens into the picture, which is further beautified with tulips, peonies and annuals. Ed has had a successful vegetable garden this year. His tomatoes and carrots were still in good shape the day I called.

Tom Foley has some of the finest roses I've seen recently. His beds are all clean and full of about 150 roses, all disease- and bug-free, and still in the bud stage in October! In fact there were so many buds that would probably freeze that I couldn't help lamenting our early Fall. Helen Traubel and Buccaneer are two of his favorites. Buccaneer makes an attractive bush with clean foliage. Tom has a secret worth remembering. In the Fall he hills up each rose and then places around the hill a roll of sod; over this he puts hay, topped with a waterproof paper cover. He says his winter loss is negligible; in fact I believe he said he's never lost a rose! Roses aren't the only flowers in Tom's garden, though. There are 3,000 tulips to come up next year, plus many other perennials. A clematis was still blooming, as was his salvia, although a light freeze had killed many flowers.

Bob Adams' house from the front features a beautiful climbing ivy that the first frost has turned brilliant red. If you

want a climbing ivy, see Bob. Bob also has some nice roses, particularly New Dawn, which had some strong canes that should produce abundant flowers next year. He also features a small rock garden in one corner of his lot and a profusion of perennials. I was most impressed by Bob's use of space; his back yard area is cut up by a large driveway which reduces the gardening area. However, Bob has very nicely planned a border which must be quite attractive at the peak of the season. Here again I saw good use of aluminum markers, which more of us should use.

Newt Beugen puts most of his floral efforts into the business but there are signs at his home of a man who likes to grow things. Newt has had some dandy tomatoes this summer as well as perennials and scented geraniums. And, incidentally, he has one of the most magnificent maple trees I've ever seen!

Someone should tell Carl Cason and me the identity of the red berries his family picked in the country. Similar to holly and very fine for winter arrangements. Anyone know? Carl has a problem of a lot of shade; of course this led him to an interest in begonias, and he has had some fine ones this year. A small lath house in the one very sunny spot gives some sun, so he can move his begonias from shade to controlled sun at will. Carl's house should be visited in the spring when his peonies are in bloom. He has between 40 and 45 of them and they must make an attractive display. Did you ever notice the pleasing bronze tint to their leaves in the fall? His alyssum and snapdragons were still going strong in cool weather.

Past President Rene Dufourd has laid out quite a trip for himself. Rene left in October (with Mrs. Dufourd of course) for a visit in New Jersey until November 1, at which time he will head for California, probably stopping in Illinois for Thanksgiving with relatives, and on to 712 Harrison Street, Campbell, Calif. for the

winter. Rene realizes spring doesn't arrive in Minnesota because he won't be home until about July 1! We'll miss you, Rene!

Sam Abrams has some of the most luxurious Red Rich strawberry plants we've seen. There must be over 150 of them, all going into the winter under oak leaves and hay. Adjoining his strawberry bed were his vegetables, with some beautiful chard still going strong. Sam had planted a covering of clover and flax in various areas for green manure, a practice which he credits for much of his success. Sam grows some of the finest tomatoes in the city. He uses only Burpee Big Boy, which he grows from seed, and trains the plants over wooden frames, which give much better support than wires, posts or strings. His wooden frames would be well worth copying by other tomato fanciers. Another Burpee product about which Sam is enthusiastic is their Giant Wax pole bean which he found very large and tender even when the beans were making the pod bulge. "Finest bean I've ever raised," says Sam. He also is a rose fancier, having about 30 varieties, each of which has been a top-ranking rose for the year. Sam feels his custom of selecting only outstanding roses has provided him with unusually hardy bushes. Here again I heard of roses supposedly dead which returned to life and flourished. Sam experienced this with both Fred Howard and Lowell Thomas.

The Edina grade school had a flower show recently, put on entirely by the children. An excellent show in which the children took cut flowers from home and arranged them at school. I proudly announce that among the ribbon winners were my first and fourth grade girls.

