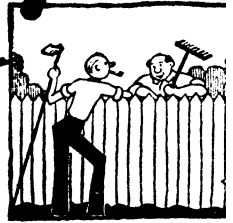




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

Member--Men's Garden Clubs of America · Minnesota State Horticultural Society



7

November 1958
Volume 16, Number 11
G "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors
Wm. H. Hull, Joe Witmer
Don Methven, Bob Adams

NOVEMBER MEETING

Date: Tuesday, November 11, 1958
Place: Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church
Knox Ave. So. & W. 50th St.
Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp
Dinner: A good one \$1.50

OFFICERS

W. W. Brooks Presid
P. W. Young Vice 1
W. H. Hull Treas
N. W. Christopherson Secret

Office of the Secret:
N. W. Christopherson
6145 Clinton Avenue

PROGRAM

6:30 P.M. Election of officers
7:00 P.M. New Developments in Garden
Sprayers by C. D. Cain

Office of the Exchang
G. Victor Lowrie
417 Essex Bldg.

Twenty Questions on Late Fall Garden
Duties, members participating.

This is a must-be-there meeting for the purpose of electing a slate
new officers who will take over the reigns of the club management and pa
activities during the coming year.

P.S. It would add color to our board if you were to bring flowers from
garden if spared by Jack Frost, or from the greenhouse, if you have
not a must, just a suggestion.

PARK BOARD MUM SHOW

The Minneapolis Park Board's Annual Chrysanthemum Show will take place at their greenhouses at Bryant and 38th Street South, from Sunday, November 9th through Sunday, November 23rd. Open daily from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. at no charge. Am sure every one of our members will be most anxious to see this colorful spectacle and be sure to tell your friends and neighbors of the treat that awaits every visitor. This year, Greg Lucking tells us that the theme of the display will depict "The Park Board's Diamond Jubilee." Now don't miss out on this unusual treat, get your friends together and make an evening of it.

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SLIDES FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

It has been decided to make the showing of slides of members' gardens, a part of the Christmas Party program, after a several years lapse.

It is hoped that we can show one or more slides of EVERY MEMBER's GARDEN and this is a call for every good slide that you may have of your garden or of any other members' garden.

Overall views, views of sections and close-ups of outstanding individual plants are what will help make this an interesting showing.

More recently taken photographs are preferred but good pictures taken any time -- if they have not been previously shown -- will be very acceptable. Your pictures that have been shown in the past will be marked with a small white "spot" - numbered, and will not be considered.

The DEADLINE - the club meeting of November 11th. Your cooperation will be very much appreciated.

P. W. Young

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MINNEAPOLIS HOST TO FORESTERS

Congratulations! Greg Lucking on being appointed General Chairman of the National Shade Tree Conference Convention to be held in Minneapolis in 1961. The National Shade Tree Conference is made up of over 1400 members, made up of arborists, municipal, state and federal foresters, college professors and utility supervisors. This year, Greg attended their convention held at Ashville, North Carolina, where the registration was in excess of seven hundred.

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FOR SALE

One Floracant with 3 watertight trays 19" x 19" --- Four 40 watt fluorescent lights, frame of aluminum tubing -- ball bearing wheels. Will sell for \$58.00, exactly one half of cost. Contact Doc Stillman and cart it away.

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GARDEN REMINDERS

There is still plenty of time to finish planting tulips if they are to be left in the ground several years, set them ten or twelve inches deep, according to size. If they are to be dug and stored in the spring, put them six to eight inches underground.

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You can also continue to plant lilies as long as the ground is open. Lily bulbs deteriorate when kept out of the ground too long, however.

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After your chrysanthemums are through flowering, cut them back to within a few inches of the ground.

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Put a little covering on exposed perennial beds after the ground freezes hard.

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Clean away all dead foliage from around the rose bushes before hilling.

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If pansies started in August can be enclosed with boards and a sash placed over them, they will bloom earlier than pansies left unprotected. There should be a heavy covering of leaves or marsh hay under the glass.

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All vegetable-garden refuse such as squash vines, bean bushes, and old cornstalks should be cleaned up. Much of this material can go into the compost pile, but cornstalks are too woody for this purpose. Burn or bury them.

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Store the garden furniture and clean all tools. Grease or oil the metal parts to keep them rusting. Good anti-rust fluids are available. Put the lawnmower in order. Clean the blades and have them sharpened.

The vegetable garden may well be plowed in the fall so that hibernating insects will be turned up to perish.

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The strawberry bed should be covered with straw, pine needles, peat or some other form of litter. Do the covering early, but do not use a mate containing weed seed.

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Newly planted shade trees are of injured by sun scald during the winter months. This may easily be prevented by wrapping the trunks from the ground up loosely with burlap or with paper designed for the purpose.

