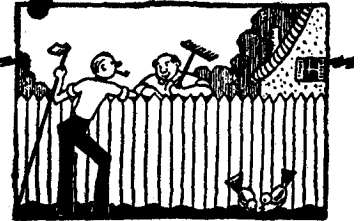




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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## TWO SEPTEMBER EVENTS

1. Fall Flower Show, September 11  
Park Board Greenhouses,  
38th & Bryant South
2. First Fall Meeting, September 14  
Bill Holmberg, Host,  
5303 Fremont Ave. North

## Officers

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

You have already received the Show schedule. Look it over carefully, checking off those classes for which you have flowers, fruits or vegetables growing in your garden. Don't pre-judge your specimens too severely or you'll be leaving uncut many potential "ribbon" winners. Then, too, why not try your hand at arrangements? They need not be large or elaborate to win honors; the more simple with but a few flowers or foliage often take first place. The "Show Suggestions" published in this issue should be of help to the less experienced.

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and Speakers' Bureau  
P. W. Young  
4544 Beard Ave. South

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417 Essex Building

Our September meeting on Tuesday, the 14th, should be most rewarding. Bill Holmberg has as large an assortment of the newer varieties of dahlias as you will find in the Twin Cities. His are front-rank winners in every show he enters.

In addition, Andy Nyberg will have an exhibition of the more popular miniatures, the favorites of amateurs, which he will discuss, giving their cultural requirements.

At the same meeting, Harold Kaufmann will talk about the newer mums,

## OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

By Bill Hull

Harold Kaufmann has a beautifully landscaped home with terraces in the rear and alongside a driveway. The area adjoining the driveway was a profuse mass of chrysanthemums last fall but is now filled with petunias, all in bloom. Perhaps Harold plans to transplant mums there later. Harold has recently added a charcoal barbecue grill which is a beautiful asset to the garden. Made of carefully fitted stones, it features a marble-topped area and an adjoining grill, the firebox of which can be adjusted to the selected height from the grate. And in addition to his many flowers, Harold has an outstanding vegetable garden, but complains of the pheasants' appetite for tomatoes.

Had a peek at Rene Dufourd's garden the other Sunday but couldn't leave the can because I arrived simultaneously with a downpour. However, I could see a lot of beautiful salvia in beds edged with Bishop's Mantle. I want to return to Rene's garden soon.

F. E. Benson is one of our newer members. "Benny" lives on Ewing Avenue and has a commendable garden. The windstorm of a few years ago took out seven of his big trees, opening up the yard a lot and providing a lot more sunshine. Benny likes to grow his own annuals from seed. In addition to the challenge, he feels his September bloom is better than from hothouse plants which have usually bloomed out by that time. Would be a good idea to mix both home-grown and greenhouse varieties for a prolonged season, he feels.

There must have been over 50 members at the August tour, starting with a lawn dinner at Stan Lund's, whose flowers we've discussed before. We heard a lot of fine comments about the roses. Stan feels that Red Favorite is an outstanding rose because it will bloom for two weeks without fading, an admirable quality. Several members praised the dahlias, Gerrie Hock and Grace, of which Stan has fine specimens. Others were enthusiastic about the World's Fair rose, a red.

Did you ever see so much bloom per square foot, such utilization of space, as at Tony Koester's? At least a hundred superb tuberous begonias are Tony's outstanding attraction. He grows them in clay pots sunk in the soil on the north side of his home, protected by an overhanging roof and an additional shelf of netting. Tony also has some gorgeous phlox that would be hard to beat right now in the Show. Everybody also said to be sure to see his tomatoes. They are staked to six feet, planted close together, and mulched with grass clippings. Doing beautifully too.

Over the coffee cups at Stan's I learned that crabgrass seed can sprout after 20 or 30 years of dormancy. Apparently I was one of the few who didn't know this fact. Otherwise I'd suppress it. That's the sort of news that should be kept from us. Who wants to know?

Garden gossip picked up over the fence . . .

When the iris tips turn brown, beware the borer for that's the first sign he's at work.

A remote control lawn mower operates on 110 volts and has pushbutton controls. A solenoid operates a ground lever which provides instantaneous turns.

A hose washer is easily kept in place if one side is coated with shellac before being inserted into the connector and then left tightened on a faucet overnight to dry.

A piece of wire or clothes hanger bent double makes an excellent "paddle" for stirring insecticides or paints. It's disposable too so there's no danger transferring 2-4-D to nicotine sulfate.

A recent experiment has proved worth while. After preparing the topsoil for sodding, I spread milorganite before laying it. The sod took beautifully and rapidly.

