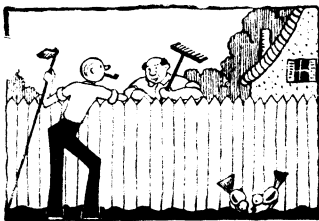


# THE GARDEN SPRAY



BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAP

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

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Vic Lowrie, Editor

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Ed Montgomery, George Luxton

## ANNOUNCING 2 SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Wednesday, Sept. 13th

The September Garden Tour, a command performance with the Jack Cohens dinner hosts.

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 16 & 17

Our Annual Fall Flower Show at the Park Board Greenhouses with schedules and what-have-you to come later.

## Officers

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Notice the Garden Tour is the second Wednesday in September.

We meet at the Cohen's residence for dinner at 5:30 P.M. Address, 4725 East Lake Harriet Blvd. - travel South on Lyndale Avenue So. to 47th Street, then West to the Boulevard.

Because of shorter daylight hours, we must start our dinner at 5:30 P.M. sharp. A good hearty meal will be served at the usual price - \$1.50.

All the gardens to be visited are fairly close together so we will spend little time traveling. Team up with your neighbor-member and cut down on the length of the procession.

## THE DAHLIA SHOW

The Minneapolis Dahlia Society is host this year to the Mid-West Dahlia Conference to be held September 10, 11 and 12 with headquarters at the Radisson Hotel.

The Dahlia Show will take place in the lobby of the Northwestern National Bank, Monday, September 11, from 12:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. and on Tuesday, September 12, from 10:00 A.M. to 9 P.M. This is the first time the Mid-West Conference has held its show in Minneapolis and it promises to be a great event. The annual banquet will be at the Radisson Hotel Ballroom, Monday evening, 7:00 P.M., with our own Harold Stephens presiding as the president of the Minnesota Dahlia Society and the Midwest Dahlia Conference. If you want to see dahlias at their perfect best, don't miss this.

### CHRYSANTHEMUM CAVALCADE

We have been invited to visit the Lehman Gardens in Faribault sometime in October when the gardens are just one riotous mass of color. Our wives will be invited to go along, if they promise not to want to "antique" on the way down. Returning, you'll be on your own, so you make the rules. More later.

### NOT RECOMMENDED

Soon after swallowing what he thought was an aspirin tablet, a man learned to his panicky dismay that the pellet was of the type his wife "fed" her petunia plants. Seeking immediate aid and advice, the man - who really had a headache by then - was calmed by an agricultural expert who explained that he had merely taken the equivalent of 18 bushels of horse manure and had nothing to worry about! (Contributed by Art Fakler)

### TESTERS! ARE YOU ON THE JOB?

Harold Kaufmann is going to be looking for some pretty complete records of your experiences with whatever it is you are growing as part of the Club's test program. So don't fail to record all your findings and turn your reports over to Harold as soon as your program comes to a conclusion.

### EMPHASIS ON VEGETABLES IN 1951?

Already the Department of Agriculture is beginning to talk about reviving the old Victory Garden program for next year. Your own Club's Victory Garden Committee is being reactivated and the first suggestion is that you had better start planning for 1951 and look around for suitable vacant lots for growing vegetables to supplement your own home garden.

### OUR NEW PARK BOARD PRESIDENT

One of our charter members, Walter P. Quist, was recently elected President of the Board of Park Commissioners by unanimous vote. Walter has been a member of the Board since 1935 and has held all other Park Board offices except that of President. Congratulations, Walter. We are happy to have you at the helm of a Board that has contributed so much to the beautification of the city and to the recreation of its citizens - especially its youth. We are proud of our city's parks, gardens and boulevards. We hope sufficient funds will be forthcoming to maintain their upkeep and make additional improvements. May we suggest as one improvement the modernization of the Municipal Rose Garden, which should be first to have on display the better modern roses and particularly the "All American" selections. The substitution of tree roses for the present climbers on the center trellises would add much charm to the gardens and give added color throughout the rose-blooming season.