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Clean up all the diseased and infested foliage, blooms and fruit from the garden to prevent further spread year.

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Covering materials should be proven to be used as soon as the ground freezes hard -- not before. Salt marsh hay, and peat moss are excellent materials to use. Do not use straw near the house. It is too inflammable.

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Do not allow the lawn to go into the winter with too much top growth. Two inches is plenty.

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Put the coldframe to use during winter by storing in it plants that need protection such as foxgloves and cantbury bells, pansies, English daisies, questionable chrysanthemums and forget-me-nots.

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Stagnant surface water from melt snow during the winter is dangerous to

PROTECTION OF FRUIT TREES FROM
RABBITS AND MICE
J.D. Winter, Assoc. Professor, Horticulture
University of Minnesota

The protection of young fruit trees from rabbits and mice should be made a regular nursery practice, just as spraying is done at certain times to protect the trees from insects and diseases. The most serious rabbit injury usually occurs to trees under 10 years of age (under 4 inches in diameter) while mice attack both old and young trees alike.

Cottontail, snowshoe, and jack rabbits are troublesome in Minnesota -- the snowshoe inhabiting the coniferous region, the jack rabbit being predominantly in the prairie sections although encroaching into hardwood regions, and the cottontail being commonly found in the hardwood and prairie regions. Meadow mice are responsible for most of the injury by mice to fruit trees in Minnesota, although recently there has been some serious injury by the pine mouse.

Hunting and Trapping Rabbits

Consistent trapping of rabbits during the late fall and winter months should be a regular part of your winter protection program where extensive plantings are involved. A simple trap for cottontail rabbits can be made by taking any box of suitable size (not less than about 22 inches in length) and constructing a drop door at one end that will open inward. A piece of salted apple makes an attractive bait. This is placed at the back of the box on a bent wire holder with a string running through a screw eye at the top of the box above the bait to a hook that holds the door open. When the bait is moved the string is pulled and the door falls shut.

Use of Pruned Branches

When a supply of pruned branches is made available above the snow for rabbits to feed on during the winter months, much damage to trees will be avoided. This is a useful, preventive measure.

Wire and Mesh Guards

Tree guards constitute the most satisfactory and effective method of protecting

the inch, provides long lasting protection. Window screen wire is very satisfactory if watched closely after 3 or 4 years use for rusted out sections, although the rodents often find the hole in the screen first. The hardware cloth wire screen may be purchased in roll to 48 inches wide, depending on the distance to the lower scaffold branches. Strips about 18 inches wide are cut from the roll and each strip is cut in half leaving guards 18 x 18 or 18 x 24 in size with one smooth edge for the top. The guards should be pressed into the soil to a slight depth when placed in position with the edges held together by wire. Guards made of wood veneer are not as satisfactory as the wire screen, and require more care because they should be removed each year. Where snow is likely to become deep, the lower scaffold branches above the top of the tree guards may be protected by wrapping with paper, burlap, aluminum foil or other available material.

A new product, Rabbit-Rap, is made of aluminum mesh and is much less expensive than hardware cloth. It is easily applied and expands as the tree grows. It is obtainable from Research Products Corporation, 1015 E. Washington Street, Madison, Wisconsin. Builders metal lath also has been used successfully and is readily available, and cheaper than hardware cloth.

Wraps of Paper and Other Materials

Wraps of various kinds usually are effective against rabbits, although they are known where they have torn paper and pulled bark from the trees. Various forms of wraps are used such as heavy brown wrapping paper, three thicknesses or more of newspaper, building paper, asphalt impregnated paper, crinkled waterproof kraft paper, aluminum mesh, and freezer-type aluminum foil. A 50 pound Kraft wrapping paper may be cut into 10 x 24 x 30 inch pieces, folded loosely around the trunk and fastened very rapidly with a pliers type hand stapler, using about 5 staples per tree. Untreated paper material is likely to attract mice.

Aluminum foil, such as used for wrapping foods, gives excellent protection from rabbits and usually from mice. Strips about 5 inches wide and 18 inches long

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economical to use. Foil also protects the trunk from "sunscald" injury. All paper and foil wraps should be removed in the spring.

Repellent Materials

Numerous materials have been used for spraying or painting on the trunks of apple trees. Many have been ineffective and others injurious. Some have been satisfactory until the rabbits are confronted with extreme scarcity of food. One repellent observed effective under extreme food scarcity is Ringwood repellent (trinitrobenzine-aniline). This was developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the Ringwood Chemical Corporation. It may be applied as a paint or spray. When applied with a paint brush, one pint (\$2.95) will treat about 20 trees 4 to 6 feet tall. Acetone in the repellent will cause rubber washers in sprayer valves to swell and become ineffective. The B. & G. Company, 4725 Rising Sun Avenue, Philadelphia, Penna., makes a sprayer with plastic washers that is not affected by the acetone. Farmer Seed and Nursery Company, Faribault, Minnesota, is a regional distributor for Ringwood repellent.