## ANNUAL FALL FLOWER SHOW - SEPTEMBER 11 & 12

All entries are to be in place by judging time - 3 P.M. sharp Saturday. Again this will be a "wide open" show, meaning you can show as many different entries in a class as you have varieties, but each variety must be specified. For example, you may enter as many varieties in each of the dahlia or mum classes as you wish, providing each variety is different. Where no varieties (unnamed) exist in color only, the color must be specified and only one entry may be made of each color. Judging will be strictly on the merit of the entry with no consideration given to the number of places awarded an exhibitor.

S. F. Pinkham, Sr., Chairman

### SHOW SUGGESTIONS

Remember the judging takes place the moment the judge sees your entry, therefore it must be well hardened to withstand heat of the room and immersed in water.

When more than one bloom is required, be sure your entry has the exact number of blooms specified in the schedule. A bud showing color is considered a bloom. Select the best you have but strive for uniformity if possible.

Identify your stuff. Be sure to put your entry number on the entry tag, as well as your name folded in at the bottom. Also place your name on the bottom of each container used for arrangements, house plants and potted material.

Place your exhibit early. If your entries are well hardened, you've no need to worry about how many hours before judging time they are placed. They will keep for days.

The Park Board Greenhouses will be open early on Saturday morning, September 11, so bring entries over and get them arranged before the crowd arrives about noon.

### Bring the Whole Family

The Family Basket Picnic will be held at the Park Board Paint Shop, Saturday at 5:30 P.M. Plan to bring along the whole family and their friends.

### Flower Show Musts

1. Watch the garden for 10 days before the show.
2. Cut late the previous evening and harden off.
3. Cut long stems and extra flowers.
4. Use a sharp knife and cut on a slant.
5. Remove excess foliage.
6. Crush woody stems.
7. Sear, or dip in boiling water, the ends of milky stems.
8. Set in deep water; place in a cool spot out of drafts.

### Qualifications to Watch

1. Color: clear, not muddy.
2. Size: uniform, large.
3. Form: typical of the variety.
4. Substance: mature and fully developed but not past prime.
5. Individual blooms: side buds showing color count as additional blooms.
6. Stems: long, uniform in length, straight and strong without blemish.
7. Formation: flowers well set on stems; terminal flower looking at the sky.
8. Foliage: remove all below water line. Remove imperfect leaves.
9. Condition: all entries should be free of disease and pests.

### FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

S. F. Pinkham, Sr.

General Chairman

Staging

Charles Lampright

Registration

George Titus

## THINGS TO DO

Sure enough, bulb planting time is around the corner with daffodils already waiting to get going. Plant them early - the earlier the better - but prepare the soil good and deep; add lots of bonemeal and a little sand on the bottom to contribute to good drainage. While looking through the catalogs at the enticing new varieties, don't overlook some of the old standbys that have performed so faithfully over the years.

As a winter protection, set daffodil bulbs in the ground so the top is not less than 6 inches below the surface. And as with all spring bulbs, try planting them in drifts as nature's wildflowers grow - roll the bulbs out of a paper bag and plant them where they fall.

A bit later, plant the fragrant hyacinth, the colorful crocus, scilla, galanthus, muscari, and be sure to mix in some roots of mertensia. Give your spring blooming perennials the once over. September is dividing and transplanting time. Here again a well dug bed, well enriched with compost or manure, will pay big dividends in health and bloom next year. Watch the lily of the valley for overcrowding; retain the strongest pips and set them 3 inches apart just below the surface. Don't touch the fall blooming perennials until spring.

Mums will reward you if given a good feeding right up to blooming time. And remember the plants can be moved at any stage in the growth, including the time they are in bloom. Choose a dull day or after sundown in the evening - give them a shot of transplanting solution and shade them from the hot rays of the sun for a day or two.

See that your dahlias are securely staked. Give them ample water, disbud for larger blooms and longer stems.

Roses will continue to give of their best until clipped by Old Man Frost, but they should be placed on a strict starvation diet starting immediately - no food, little water and stop cultivating. This will help harden the canes and allow them to go into the winter with a minimum of new growth. Keep up your spraying program ~~through~~ until the last leaves fall and remove the fallen leaves from the bed. It's also time to stop feeding and cultivating shrubs; don't prune at this late date or you'll encourage new growth and weaken the plant against the hazards of winter.

When the gladiolus are through blooming and the leaves turn yellow, the corms are ready to be taken up. Cut the tops off flush with the corms and place in a shallow box to dry. Keep them out of the hot sun and protect against frost. Dust with 5% DDT and after allowing them to dry 4 to 5 weeks, remove old corms from the new, dust again, and store in a cool, dry part of the basement.

Sow your "wild oats" in the vegetable patch and you'll have a better garden next spring. Two pounds of winter rye per 100 square feet will add humus to the soil and improve its structure. Digging in compost or manure will serve the same purpose.