## AUGUST GARDEN TOUR

In spite of the shortening daylight hours, we were able to visit six of our members' gardens, even though it was necessary for Archie Flack to run on the bright lights before we got through.

Our visit with the Bishops as hosts was a very delightful beginning of what turned out to be an extremely pleasurable tour. Of course Howard's extensive acreage so far overshadows the average garden from the standpoint of variety of shrubs, flowers, vegetables and fruits that it was necessary for one to come early to be able to take it all in. His evergreens, and particularly his Taxus (Japanese Yew), make a picture in themselves, and his huge display of day lilies, platicodon and phlox stood out above everything else, except for his vegetable garden where cabbages the size of flying saucers set a standard that would be hard to equal. The results of the Bishop-Flack dwarf apple tree experiment would appear to be turning into a major project and should in time provide dwarf apple trees for the whole Club membership.

Our Commissary Committee are certainly to be congratulated on the very fine meal they served which was easily one of the best we have had on any tour, both from the standpoint of quality, quantity and the dispatch with which it was served.

From Bishops we journeyed to Ray Bechtel's garden which had been neatly trimmed and readied to provide much brightness of color. His collection of Bee Balm or Monarda stood out like beacon lights and the effective use of wax begonias made colorful edgings.

Our next stop was at Joe Witmer's garden grove, which, because of the heavy shade, presents an entirely different garden problem than most open, sunny situations. Joe has done an extremely effective job of landscaping, selecting those plants that are shade-loving and introducing others in such situations so that the whole effect is most inviting. His tuberous begonias were out of this world, huge plants with tremendous blossoms which intermingled with the rocky greenery made an impressive picture. Here is a demonstration of what can be accomplished by a study of the kind of plants that fit into the environment in which one has to work.

Next, on to Interlachen, where we visited the Rices. Cortis has one of the largest perennial borders we have seen and probably as great a variety of perennials effectively used as one could wish to possess. His masterful use of Phlox, daisies, lilies, lupins and other perennials combined with annuals, particularly snapdragons, presented a garden picture difficult of description. No matter at what time of the year you are fortunate enough to visit the Rices, you will not only find the garden colorful but containing also many highlights of intense interest. Again, Cortis' Spring garden has few equals.

Heschmeyer's lovely little garden was the next on parade. Here, in a comparatively small space, you find a variety of plants which you would expect to find only in a wide, expansive yard. Furthermore, his plants were healthy, in perfect condition, and blooming profusely. In the open sun were huge pansies, the like of which you would expect to find in June only. All in all, it was a very delightful experience, one we were sorry to have to rush away from.

Last, and unfortunately almost at dusk, we arrived at Archie Flack's brand new garden which Archie probably had planned all Winter, but which didn't begin to take life until late in May for Archie just moved into the house in early Winter, too late to plant a single thing. Yet here was reflected in all its glory the master touch of a true horticulturist. His beds were banked so that every bloom from the smallest edging plants to those in the back of the beds and the medium-sized ones in between all

stood out in bold relief. Not only were colors blended to perfection, but the height of each plant must have been studied so that not one among over 2,000 annuals was lost from view.

Of course the trimming of his beds was just beyond belief - they looked as though he had used his newly-honed razor to cut and trim the edges. The lawn appeared as though it had been lifted out of a mold and no matter what tools were used to accomplish this work of perfection, again it reflected the handiwork of an artist the touch of an accomplished gardener, for none other could have created such sublime completeness!

Fortunately we were able to grasp the whole effect before it was necessary to resort to artificial lighting, but had the day been longer, I am sure we all would have lingered on and on in what one might almost describe as a gardener's dream.

#### FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEES

All members who were on the Spring Flower Show committees are asked to please function in the same capacity for our Fall Show to take place September 16 and 17. Will chairmen please take the initiative by calling their committee members together and start functioning? Schedules, entry blanks, tags, instructions, etc. will go forward to members in a few days.