Special Precautions for Meadow Mice

To protect fruit trees from meadow mice, all dead grass and debris should be kept raked away from the trunks. Severe mouse injury sometimes is found as early as August. If a guard is not used, the snow, when it comes, should be tramped close to the trunk, and it will freeze into a hard cake that the mice will not penetrate. Mounding the soil 6 to 8 inches high around the trunk in the fall usually is an effective method of preventing mouse injury. Plum and cherry trees are not injured by these mice as frequently as apple and pear trees. In commercial orchards it is advisable to spread a poison bait. A special bait for this purpose is prepared and distributed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is available in 10 pound and 25 pound sacks through the Minnesota State Horticultural Society at University Farm, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.

Editor's Note: I have used Ringwood and it works well--can be used on other than fruit trees--directions specify those applicable. Follow rigidly.

Winter Protection of Roses

That was quite a demonstration exhibition put on at our last meeting. Had they asked for volunteers to test their material and offered to replace roses that did not survive their method of protection, the whole idea would have been more readily accepted and the manufacturers would have made a great deal more headway.

Why anyone wants to go to all the trouble to protect roses is beyond me. If your plants have been given good drainage and go into the winter strong and healthy, my personal experience in protecting a lot of roses with very little winter kill is a very simple procedure:

- (1) Clean the bed thoroughly, not just with a rake but with a wiskbroom.
- (2) Spray or dust your roses and the soil around with lime sulphur.
- (3) Hill each plant about a foot high with clean soil.
- (4) After the ground has frozen hard, sprinkle poisoned wheat in the bed as protection against mice, then cover roses generously with marsh hay and anchor well.
- (5) Relax for the rest of the winter for there is nothing more that needs to be done.
- (6) Take off the marsh hay early in April, but keep the roses hilled until all danger of frost has passed.

* * * *

A few strong clumps of rhubarb may be dug with a large ball of soil and placed in a shady place until they have been thoroughly frozen, when they will be ready for forcing in the cellar. They will not be until the first of the year. While they are outside, cover them with burlap so that the soil will not be washed away.

MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GARDEN QUIZ for November 1958

1. During the past 20 years the garden chrysanthemum has become a very popular garden perennial. Why was it not more popular before?
Ans . . . There were few dependable varieties that bloomed early enough for our northern climate. During the past 20 years plant breeders have developed many fine early-blooming varieties.
2. How should dahlia roots be stored over winter?
Ans . . . It depends on the storage room. If it is cool and moist no special procedure is necessary. In most home storage rooms it will be necessary to prevent loss of water and shriveling by burying the roots in sand, sawdust, peatmoss, vermiculite, or similar materials.
3. How long does it take a gloxinia bulb to flower after planting?
Ans . . . Approximately 12 to 15 weeks. Cultural conditions are about the same as for African violets except that gloxinias need a little more light.
4. Can trees and shrubs be pruned during the winter?
Ans . . . Winter is one of the best times for pruning trees. Among other advantages it is easy to see what needs to be done while the leaves are off. Large shrubs which need severe pruning can also be pruned in winter. Normal yearly pruning of shrubs is usually done immediately following flowering, however.
5. What is the insect pest most troublesome in home grown apples?
Ans . . . The apple maggot. It causes thread-like brown streaks in the apple flesh at harvest time or soon after. Control is difficult but can be obtained by careful and frequent spraying, beginning in early summer.
6. What is an "alpine plant"?
Ans . . . In the strict sense, an alpine plant is one that grows above the timber line in mountain country. As a gardening term the name has come to mean any mountain plant (usually dwarf in form) suitable for growing in a rock garden or similar planting.
7. What is the "standard" mixture for house plant soil?
Ans . . . 3 parts loamy soil; 1 part rotted manure, leafmold or peatmoss; 1 part sand. The indoor gardener should prepare and store a supply for use in repotting house plants during the winter months.
8. Will frequent pruning and generous application of fertilizer cause young fruit trees to bear at an early age?
Ans . . . No. It will do just the opposite. A tree which receives no pruning and little fertilizer will come in to bearing earlier but it may not be well shaped and it may not be a long-lived productive tree.
9. Is a moss covered soil a sign of an acid condition?
Ans . . . Usually not. It indicates poor drainage, poor aeration and probably shade.
10. We often speak of cacti and succulents. What is the difference?
Ans . . . A cactus is any plant belonging to the botanical family Cactaceae. A succulent is any plant of a fleshy character which stores large amounts of water in its tissues. Many cacti are succulents, but not all succulents are cacti.