The Garden Spray

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

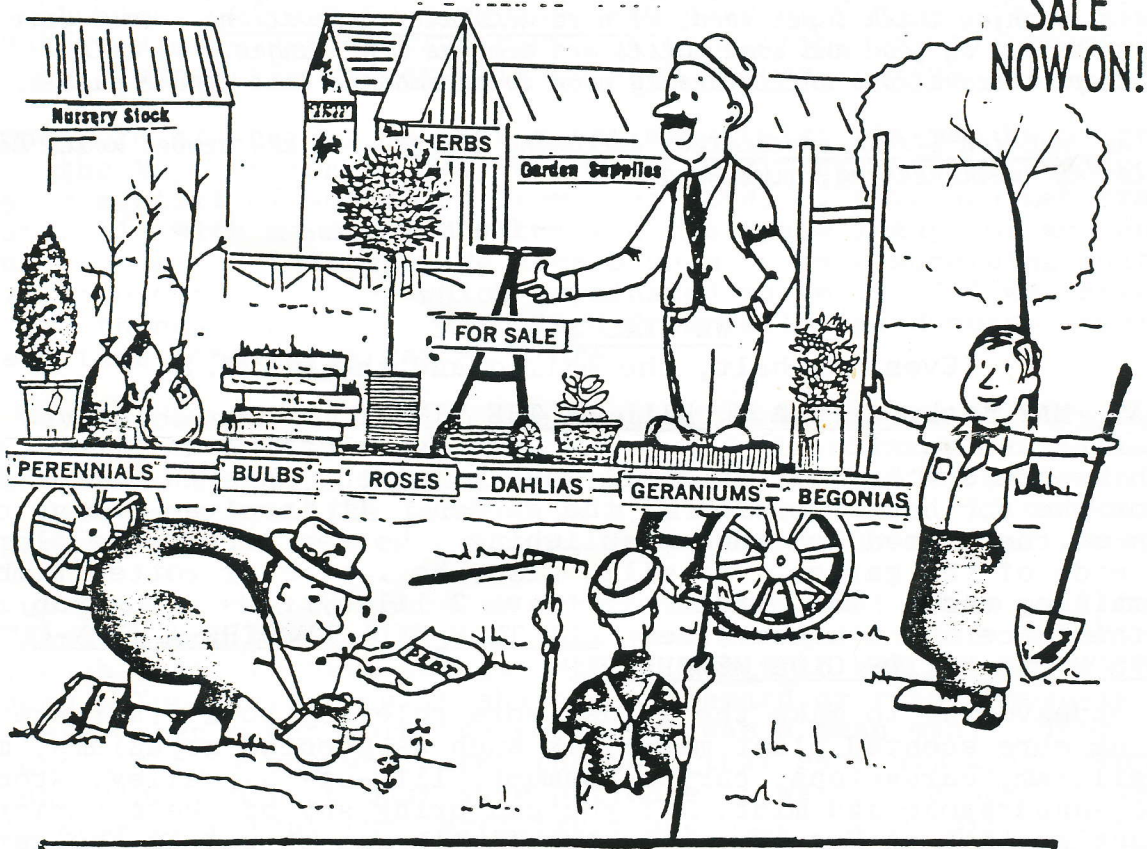
Member--Mens Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society

MAY 1981, Volume 39, Number 5

EXTRA!! EXTRA!

LARGE CLOSING OUT AUCTION

EXTRA! EXTRA!



TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS IN MAY

Event one - Annual Plant Sale and Auction - Tuesday, May 12th
Linden Hills Park Recreation Building - 43rd and Xerxes Avenue South
Country Store 5:15 P.M., Dinner 6:15 P.M. - $4.50
Auction 6:45 P.M.

Event Two - Community Garden Planting - Saturday, May 16th
see page two for details

GARDEN EQUIPMENT — you'll find everything you need — NURSERY STOCK

AUCTION AUCTION HEY HEY HEY AUCTION AUCTION

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

MAY PLANT AUCTION BONANZA

At 5:15 P.M. Tuesday, May 12th, the doors to "The Country Store" will open at Linden Hills Recreation Center. Featured will be items donated by members, roses with expert advice by a rosarian, and some commercially grown plants at a fixed price for those who like to buy without bidding.