#### WILD FLOWER LOVERS

We have a few more of Alfred Stefferud's handy little reference book entitled "How to Know the Wild Flowers." It's a well-illustrated, paper-bound booklet and a convenient aid for quick identification of wild flowers - it covers the 400 you are most apt to come across. Price is 35¢ and the Club Secretary has a few in stock.

#### WHY I DON'T CUT MY GRASS 2½ INCHES HIGH

By The Silver Fox

I believe all I read, particularly when it appears in the Garden Spray. So when I read that you should cut your grass 2½" high, I proceeded to set my mower to cut that high. However, no matter how I tried, I couldn't set it more than one inch. I even bought rubber tires to raise it to 1 1/8".

I began then to take notice how long or how short grass was being cut by other people and here my education began.

East, North, West and South I travelled, asking the same question, "How high do you cut your grass?" Most of the answers were "I don't know," so out came the ruler and the mower. We measured the height of the blades and what did I find? A polite interest in cutting the grass high, but no supporting fact. Mowers were set anywhere from 3/4" to 1 7/8" - but nary a one at 2½!

The highest was set at 1 7/8". He had a special roller and special brackets made. One set at 1 5/8" was a power mower with large rollers. The others were set around one inch or less and the owners had good lawns.

I don't know what George Luxton's grandmother would say, but I can't cut my grass 2½" if my mower won't cut higher than 1 1/8", and besides I think 2½" is too high anyway. The lawn does not look neat and trim. Give me the shorter grass for looks.

(Mr. Editor, do you or any other member want to take issue with this position?)

## NEWS AND VIEWS

Suppose you have been reading about the new Astalote series of Pacific hybrid delphiniums with shades ranging from pale pink to deep raspberry rose. The lighter pinks are reported to be beautiful, the magenta and raspberry are more difficult to work in with other colors in the garden. Vetterle and Reinelt of Capitola, Calif. are offering both seeds and seedling plants.

"Tat Flower Set" is a new plastic material for holding flowers securely in place in an arrangement. It is a hard fiber, plastic granular material with unusual strength that stays unchanged after standing in water for several days. Ideal for use in deep, narrow-mouthed vases in which conventional metal or other types of flower holders will not fit. It is claimed the material can be reused indefinitely.

The Richfield Garden Club Flower Show was quite a unique event, both in name and performance. Entitled the 1950 Floratennial featuring "My Minnesota," the flower arrangements depicted Minnesota in its beauty, its industry, its natural resources. Here were some of the classes for arrangements: The State Flower (any flower in a slipper arrangement), Canoe Derby (arrangement in a boat-shaped container), Minnesota Sunrise, Forests, Prairie Fires, Rivers and Streams, Father of Waters, Red River Balley, Minnesota Winter, Dairy Industry, Mesaba Range, Red Wing, Lumber Industry, Agriculture, Paul Bunyan, Twin Cities, U. of M., Ingenuity of Pioneers, Minnesota Hospitality. Many of the arrangements were unusually clever, extremely colorful, and quite ingenious in concept. A touch of charm was the background of lovely organ chamber music and the serving of tea.

The New York State Experimental Station is recommending four disease-resistant red raspberries - March, Milton, Indian Summer and September. They claim these varieties resist mosaic disease and even if infected will still produce a good crop. Indian Summer and September are everbearing raspberries producing one crop in summer, another in the fall.

Harry Franklin Baker has just completed a siege at the Eitel Hospital and is now resting at home. Drop in and say hello. He'd be most appreciative of a visit.

Congratulations to Jack Cohen who has just been nominated Director of Publicity for the Men's Garden Clubs of America.

