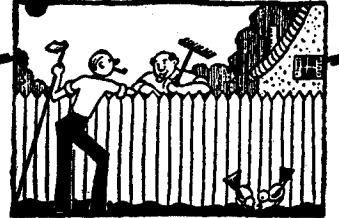




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



October, 1954
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G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

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OCTOBER MEETING

Date: Tuesday, October 12

Place: Lilac Lanes Cafe,
3901 Wooddale Ave.

Time: 5:45 P.M. sharp

Dinner: \$2.00

PROGRAM

6:30 Business Session

6:45 "Soils and Conditioners" by Dr. William T. Martin, Professor and Head of the Department of Soils, University of Minnesota Institute of Agriculture.

7:45 Spring flowering bulbs by Chris Mosberg

8:15 Getting Ready for Winter

1. Stan Lund
2. Glen Cerney
3. Andy Nyberg
4. Hank Elieff
5. Sherm Pinkham

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The Program Committee has had considerable difficulty finding a suitable place to meet; one not too out-of-the-way, with a suitable private dining room, at not too high a price. Unfortunately, Hasty Tasty on 50th had an opportunity to book a club for every other Tuesday night throughout the whole year; that left us on the street.

Your committee combed the city and finally recommended Lilac Lanes Cafe as the most practical eating and meeting place, in which your directors concurred. As you all know, Lilac Lanes Cafe is located on Excelsior Blvd. adjacent to the "Miracle Mile" in St. Louis Park just off the Belt Line. There are ample parking facilities, they serve good food and within our means. So let's make it a date.

HAVE YOU STARTED NEXT YEAR'S GARDEN?

No, it is not too late to start preparation of next year's garden! With the continuing high cost of living, vegetable gardens will again be good personal, as well as national, investments. In order to get the greatest returns from the vegetable garden, it is a No. 1 requisite that the soil be in good physical condition and this is the time to do something about it.

Improving physical condition, that is improving the aeration and drainage and ease of cultivation, means increasing the organic matter content. The easiest way to do this is to grow your own organic matter. Small grains such as wheat, oats and rye, or an annual grass such as Italian rye grass can still be broadcast between the rows of this year's garden. These green manure crops, or cover crops, will do better if fed at time of seeding with an application of a well balanced fertilizer at the rate of two pounds per 100 square feet. The plant food will remain in your garden, being taken up by the plants and stored there until they are plowed down in the spring. Thus cover crops have a three-fold purpose - increasing organic matter content with accompanying benefits to the soil's physical condition, storage of plant foods over the winter, and protection of the soil surface from the beating and compacting action of spring rains. So start on your next year's garden immediately. Simply broadcast plant food, sow the grain at the rate of one or two pounds per 1000 square feet, then sit back and enjoy the mantle of green that covers the skeleton of your 1954 garden.

OCTOBER CHORES

Time to prepare for a better garden next year. A good cleanup of all diseased plants, uprooting and burning of annuals, and removal of all stalks from perennials are the first and essential steps you must take.

Continue to spray roses for black spot, mildew and aphids; this will help them go into the winter as strong and healthy plants - a helpful protection against winter kill.

Take up those plants you wish to house during the winter - geraniums, coleus, cacti, ivy, philodendron, parsley and chives, etc. Also bring in soil for potting and seeding before the ground freezes too hard.

Clean up the vegetable gardens, placing undiseased leaves in compost pile, burning all others. Fall digging is most beneficial; add manure or compost, spade deeply, and allow the rough earth to stand exposed during the winter.

Protect your young trees from rabbits by using chicken wire, or wrap with tarpaper up to 3 feet in height. Keep root of shrubs and young trees moist, especially evergreens - they will winter better.

Before the ground freezes, hill young shrubs and plants and all roses to a height of a foot if possible. After the ground is frozen, cover roses with coarse leaves or marsh hay and mulch the more delicate perennials.

