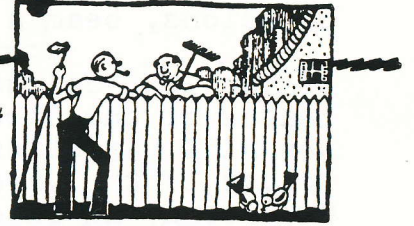




BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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

April 1982, Volume 40, Number 4



NEXT MGCM MEETING

TUESDAY EVENING APRIL 13, 1982

LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
CHOWEN AVENUE SOUTH at 49th STREET  
(Enter by Door Facing the Parking Lot)

DINNER 6:00 P.M.            PRICE \$5.00

Our PROGRAM will be a panel discussion on the subject "ALL ABOUT VEGETABLES".  
Panel members will be:

- Orrin Turnquist, a professional in that field.
- Bob Smith on container vegetable growing and on organic gardening.
- Ray Marshall on growing vegetables in small spaces.
- Archie Caple on soils and composting.

Come prepared to ask questions of this well informed panel. This is your chance to prepare yourself for a good and well planned vegetable garden this year.

GET YOUR RESERVATION CARD BACK PROMPTLY!

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MGCM will observe Arbor Day in early May by planting a tree in Lyndale Park. Details next month.

1982 MCGM PLANT AUCTION PREVIEW

Date:                      Wednesday, May 12, 1982

Place:                     Linden Hills Recreational Center  
                                  Xerxes Avenue South and West 43rd Street

Donations of plants and gardening items to sell are needed for our expanded Country Store. Seedlings and high quality perennial divisions donated by members are necessary for success, so plan to share some of your prized items with the club.

Many changes will be made to this year's sale. These changes should speed up the sale and make this event more fun for everyone. Your suggestions will be appreciated.

Co-Chairmen:    Bob Livingston            and            Carlton Nelson

## ANNUALS FOR SHADE

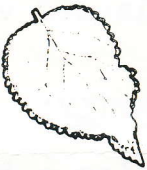


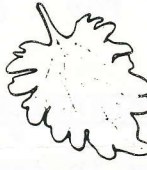
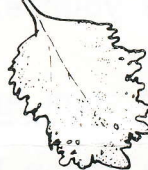

You may have some dark, shady spots in your garden, but you don't have to be in the dark about what to plant there. The last few years have brought a number of possibilities from plant breeders, all aimed at brighter colors, varying textures, and season-long performance. Coleus, impatiens and fibrous-rooted begonias offer a wide selection of textures, forms and colors from which to choose. For special effects or special occasions, beam a spotlight on them for night-time enjoyment.

If you like coleus, for instance, you can choose from the long, saberlike leaves of the Saber varieties; the broad, almost heart-shaped leaves of the Fiji varieties with their fringed leaf edges; the deeply-lobed oaklike leaves of the Carefrees, or the Wizards with their Rainbow-type leaves. The newest in coleus types, a cascading coleus, is bred especially for hanging baskets.

All of these coleus types come in an array of colors that include rose, pink, scarlet, bronze, yellow and gold. They can be grown in shady corners, on your patio in tubs or hanging baskets, or on your kitchen window sill.

Then there are the newer, shorter impatiens varieties Super Elfin and Fantasia compact, basal branching, in a wide color range for pots, tubs, hanging baskets or mass plantings. There are even bicolored Fantasias.

Fibrous begonias give you another choice for shady areas. They have the added advantage of thriving in both sun and shade. To mention two: 'Pink Avalanche'<sup>TM</sup> has been bred for hanging baskets. It does not produce seed, but keeps blooming profusely in an effort to reproduce itself. 'Frilly Red' F<sub>1</sub> hybrid begonia is especially nice in pots but also does well in mass plantings.

<b>COLEUS—UNIQUE PLANT FOR PARTIAL SUN OR SHADE</b>						
<b>SHAPE</b>						
<b>VARIETY</b>	<i>Rainbow</i>	<i>Saber</i>	<i>Carefree</i>	<i>Dragon</i>	<i>Fiji</i>	<i>Wizard</i>
<b>LEAF TYPE</b>	<i>Large</i>	<i>Small, tapered.</i>	<i>Small, deeply lobed.</i>	<i>Large, moderately lobed.</i>	<i>Large, fringed.</i>	<i>Large, heart-shaped.</i>
<b>HABIT</b>	<i>Vigorous growth.</i>	<i>Base-branching. Slow to flower.</i>	<i>Dwarf, self-branching. Very bushy.</i>	<i>Vigorous, erect.</i>	<i>Bushy and erect.</i>	<i>Base-branching, compact.</i>
<b>USES</b>	<i>Packs, pots, hanging baskets.</i>	<i>Packs, pots, hanging baskets, tubs.</i>	<i>Pots. Great for chain-store sales. Tub.</i>	<i>Good garden performance.</i>	<i>Packs, tubs, planters, mass beds.</i>	<i>Packs, pots, hanging baskets.</i>

THE PLEASURE OF GARDENING -- Food for the stomach, joy for the eyes, exercise for the body. A lot of pleasure is going to waste if you are not gardening. If you have a sunny piece of land and are up to doing moderate physical labor, you owe it to yourself to plant a food and flower garden. Pull the plug on the TV. Put away the grownup toys. Involve yourself in life. Gardening can make you feel good about yourself. Try it!

--F.A.C. McCulla in THE YARDNER



Thoughts From the Gazebo

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As I write this article, the calendar indicates that it is mid-March and the weather the past week has been almost spring like. The temperatures have been in the high thirties or low forties and the latest precipitation has been in the form of rain. The snow on the ground is settling fast and the garden around the gazebo is showing its winter mulch in a few places.