The Edina and Morningside Garden Clubs held their fourth annual Flower Show on August 19 and 20, sponsored by the Edina-Morningside Lions Club - their theme being "Songfest of Flowers." Many of our members living in those two suburbs, participated and don't ever think the competition wasn't tough! The two organizations lived up to their past reputation for putting on a remarkable show, in interest, quality and artistry. Here are some of the song titles given the arrangement classes: All Alone, Over the Rainbow, June in January, Lovely to Look At, Tea for Two, One World, Begin the Beguine, My Man, Pomp and Circumstance. Altogether 33 arrangements lots were scheduled and some classes had as many as 12 entries. Many of our members took ribbons.

The waste material from Spanish moss used in furniture stuffing is the newest mulching material on the market. The waste has decomposed to form a springy moss ideal for mulching.

The Roy Edlunds took the grand champion ribbon for specimens at the Richfield Garden Club Flower Show last month with a perfectly gorgeous spray of the floribunda rose, Folkestone. It was a beauty.

Eugene Stern, writing in the April-May Bulletin of the Eastern New York Gladiolus Society, gives the following explanation of the "green thumb" legend: Auxin and indoleacetic acid in minute quantities act as stimulants to plant growth. These materials are excreted through human skin and some people excrete more than others. The amount of auxin needed is so very tiny that a touch by

## SEPTEMBER CHORES

Plant your daffodils as soon as you can get them delivered, the earlier the better. Prepare the soil well, mix in bonemeal, and set them in the ground so the top of the bulb is 4" below the surface. Arrange them in groups or drifts - just drop 6, 8 or 10 on the ground where you want them to grow and plant them where they fall.

Crocuses, snowdrops, grape hyacinths and scillas should be planted later in the month - set them 2 to 3 inches below the surface.

Most varieties of lilies should be planted in the Fall, including Madonna (candidum), The Wood Lily (canadense), the Turks Cap Lily (superbum), the Tiger Lily (tigrinum), the Nankeen Lily (testaceum), and of course many, many more. If you are really interested in lilies, you should have Alan and Esther MacNeil's book "Garden Lilies", which you can purchase through the Club for \$3.50.

It is not too late to sow poppy seeds - they'll be up in no time and winter well with a light covering.

The Lily of the Valley will do better if separated every 3 or 4 years. Retain the strongest pips and set 3" apart each way, just below surface of the ground.

Plants you wish to take into the house for the Winter can be potted any time now. It is best to allow them to become well established while the weather is still warm. Small plants of lantana, ageratum, verbena, coleus, marigold, bedding begonias, petunias and geraniums will make attractive potted plants if given lots of light.

Take up your gladiolus corms as soon as the leaves turn yellow. Cut the tops off flush with the bulbs and place in shallow box to dry. Do not leave them in the hot sun, and protect them from frost. Dust with 1 to 5% DDT, and after allowing to dry 4 to 5 weeks, remove old bulbs from the new, dust again, and store in cool, dry part of the basement.

Keep your mums well staked and feed them up to the time they start to bloom. Disbud for larger blooms. Treat your dahlias the same way - stake and feed them well and disbud for larger blooms and longer stems.

It's time to stop feeding, watering and cultivating your roses - this will give them a chance to harden off and be in better shape to go into the Winter. Keep up your dusting or spraying program, though, and remove leaves as they fall.

Vegetable gardens can be improved by sowing rye this month. It will be 4 or 5 inches high before Winter comes and can be plowed or spaded in early in the Spring. It will add humus. Digging compost into the soil will accomplish the same purpose.

If you are lucky enough to have room for a cold frame, transplant your lettuce plants into the frame and you'll enjoy fresh, home-grown lettuce on into early Winter. If your frame is tight, try sowing seeds of lettuce, parsley, radishes and carrots for crops during the Winter.

September is the time for dividing and replanting perennials (except Fall blooming plants). They should have at least 6 weeks of good growing weather to get established before the freeze.

Don't allow your phlox to go to seed - cut off the pods as soon as they form.

Squashes and pumpkins should be allowed to ripen thoroughly before harvesting - they'll keep much better - and remember to store them in a fairly warm place.

Hedges should not be trimmed or sheared this late or you'll force immature growth