As proof of public need for training in flower arranging, we need call attention only to the "arrangements" one often sees in restaurants where garden flowers are crowded into the first available container - invariably a milk bottle!

L. G. Straub proudly displays the club emblem in his front border near an at-

tractive hydrangea bush and also near tuberous begonias growing profusely beneath an evergreen. He has trimmed the evergreen so it provides only filtered shade, thus creating an ideal place for begonias. He also has some of the healthiest salvia I've seen, reminiscent of southern naturalized poinsettias.

We're sorry to hear that Tom Ennis is being transferred to the Dallas branch of his firm (Braniff Airlines). We'll miss you, Tom, and wish you much happiness in Texas. Be sure to carry greetings to the Dallas branch of our group and join them as soon as possible! Tom has been very successful locally with dahlias, having 250 beauties this year.

Fred Paul has many beautiful plants and shrubs, but nothing more eye catching than three large Eunonymous Alatus. This fall their brilliant coloring easily explains why they're called burning bushes. The one I have, Fred, is the compactus variety so maybe it will be colorful before too many years pass. Fred is basically a chrysanthemum and rose enthusiast. His many mums have supplied an abundance of fall color and his choice roses have been a pleasure all summer. This year Fred didn't pinch back his chrysanthemums and has had more than sufficient bloom. His pansy bed deserves mention too since it was still colorful so late in the fall. Fred recommends "Roggie" pansies from Ball Seed Company of Chicago. Fred says these plants supplied bushel basketsfull of blooms this year!

Made two trips for nothing this month! E. B. Haedecke was away from home and I didn't feel privileged to wander around so drove on. He certainly has some fine older evergreens visible from the road, however. Drove out to 7030 James to see F. H. Farmer. Was about devoured by a neighbor's dog and then discovered Frier Farmer had moved to another address, where I'll locate him later.

And so off for a long trip into the Deep South!

YOUR DUES ARE DUE IN DECEMBER!

Otto Erickson is already on the hunt for your 1955 dues! Why not come prepared to pay them at the November meeting; they are due December 1 - stand in line, boys, we need the money!

YEWS ARE IN THE NEWS!

Do you know that there are over 50 species, varieties and selections of yews? Basically speaking, however, all of them fall into three general growth habits: conical, spreading and columnar. One favorite species in the conical group, the upright Japanese yew, which was a standby for years, is now passing out of the picture because it gets too large and requires too much pruning. Compact forms of the same plant are now available. These have many names, but if you ask your nurseryman for one of the compact spreading yews, he will know what you need. These compact varieties grow 2 or 3' high and 5 or 6' wide. If you need an even smaller plant, the dwarf Japanese yew is the one you need. Emphasize the "dwarf" when ordering.

The prototype of the columnar group is the well-proportioned and hardy "Hicks" yew. Others include the Hatfield and Moon varieties. They have an upright habit of growth but should be sheared occasionally.

Yews grow well in the shade where junipers and dwarf pines fail. They require excellent drainage and a good soil. Before setting them out, broadcast two pounds of a well balanced fertilizer per 100 square feet and spade it into the soil. Then set the yews at the same level in the soil that they had in the nursery. Pack the soil well around the rootball and keep them well watered until the ground freezes. Additional watering during the next summer is necessary too.

It isn't too late to plant tulips; they may be planted until the ground is frozen too hard to break.

DO YOUR SPRING FEEDING NOW

By spreading a good complete plant food over your entire lawn and garden in late fall, you can save yourself one gardening operation next spring. It was long believed that if plant food was applied in the fall, most of it would leach away by the time the growing season arrived next year. However, soil scientists at midwestern experiment stations have found that on the heavier soils (those containing considerable silt and clay), plant food applied in late October and November "stays put." Crop yields on plots so treated were equally as good as on plots receiving spring application of plant food only.