If you have always wanted one of Dr. Leon Snyder's excellent gardening books, Leon will personally autograph one for you on the spot - all profits to the club.

More of our members live in town houses and condominiums and there is an increasing trend to decks and patios. Because of this we will have an exceptional selection of patio plants and hanging baskets.

DeLaria's caters some of the best food in town. However, if all of us are to enjoy their super food, we need accurate reservations. Last year we ran out of food and some guests and members went hungry. We will accept reservations until Tuesday noon to accomodate last minute guests.

The auction starts immediately following dinner. If any member would like to try auctioneering, give me a call!

— Bob Livingston

WE NEED EVERYONE

(Even the halt, the maimed and the blind.)

SATURDAY, MAY 16th, at 9 A.M. WILL BE THE TIME of planting and construction at the Community Garden, 19th Street and Aldrich Avenue South. Ray Marshall, our president, has an attractive new plan for the southeast portion of the garden. It involves taking down a portion of the raised bed and establishing a border across the Aldrich Avenue side of the garden. We will, also, be replacing rotted timbers on the remaining beds. The border will have 2 lilac trees, 14 shrub roses along the fence and 3 arborvitae. ALL THIS WILL REQUIRE A TURN-OUT OF ALL HANDS FROM OUR ENTIRE CLUB MEMBERSHIP.

We are endeavoring to make the garden more relevant to a fragrance garden by having more scented plant materials such as scented geraniums, marigolds, sweet william, carnations, chrysanthemums, lily-of-the-valley, stocks, nicotiana, snapdragons and mint. If you can bring any of these varieties to the plant auction on May 12, they very likely can be put in the garden if not sold at the auction.

We will also have an herb garden planted with the assistance of some women from the Herb Society. More perennials are needed for our perennial border. We have some varieties but more are needed. The list we had last year is still to be completed. We need additional iris, hosta, daylilies, astible, bleeding-heart, baby's-breath, campanula carpatica, columbine, coral-bells, delphinium, dianthus, hibiscus "Dixiebelle", ferns, lythrum, oenothera, lily-of-the-valley, peony and creeping thyme.

You may not be able to contribute any of these varieties. However, if you wish you can make a cash donation towards the purchase of any of them. Such an expenditure can be used as a tax deduction either to the Men's Garden Club or through an arrangement made with the Minneapolis Society for the Blind.

We'll see you all Saturday May 16th at 9 A.M.

--Nate Siegel

RAY'S NATURE

One of the most important parts of my garden club experience is the sharing members do with each other. Sharing can come in two or three different forms. The first is the sharing of knowledge. Whenever a club member is in the need of knowledge we have hundreds of years of experience in the club. Someone knows what you want to know. Otto Nelson has always been more than generous with his knowledge of rock garden plants, particularly when I was setting up my own rock-wall garden. Bob Savory has helped me with his knowledge of how to grow and take care of Hostas. Some of our best speakers at the garden club meetings come from our own membership sharing their expertise and experience with the rest of us.

The second form of sharing is with plant materials. It may be by bringing plants to the May Auction country store or by giving a fellow gardener a seedling or a start of something from your yard. I have had members share plant materials with me and I try to have the spade ready for action when a gardener comes to visit me. We always seem to have something that doesn't quite fit into our garden or which germinated above the 75% we anticipated. Some of the things that I have received from fellow gardeners I would have had a hard time finding in garden stores.

Another way gardeners share with one another is in a time of stress in a fellow gardener's family. When Dick Hulbert died, a group of gardeners tipped the roses for Mrs. Hulbert and brought them back up again in the spring. Gardeners are like farmers in a farm community. If someone can't tend a garden because of some setback, help is usually not far away.