Don't fail to stake where bulbs are being planted, and spot your perennials, particularly those slow to show life in the spring. Also tag roots and bulbs due up for winter storage.

Young pansy plants may be planted where they are to flower if the beds are high and dry. Cover lightly with mulch hay after the first hard frost, thus protecting them from wind and sun while the are frozen.

THE FALL FLOWER SHOW

Although only 30 members exhibited specimens and arrangements, our Fall, 1954, Flower Show will go down as one of the most colorful and largest in number of entries (507) of any previous show to date! Twelve members entered 20 or more exhibits, with Tony Koester leading the parade with 71. Frank Heschmeyer and Tom Krumm entered over 40, with Al Nelson, Otto Erickson, Charlie Reif and Herb Kahlert all represented with over 30.

Tony Koester took top honors in the specimen class as well as in the arrangements, with a Grand Champion tuberous begonia plant and a Grand Champion zinnia arrangement, plus Sweepstakes in both classes. Congratulations, Tony!

We are certainly indebted to Sherm Pinkham and his committee for organizing and managing the show, which was enjoyed by many flower lovers outside the club who streamed into the Park Board Greenhouses, starting early Saturday afternoon and continuing all day Sunday.

Adding much to the effectiveness of the entire display were the colorful exhibits including Mrs. Bob Bryant's magnificent dahlia arrangement, augmented by a display of dahlia seedlings grown by Bob Bryant; an exhibit of miniature dahlias by Andy Nyberg; Dick Lehman's outstanding varieties of potted mums; and an unusually large and attractive arrangement by Bachman's, Inc.

Again the Park Board co-operated most helpfully in providing their greenhouses and furnishing the necessary equipment, as well as going to the trouble of rearranging the whole layout for our particular accommodations. To them all we extend our hearty thanks, as well as to the judges - Messrs. Larry Corbett, Lloyd Bachman, Newton Beugen, and Mrs. James Scott. And we are certainly appreciative of the very fine publicity given us by George Luxton in the Minneapolis Star & Tribune.

SCARLET EPISCIA is not an African violet! From full page ads in color to the blurbs from columnists' pens, the American horticultural magazines and daily newspapers are giving blatant publicity to a so-called Scarlet African violet. The African violet is a Saintpaulia, while this currently over-publicized relative is an Episcia (pronounces Ee-piss'-see-uh with the accent on the second syllable, not ee-pish-ee-uh or epi-see'-uh). The two genera, Episcia and Saintpaulia are members of the same family, the Gesneriaceae, but one is no more related to the other than is a snapdragon to a calceolaria (members of the Figwort family).

Episcia is a genus native to tropical America, Saintpaulia to east tropical Africa. Genetically the two are incompatible and (despite suggestions of a cross-producing a vivid scarlet hybrid resembling an African violet) no hybrids are to be expected between them. Episcia flowers have four stamens and a long corolla tube; those of Saintpaulia have 2 stamens and scarcely any corolla tube.

This scarlet Episcia is a form of *E. cupreata* and is not *E. coccinea* - a garden name under which it is usually advertised. The species is not new in cultivation, but has been grown in greenhouse collections here and in Europe for half a century or longer. Unlike the common African violet, it is not a good window pot plant, but is best suited as a hanging basket subject thriving in a humid atmosphere.

Remember this plant is not any kind of an African violet! It is a Scarlet

NEWS & VIEWS

We are sorry to report that Braniff Airlines is moving our Tom Ennis to Dallas. Tom has been a loyal member and ardent worker, and we will miss him greatly. The Men's Garden Club of Dallas, who we are advising of Tom's transfer, will be fortunate to get so fine a member. We wish Tom every success in his new responsibilities and much happiness for his family in their new location.

Archie Flack and Bob Adams together with Eng Hoyme and his telephone committee, turned handsprings to organize our September meeting from the time it was decided that the meeting place had to be changed because of the weather. An hour later, every member had been contacted by the phone committee and all arrangements had been made with the caterers, the Park Board and those on the program. Take a bow, fellas!