Next month you'll be wanting to plant tulips and lilies, but get your order for bulbs in early, particularly of the newer varieties, or you're likely to be disappointed.

How about sprinkling a little lime around your lilac bushes and working it into the ground? Will help your blooms, come spring, providing you haven't been trimming off the flower buds this fall - lilacs bloom on second-year wood.

## FOR BETTER LAWNS

In early September the days become shorter, the nights cooler and the fall rains more promising. It's Nature's - and the successful gardener's - lawn-making time. Fall weather is ideal for quick germination and sturdy development of grass. Late summer and early fall lawns will have a luxuriant top growth and deep sturdy root growth by the time winter comes.

Maybe you have just moved into a new home and must make a new lawn; or you have an established lawn but one that has gone through a hard summer - no matter what your lawn problem, fall is the best season to take care of it.

If you feel it best to make a new lawn rather than try to condition it, follow these simple steps:

1. Spade deeply. Lawn-making starts with the preparation of the soil. Spade to a depth of at least six inches and pulverize thoroughly.
2. Apply a reliable commercial fertilizer. Use 3 pounds per 100 square feet of area. This assures an ample supply of all the nutrients needed by grass for best growth and development. Be sure to apply it evenly, using a spreader if available.
3. Work plant food into the soil. Use a rake or any other appropriate tool and work the plant food into the top 3 or 4 inches of the soil.
4. Seed with good grass seed. Get a mixture containing at least 40% blue grass and spread at the rate of 4 to 5 pounds per 1000 square feet. If you sow by hand, sow half lengthwise and half crosswise.
5. Roll the lawn. This will embed the seed and assure close seed-soil contact. A tamper or wide board can be used on small areas when a roller is not available. This is an important step; do not omit it.
6. Water often. Use a fine spray that will not disturb or move the seed. Water each day that it doesn't rain for 3 weeks. This will insure uniform germination of the seed. After the grass is up, the daily sprinkling can be stopped.

Follow these steps and the grass will develop a strong root system before winter comes. This kind of root system means a thick, green turf next summer.

### Revitalizing an Established Lawn

If you decide it best to keep the established sod that you have, and re-work the bare and thin spots, eradication of weed growth will probably be the first job. This is easily done with a selective lawn weed killer. When the weeds begin to die, apply complete plant food at the rate of 3 pounds per 100 square feet over the entire area. Be sure to knock the plant food off the grass blades with the back of a rake. Soak the lawn thoroughly.

Three or four days later, loosen the soil on thin and bare spots. Large bare spots should be spaded. Reseed these areas with a good grass seed. Roll or tamp the newly seeded areas. Daily sprinkling of water will hasten the germination and help you to secure a good stand of grass.

## FRUIT BREEDING IN THE MAKING

If you were among the 60 who visited the University of Minnesota Fruit Breeding Farm on Sunday afternoon, August 29, I am sure you enjoyed the outing and came away richer for the experience and impressed with the thoroughness with which the experiments are undertaken, as well as the wide scope of the work that is being conducted.

We are indebted to Dr. Leon Snyder for the privilege not only of touring the Fruit Breeding Farm but of being able to meet and discuss the results of experiments with those in charge, particularly Drs. Sloan and Wilcox and the Assistant Superintendent, Ted Weir.

The tour was exceptionally well handled; the men riding in an open truck, with their ladies (and a few sissy men) on a trailer with benches being pulled by tractor; each vehicle was accompanied by those responsible for the experiments which we were viewing.

We saw literally hundreds of trees in all stages of development with a fantastic number of variety crosses; some hybrids, some imported stock including apples, pears, plums, apricots, peaches, crabapples and approximately 150 different varieties of ornamental trees and shrubs not commonly grown in this area.

Archie Flack and our Program Committee are to be congratulated for making this visit possible.

## MEMBERS IN ACTION

Did you take in the Minnesota Horticultural Society's State Convention held in Mankato August 20 and 21? They had an exceptionally fine program in which many of our members participated, including:

Cortis Rice, Jr., vice-president, who, in addition to presiding over the Friday afternoon session, also gave an interesting talk on Friday evening. His subject was "Club Records and Communications."

That same evening at the Leadership Conference, Herb Kahlert spoke on "Planning the Program."

Saturday morning under the subject "The Greatest Flower of All," Henry Elieff championed "The Gladiolus," and Stanley Lund upheld the queen of all flowers, "The Rose."

The principal speaker at the Saturday noon luncheon was our Dr. Leon Snyder, head of the department of Horticulture at the University of Minnesota, who gave an interesting talk on some of the experimental work being accomplished by his department.

Two of our distinguished professional members were singled out for special recognition: Henry Bachman was awarded the Bronze Medal for his contribution to horticulture, and Louis Fischer was awarded a lifetime membership in the Society.