The reason for this good efficiency of fall plant food application is that the ammonia forms of nitrogen, which predominate in plant foods, make a temporary chemical combination with the clay in the soil and do not leach away; also the micro-organisms are not active when the soils are cold, so this ammonia is not broken down into nitrates, which is the form of nitrogen easily leached away and which is utilized by plants. Your soil, then, can act as a storehouse for plant food all winter long. So put your spring fertilizer application on before the hard freeze and beat the rush!

PARK BOARD'S ANNUAL MUM SHOW

Don't you miss (and don't allow your flower loving friends to pass up) the Park Board's Annual Chrysanthemum Show to be held at the greenhouses, Bryant Avenue & 38th Street South, starting Sunday, November 7 and running through Sunday, November 21. Open daily from 1 P.M. to 10 P.M. without charge.

CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 9

Get out that December calendar and circle Thursday, December 9 for a MERRY XMAS PARTY. Let "P.W." Young know how many will be in your party - the more the merrier!

REPORT ON THE M.G.C.A. CONVENTION IN DENVER

June 8-11

The Convention opened on Tuesday morning with reports of officers. President, secretary and treasurer reported. These will be published in Mega. Progress was reported in all branches. Luncheon was served at noon, after which Dr. R. Milton Carleton, research director for Vaughn's Seed Company of Chicago, spoke on crab grass. He favors the use of arsenate of lead (20 lbs. to 1000 sq. ft.). This also controls grubs and other injurious insects. Next he favors the potassium cyanate solutions. These do not inhibit the germination of seeds and also turn into some kind of a potash-nitrogen fertilizer which helps the soil. He does not recommend the mercurial solutions because they kill the soil and hold back seed germination.

The delegates then visited city parks and local gardens. Wednesday the delegates went in busses to Rocky Mountain points of interest such as Central City (near where gold was discovered). Lunch was at Echo Lake and return to Denver was made for an evening meeting. During this meeting F. F. Rockwell, editor of Home Garden, now merged with the Flower Garden, showed slides on vegetable growing. A panel then discussed the National Testing Program, after which members talked on the subject for five minutes. Your delegate took the first negative position to the program. The high points were these:

There never was a real testing program on a national scale. All members were not qualified to make tests. Growers would not give us material to test. The national office could not afford to buy seeds and plants for distribution. Reports were not made on items already sent out for test and, if reports were made, the national office was not in position with manpower and money to analyze and publicize the results properly. The suggestion was made that we leave this at a local level with a possibility of a director of activity at national headquarters. It will probably be left at a district level, which, in my opinion, is still too high to be of value.

Thursday morning was devoted to publications, bulletins and publicity. These subjects covered a lot of ground. The first one was devoted to how to improve Mega, and the last one on how clubs could obtain publicity in local newspapers. Prizes were awarded to clubs which had entered the publicity contest. I could not quite go along with the hunger for publicity that some clubs expressed. In the discussion of the bulletin, prizes were awarded for the bulletin contest. First prize went to "Show Me Gardener" of Webster Groves; second, "Back Yard Pets", Kent Ohio; third, "Good Earth", Memphis, Tenn. Most artistic: "Horticultural Society News", Cincinnati, Ohio; best one page, "Guys & Gardens", Knoxville, Tenn.; most practical local information, "The Spray", Minneapolis; most unique, "Johnny Appleseed", Bluffton, Ohio. Your delegate was called on to tell why such a nice bulletin as ours was not on exchange. I explained there were several reasons: (1) We were interested in local items and local garden information; (2) items and plants of the South and Pacific Coast were not of much value to us; (3) our editors and others did not have the time to send all bulletins; (4) 75 extra copies would cost us more money. The cost of putting out our magazine is a considerable item.

Many editors present were not in accord with these reasons. Some claimed they read all the bulletins, others said they got their ideas from them and that the cost of extra copies was nominal. We could review our position on this and if our Spray can be of value to others, maybe we could send out the extra copies, whether we use theirs or not. The trend here too is to decentralize and have the regions

handle the exchange bulletins. This would give us local climatic news and not require so many copies. So maybe my talk may do some good!