Milo Evans, who we're sorry to say is in Abbott Hospital with a heart condition,

would welcome a visit and some mail.

As usual, Bill Holmberg, Tom Ennis, Tom Krumm and Carl Nelson took most of the ribbons at the dahlia show held this year at the State Fair. Congratulations, boys! We're proud of you!

Those who attended the Fruit Farm Tea and Picnic were high in their praise of what is being done by the University of Minnesota Fruit Breeding Farm organization and felt that we had greatly benefited from the experience. Dr. Snyder and those in charge of the tours went to great pains to explain in quite some detail the experiments that were being undertaken, some of the successes that had been consummated, and the overall accomplishment of the department. In addition to adding to our horticultural knowledge, we had a lot of fun in being driven over hundreds of acres and then being able to join together in a family style picnic. And the weatherman certainly smiled upon us!

"THERE'S ROSEMARY . . ."

"As for Rosemary I lette it run all over my garden walls, not onlie because my bees love it, but because it is the best Herb Sacred to Remembrance and a Friendship, whence a sprig of it hath a dumblanguage," wrote Sir Thomas More, and many gardeners since his time have planted it in their beds and shrubberies, considering that a garden without sweet-scented Rosemary is a garden incomplete. It is a plant that should appeal particularly to women gardeners, for when it bears its pretty lavender-blue flowers in profusion, then in that garden, according to an old saying, "The mistress is the master."

Rosemary has many romantic, poetical and historical associations. Its name from the Latin, *Rosmarinus*, meaning sea-dew, is as pretty as its flowers. Some say it received its name because it is of a dewy nature and flourishes best in places near the sea; others say that it is so called because the underside of its leaves is whitish, as if touched with spray from the sea. Rosemary was known to the Greeks and Romans of ancient times, but by Shakespeare's day it had become so familiar a plant in English herb gardens that it was the token of remembrance. Hackett in his wedding sermon entitled "A Marriage Present" (1607) wrote: "Rosemary helpeth the Braine, strengtheneth the Memorie, and is very medicinal for the Head. Another property of the Rosemary is, it effects the Hart."

In the 16th century it was customary for mourners at funerals to carry sprays of Rosemary; for weddings, guests wore it. It was an old custom also for the bride's attendants to present the bridegroom, when they saw him first

"ARCTIC ROSES" - RUBBISH!

I wonder how many of our members read the Stern Nurseries', Geneva, N. Y., full page advertisement featuring "MOST EXCITING NEW ROSE - EVERBLOOMING LIFETIME ARCTIC ROSE" published in the August issue of Popular Gardening, as well as The Flower Grower. Your editor has rarely seen such gross misrepresentation. The roses in question are the well-known sub-zero Brownell roses, which have been on the market for years. Personally, I have experienced as much difficulty wintering over Brownell's roses as any other hybrid tea.

As a consequence I have written both publishers to cancel my subscriptions stating that so long as they carry this type of misleading advertising, I am not interested in reading their magazines.

Incidentally, it has been reported that the Federal government recently caught up with another offender, James Owen, Bloomington, Ill, who has been convicted on 17 indictments. In the trial it came out that he has spent over \$2,000,000 in newspaper advertising; some of it in our own Minneapolis Tribune - which, some time ago upon challenge of a specific advertisement by one of our own members - attempted to defend it.

PEONY PLANTING

There are a few "don'ts" to keep in mind when planting peonies. Avoid setting the roots too deeply in the soil. In sandy soil, buds may be covered by 3" of soil; in clay soil, the covering should not exceed 2". Be certain, also, that you don't plant them too closely together. Three feet is as close as they should be to one another. And don't plant peonies near trees or shrubs, or where other peonies have previously grown.