The transplanting of annual seedlings is going on at a feverish pitch, and I'll be moving the perennials and cabbage crops out into the cold frames in early April. This will give me much needed room under the lights for the more tender transplants and the seeding trays of tender vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, and egg plant. These tender vegetables should not be seeded any earlier than about six weeks before they are to be set out into the garden.

Outdoor gardening generally begins in April, for when the soil dries out enough to be workable, the garden can be tilled and the cold weather crops such as peas, beets, carrots, radishes, lettuce, and potatoes can be direct seeded and the cabbage family of transplants planted. This is also the month to get that winter mulch off the perennial and rose beds and tip those roses back up from their winter position.

The program for our April meeting will consist of a panel of MGOM experts, discussing vegetable gardening. Be prepared to ask that question which will give you the answer to that perplexing problem you have been having in regard to raising your favorite vegetable. Join us in April, for an exciting evening.

Jerry Shannon

## WHY SHOULD YOU PLANT PERENNIALS?

(Adapted from an article in GREEN FINGERS, Toledo, Ohio MGC)

The word "Perennial" as used by gardeners is really a shortening of the term "Hardy Herbaceous Perennial" which is the correct name for those plants which live from year to year in cold climates but whose tops die down to the ground each winter. We value perennials for providing a permanent, dependable display in home landscape and garden. They are often classed as the backbone of the flowering garden.

A wealth of color is provided by perennials over the entire growing season with every imaginable color and color combination. By careful planning, color schemes may be carried out to give maximum interest and to even change with the months.

Permanence is a major attribute of perennials. Your basic design and color schemes will be back each year. Additional perennials can be added until you reach the effect desired, rivaling a mass display of annuals. Annuals, of course, can be used as fillers until the beds are completed.

Cut flowers are provided by many of the perennials as an extra bonus. By the selection of certain plants, perennials will provide bloom from early spring until late autumn frost puts an end to gardening activities.

Mass planting of perennials gives breath-taking beauty and can be planned to move the center of attention with the seasons throughout your landscape.

Perennials can effectively be used for ground covering, keeping maintenance at a minimum while adding, at the same time, to the attractiveness of the over-all landscape.

The multitude of heights and sizes available in perennials can be very useful. Small ones for transition from lawn, patio, etc. to larger plantings; medium sized ones for fillers and features; larger ones for background.

Most of the flowers mentioned by your parents and grandparents are perennials. Many have religious and/or ethnic significances. These associations make perennials interesting to grow.

SOIL PREPARATION: Most perennials are deeper rooted than the annuals (such things as Iris and Phlox would be an exception) and will remain in the same location for many years. However, they do not have the extensive root system of trees and shrubs which can draw nourishment from a wide area. Thus, the perennial bed should be worked as deeply as possible before it is planted and enriched with well rotted or dehydrated cow manure, leaf mold, etc. worked down. The full depth of a spading fork is minimum.

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MGCA RECOGNIZED: In a recent issue of "FLOWER AND GARDEN" magazine under "PEOPLE IN HORTICULTURE" we noted "John H. Leonard of Van Wert, Ohio, is new president of Men's Garden Clubs of America". Under "MISCELLANY" was, "Happy anniversary to Men's Garden Clubs of America, which will soon be

MEMBERSHIP CARDS and 1982 DIRECTORIES were given out at the March meeting. If you were not at the meeting or if you failed to get yours it is enclosed with this copy of the SPRAY.

## 1983 MGCA APPOINTMENT CALENDAR

The 1983 MGCA Appointment Calendar will be available this year with delivery in late August or early September. Orders will be taken until June 30th. It will follow last year's most successful format of large colorful pictures taken by our national members, accompanied by easy-to-write-on calendar months. The retail price for the calendar is being held at just two dollars, a real bargain anywhere. What is new is this:

### 4 ADDITIONAL PAGES OF GARDENING INFORMATION

The 1983 calendar will be increased to 32 pages with the additional 4 pages containing gardening information furnished by MGCA members. Some will be on a given subject, though brief. Most will be gardening tips of interest to all gardeners and will be kept brief with the general public in mind.

Your MGCM Calendar Committee will contact each member soon to encourage you to participate in our sales campaign. This year you will have the calendars in plenty of time to sell some after you receive them. So think of how many you can use yourself and then how many you can sell to friends or neighbors, either now or this fall when you will have them to show and deliver. Then place your order with the Calendar Committee before June 30th. If it is convenient, please pay for your order then.

Last year, advertising calendars were a large part of our club order. For an additional ten cents, an advertising message is attached to the bottom of the last page of the calendar and is visible all year. We may be the only source available where a business can order as few as 25 calendars with an advertising message. It gives us a chance to mention it to our many business friends and make additional profit for our club. Some MGCA clubs are lining up orders of 1000 and more and there may be a special price for orders of 500 or more. If your company or a company you know is interested, a sample advertising calendar for 1982 is available to show. Just ask your committee.

Some of our members took the chance to have their personal greetings printed as a message at the bottom of the calendar. This makes a great personalized Christmas card. Ask your wife what she thinks of the idea. Borrow an advertising calendar to show her.

Advertising calendars will be shipped a week or two later than the standard calendars. Because those orders usually are for larger amounts than the individual orders for standard calendars, terms are:

Advertising calendars paid for with order	\$2.00
Advertising calendars paid for on delivery	2.10

Remember, until the MGCA Calendar Committee develops an adequate calendar fund, our MGCM club needs to send a check in full for all calendars ordered. Within a year or two, we may be able to take orders with payment on delivery. But this year, at least, we need your cooperation.

Please get behind our calendar sales campaign. Every 5 calendars you order means an extra \$1.50 in our club treasury. What better way is there to help support our club and our projects.

Your MGCM Calendar Committee