Thursday afternoon the delegates went to the Denver Museum of Natural History which is new and very attractive. In the auditorium they attended two lectures, with slides, on gardening and flower gardens, and after a box supper on the lawn, another illustrated lecture on plant material used in gardens here and abroad.

Friday morning up to 9:30 was devoted to club administration. Your delegate took the floor and suggested garden clubs should take a tougher attitude as follows: (1) Membership be limited to gardeners and not to any joiner; (2) Programs be made interesting to gardeners and the real gardener would attend the meeting; (3) Constitution and by-laws provide for dues and dates and that these be rigidly followed; (4) Clubs would be better off with half their membership if these were really interested gardeners. Later the delegates went for a short ride to Denver's famous Red Rock Open Air Theater and Buffalo Bill's grave. In the afternoon the final full convention met. Resolutions made and accepted. Officers previously elected took over. The banquet was held at 7 P.M. All went off very well and I would say the convention was a success. Ernest Thompson was present on Tuesday. The altitude bothered him though and he had to leave. Herb Kahlert attended the Friday meeting.

Respectfully submitted
R. J. DUFOURD

(Editor's Note: The delay in publishing this report was due to conditions beyond our control. Sorry.)

A WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE

The first World Orchid Conference was held in St. Louis October 15, 16 & 17 sponsored by the American Orchid Society, with the co-operation of the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Orchid Society of Greater St. Louis.

Delegates and exhibitors attended from the four corners of the globe, including our own famous orchid grower and member extraordinary, Bob Bryant with Mrs. Bob. The Bryants exhibited two plants (you ask him what they were; I can't even get my tongue around the names let alone try to spell them!). Anyway, they both proved to be the stars of the show! One was the only bloom of its kind represented, therefore it attracted a great deal of attention. The other had but one companion and it came all the way from France! The French model couldn't compare, however, with the beauty and lustre of its American counterpart!

Congratulations, Robert. And we didn't need the World Conference to prove that

OUR CHRYSANTHEMARIAN

I hope you'll all have seen Harold Kaufmann's display of mums - a sight to behold! - even more beautiful than last year! You may still have time if the frost hasn't bitten too hard before this issue of The Spray reaches you.

And while on mums, Dick Lehman is introducing next spring a new English variety which he has named Muriel Rice after the charming wife of Cortis Rice. It seems that Muriel noticed this particular variety standing out above all others in the test gardens because of its sturdiness, largeness of bloom and exquisite cream color. Dick immediately christened it. Don't overlook it next spring; you'll want it in your garden and as a cut flower.

Incidentally, a number of the wives of our members journeyed down to Faribault to make arrangements with mums for Dick Lehman's 1955 catalog. Don't ever think some of them weren't masterpieces! And did Dick ever reward them handsomely for

GROW YOUR OWN GERANIUMS

Did you ever wonder why you pay a seemingly high price for potted geraniums? Grow some yourself - you'll save a little money and you will learn about the main cost factor behind geranium prices! Growing geraniums takes time. In the greenhouse they take up lots of bench space for several months; thus the geranium crop is charged heavy "rent" by florists and buyers pay accordingly. In the home, however, this slow development is just what you want in a house plant.

Home propagation of geraniums from cuttings is easy. If you haven't already allowed Jack Frost to finish off your plants, snap off some green stems and you'll have the tops of next year's geranium plants. All you have to do is grow the roots. The best length of stem for propagating is 4 to 5". Leave all but the lowermost leaf or two on the stems. Sand, perlite or vermiculite makes a good rooting medium. It must be kept moist at all times, but perlite and vermiculite have much greater water storage capacity than an equal volume of sand and requires less watering.