Peony plants should get a light mulch of straw or similar material the first winter after planting. Roots have not become well established and alternate freezing and thawing may damage them. Apply the mulch after the ground is frozen. Should you find it necessary to move established peonies, it is not too late to do the job now. No peony plant which has been growing in one spot more than two years should be moved without dividing. Carefully dig up the entire plant and shake or wash off the soil to expose the roots. Rather than trying to divide it at once, let it stand for a few hours, exposed to the air, until the roots wilt somewhat. Then you can cut them without breaking. A good peony division is a root not more than six or seven inches long with three to five eyes or buds at the top. Larger roots are no better; in fact, large roots are not as good as standard three-to-five-eye divisions.

Hardy, easy and economical to grow, the peony is one of America's favorite perennials. If it isn't already a part of your garden, be sure and include it in your fall planting schedule. It is not too late. You'll be richly rewarded in the spring when the beautiful blooms add their enchantment to your landscape. Planting in the fall insures establishment of feeding roots right up until winter-time, making plants that show stronger growth the following spring. Peonies may be set out with satisfactory results, until the first hard freeze. While early plantings show a little stronger growth the following spring, there is no noticeable difference in the second growing season.

Peonies need plenty of sunlight, good drainage and prefer a rich deep loam soil. Spade the soil to a depth of one foot. Thorough preparation of the soil is necessary because of the deep rooting character of the peony and because the planting

YOU CAN PLANT MANY DECIDUOUS SHRUBS THIS FALL

Several advantages are gained by planting deciduous shrubs in the fall. The soil is in much better condition for preparation than in early spring. Fall-planted shrubs are in better condition for being held out of the soil for only a short time. Even more important is their chance to start growing again at the normal time in early spring.

Shrubs sold in the spring are carried over the winter in special cold storage cellars for the purpose of keeping them dormant beyond their regular budding time. Then, too, the rush of spring work around the yard is such that when shrubs finally do arrive, you often are head-over-heels in other work and shrubs are not planted with the care they deserve.

There are exceptions to the long list of shrubs that may be planted in the fall, and the exceptions are easier to remember than those which conform to the rule. To be safe, consult your nurseryman. Spice bush, Buddleia or Butterfly Bush, Japanese snowball, tamarisk and hawthorne are definitely spring-planting shrubs.

Preparation of planting holes may begin at any time now. You can do the work at your leisure and more thoroughly, considering the fact that shrubs are a permanent garden feature and deserve the best of planting preparation and treatment. Thorough soil preparation really pays because little can be done to improve the physical condition of the soil after shrubs are planted. The very best procedure is to spade under lots of organic material, such as compost or peat moss, into the entire area to be planted, but if this involves too much work due to the size of the planting, careful preparation of the individual planting holes is sufficient. This merely involves digging the holes two feet wider and eight inches deeper than the root system of the shrubs, then mixing the soil removed with one-quarter of its volume of organic material and two or three handfuls of well balanced fertilizer plus a cup of limestone in areas where soils are acid.

With the planting holes prepared in advance, actual planting takes only a few minutes for each shrub. Set the plant in the hole an inch or two deeper than it stood in the nursery. Now firm the soil well around and above the roots, leaving a depression of an inch or two to permit thorough watering after planting. Soak the shrub thoroughly, and when the water has seeped away, fill in the depression with dry soil until the normal soil level has been reached. After severe freezing weather has arrived, a mulch of straw, peat moss or similar material should be added, at least as far as the spread of the roots, to minimize heaving caused by freezing and thawing.

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

For the first time, according to our records, the weatherman interfered with an outdoor meeting and thus robbed us of the pleasure of enjoying Bill Holmberg's outstanding garden of dahlias. However, the Program Committee immediately went into high gear and with the co-operation of the Park Board, we dined and convened most comfortably in their quarters. Considering the weather and the need for a last-minute change, the attendance was

most gratifying and those who were able to attend were rewarded, for the program given by Bill Holmberg and Harold Kaufmann was interesting and well planned.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - NOVEMBER 9

At our November meeting, we elect officers for the coming year. The Nominating Committee will present its slate to the membership then, so make it a point to be at this meeting and help elect those who you wish to run the club in 1955.