When cuttings are set at the proper depth of 1" and placed where they receive plenty of light but no direct sun, they should develop roots in 4 to 6 weeks and be ready for potting. Sometimes disease organisms attack the succulent geranium stems and cause them to rot. These losses may be reduced by using rooting powder, since the sooner the cutting is out of the sand, the less likely it is to be attacked by disease. Dusting the cut surface with a fungicide will also help. Another good method of propagating geraniums is to remove a single leaf with only enough stem tissue to retain the bud which is found in every leaf axil. Place this in the sand with the bud exposed to light. This leaf bud will root as quickly as the stem cutting, but will require more time to develop.

When the rooted cuttings are placed in 3" pots, put no more than a pinch of fertilizer in the soil in each pot. A water soluble fertilizer should be used for subsequent feedings twice a month until planting time.

HEART, VESSELS AND PLANTS

Since ancient times, plants and plant products have been a major source of drugs commonly used to relieve man's sufferings. To prove that modern science has not completely replaced this tradition, here are just a few plant sources of widely used cardiovascular (heart) drugs:

<u>Plant</u>	<u>Drug</u>
Cinchona bark	Quinidine
Papaver somniferum	Morphine
Digitalis purpurea	Digitoxin
Vertrum album	Protoberatine
Strophanthus gratus	Ouabain
Claviceps purpurea	Ergot alkaloids
Rauwolfia serpentina	Reserpine
Strophanthus kombe	Strophanthin
Cocoa bean	Xanthines
Atropa belladonna	Atropine
Ephendra equisetina	Ephedrine

FIRST AID TO DAMAGED TREES

The first step is to smooth up all ragged edges of bark with a sharp knife, and then the injured portion should be given a protective coating to prevent drying of the damaged tissues. If the injury is slight, with only the outer bark damaged or only a small portion eaten away, no further treatment may be needed except to see that the wound remains well protected by the covering applied. In this even the edges of the wound should be trimmed to a more or less oval shape, because wounds of that shape will heal more quickly than if left untouched or trimmed in square or rectangular form. The oval should come to a point at the top and bottom to facilitate good drainage of water.

According to extensive tests made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, a coating of shellac resulted in faster healing than any other of more than 500 compounds tested. When a heavier covering is desired, such as to prevent the cracking of large wounds, a rosin-sardine oil mixture was found to be best. This is made by heating 8 parts of rosin (H or I grade) with 3 parts of sardine oil until the rosin melts. The mixture should be warmed before applying with a brush. The rosin-sardine oil gave better results than white lead and linseed oil or any other compounds tested except shellac. Untreated wounds healed faster than those protected with white lead and linseed oil.

Asphalt tree paints often are used. They require no heating and are available in two distinctly different types: (1) an asphalt in semi-liquid form dissolved in a volatile solvent, and (2) a water emulsion of asphalt. The first type may protect the wound somewhat longer and can be used in freezing weather. The latter type, being a water emulsion, will not blister or peel when applied to a wet surface. However, it cannot be used in freezing weather, but after drying for an hour or two, it is not affected by rain or cold. This water emulsion type also is widely used to cover grafts. Pine tar, grease or coal tar base paints should not be used.

If the wound extends into the inner bark all around the tree, first aid will consist of trimming the ragged edges of the wound evenly (not oval shaped) and covering the wound with orange shellac, in preparation for bridge grafting. This grafting can be done in the spring about two to three weeks before the buds start into growth. A skilled workman can bridge-graft a large tree in about one hour, and almost any tree can be saved by this method.

It seldom pays to attempt to bridge-graft small trees under two or three inches in diameter. Often a young tree, if too small to bridge-graft, may be cut off just below the injured part, provided the injury does not extend to the ground. The cut should be made on a slant to provide water drainage, and the exposed surface should be covered with a protective coating. This cutting will cause new shoots to start up, and the strongest one of these may be selected to form a new tree. Sometimes it is advisable to use a stake to support this new shoot until it becomes strong. If the shoot originates above the graft union, it will produce a new tree in a remarkably short time. A shoot coming from below the union can be grafted easily to whatever variety is desired after two to three years. When the injury to a young tree extends to the ground, the trunk may be cut off just below the injury and graft unions may be inserted in the stub, following the usual procedure for cleft grafting.