Opening up your garden to tours so others may see what works well together or what innovations you are trying this year is another form of sharing. We need, each year, to have new gardens to visit to get new ideas for our own gardens. Yes, gardening is sharing. I heard or read somewhere lately, "I have never seen a man work the soil that was a mean man." There is a certain quality to a man who works the soil that sets him apart from others. To grow anything a person must have patience to watch the seed emerge from the soil; knowledge that the fertilizers and other chemicals used will work properly; hope that nothing will spoil his crop; and, always, the ability to share his time, his energy and his knowledge to further spread the joy of gardening to others. It has been my experience that there are many such men in the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

--Ray Marshall

LOOKING AHEAD

August 22 and 23, 1981 are the days for the Flower and Vegetable Show at the Arboretum. Now is the time to plan and to purchase at the Plant Auction the flowers and vegetables for your show entries. A list of the categories comes with this issue of the SPRAY. We expect every member to enter the show.

--The Show Committee

SOIL IMPROVEMENT WITH GYPSUM

by Phil Smith

Gypsum does work! If you have clay soil, I suggest you apply some gypsum this spring. It does an effective job of breaking down the clay and improving the soil texture, and rather quickly.

Gardeners have probably seen ads on the product under various brands, sometimes with the slogan "millions of tiny hoes". It is available at most garden stores in 40 or 50 pound plastic bags (which give the application rate) at approximately $3.00 to $4.50 per bag. If one has access to discarded plaster or drywall gypsum board, that will work also, but the bags are easy to handle and store.

I have applied gypsum to my new garden space the last two years, once in spring and again in autumn, and the soil improvement this spring was remarkable. By using the product, along with some compost, I have accomplished in two years what normally would take 5 or 6 years by using traditional methods of incorporating sand, compost or other organic material.

My method was to broadcast the gypsum on top of the soil prior to forking it over in the spring, which tends to mix it well with the soil. Then I spread a little more on top of the soil, after spading, and rake or hoe it in the top few inches. I have made another application again in the fall.

For the third time during my gardening in Minnesota, I have moved to a place with very heavy clay soil or yellow "gumbo". At my past two gardens, I improved the soil by adding some sand and compost or other organic material for a couple of years, followed by annual additions of a significant amount of compost. I eventually produced a good deep dark well-textured soil, but the annual improvement was slow and it took at least five years.

The sun and the elements, freezing and thawing, help to naturally break up clay over the years as the soil is continually turned and cultivated. Of course, organic material needs to be added. But, the point is that it takes a lot of time, several years, if the clay is really sticky.

I happily report that you can believe the reports and ads on gypsum, and I recommend its use, at least according to my experience. Follow the package directions on rates of application. However, I used approximately 1½ or 2 times the suggested rate the first time, with apparent good results. I have no real knowledge of the accuracy of the suggested rates; but since the product does not burn like fertilizer, and is a rather inert and natural product, it does not appear harmful to increase the rate or frequency of application.

A University soil specialist, or perhaps Dr. Synder or Jack Kolb, could probably give more information, if one desires. My report is that it works and I suggest its use. Try it, you'll like it.

REPORTED AT THE APRIL MEETING: Bill Hull, a past president of MGCA, was hospitalized 12 days for congestive heart failure but is now home recuperating. His planned neck surgery had to be deferred.

Two other past MGCA presidents were also in the news. Sam Fairchild of North Carolina was badly injured in an accident in which his car ran over him and A. Ray Tillman died after a long illness.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS
1981 FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW

SCHEDULE OF FLOWER ENTRIES
SECTION A

CLASS NUMBER		
1	African Daisy	3 blooms
2	Aster	3 blooms
3	Balsam	1 stalk
4	Begonia-Tuber-Rose*	1 bloom
5	Gegonia-Tuber-Carnation*	1 bloom
6	Begonia-Tuber-Others* (4, 5, 6, no leaves)	1 bloom
7	Begonia-Fibrous*	1 branch
8	Calliopsis*	1 branch
9	Canna	1 spike
10	Celosia-Plumed	1 stalk
11	Celosia-Crested	1 stalk
12	Chrysanthemum	1 spray
13	Chrysanthemum-Spoon or Quill	1 spray
14	Chrysanthemum-Exposition	1 bloom
15	Clematis (Branch not over 36" Exhibitor provide support)	1 branch
16	Cleome	1 stalk
17	Coleus-Foliage	1 stalk
18	Coreopsis*	5 blooms
19	Cosmos*	5 blooms
20	Dahlia- AA or A A-Cactus C-Formal B-Semi-Cactus D-Informal	1 bloom
21	Dahlia- B A-Cactus C-Formal B-Semi-Cactus D-Informal	1 bloom
22	Dahlia- BB, Minature, Pom Pom	3 blooms
23	Dahlia- Unwin, Colt	3 blooms
24	Delphinium	1 spike
25	Dianthus- Pinks*	5 blooms
26	Carnation-Garden*	3 blooms
27	Digitalis	1 stem
28	Gaillardia*	3 blooms
29	Geranium	1 stem
30	Gladiolus A Large B Small	1 stalk
31	Heliopsis*	3 blooms
32	Hemerocallis- Day Lilly	1 branch
33	Hibiscus (Furnish own container	1 bloom
34	Heuchera- Coral Bells*	3 stems
35	Hollyhock	1 stem
36	Hosta	1 stem
37	Impatiens	1 branch
38	Lathyrus-Perenial Sweet Pea*	5 stems
39	Liatris	1 stem
40	Lily	1 stalk
41	Lupine	1 stem
42	Lythrum*	3 stems
43	Marigold-2½" and over	3 blooms
44	Marigold- under 2½"	3 blooms
45	Pansy- not Viola*	3 blooms
46	Passion Vine (Branch not over 36" Exhibitor provide support)	1 branch
47	Petunia-double	1 branch
48	Petunia-grand	1 branch
49	Petunia-single mult.	1 branch
50	Phlox-Annual*	3 branches
51	Phlox-Perennial*	1 spike
52	Rose-Hybrid Tea A-Red C-White E-Orange & Apricot B-Pink D-Yellow F-Bicolor	1 bloom
53	Rose-Floribundia-Poly.* A-Red C-White E-Orange & Apricot B-Pink D-Yellow F-Bicolor	1 spike
54	Rose-Grandiflora*	1 spike
55	Rose-Miniature*	1 stem
56	Rose-Climber	1 stem
57	Rudbeckia-Gloriosa Daisy	3 blooms
58	Salpiglossis	3 stems
59	Salvia-Annual	3 stalks
60	Salvia-Perennial	3 blooms
61	Shasta Daisy*	3 blooms
62	Snapdragon A-Standard B-Butterfly	3 spikes
63	Verbena	3 branches
64	Veronica	3 stalks
65	Zinnia A Large Dahlia B Cactus C All other	3 blooms
66	Other Annuals** Browallia, Lantana, Nicotiana, Stocks, Vinca, etc.	
67	Other Perennials** Achellea, Astilbe, Campanula, Columbine, Lychnis, Monarda, Pentsteman, Potentila, Pyrethrum, Solidago, etc.	

*Denotes specimen to be shown in a pint container.
**Other varieties to be judged separately for awards.

SCHEDULE OF POTTED PLANTS AND HANGING BASKETS
SECTION B

CLASS NUMBER		
66	Begonia	Potted
	A-Wax	
	B-Rex	
67	Begonia-Tuberous	Potted or hanging
68	Begonia-Fibrous	Potted or hanging
69	Ferns	Potted or hanging
70	Aspapagus Ferns	Potted or hanging
71	Succulents	Potted
	A-Non-needled	
	B-Needled	
	C-Aloes	
72	Palms	Potted
73	Ficus	Potted
74	Dieffenbachia	Potted
75	Prayer Plant (Maranta)	Potted
76	Aralia, Croton, Fatsia	Potted
77	Schefflera	Potted
78	Dracaena	Potted
79	Norfolk Pine	Potted
80	Gloxinia	Potted
81	African Violets	Potted
	A-Blues & Purples	
	B-White	
	C-Pinks & Reds	
82	African Violet Miniatures	Potted
83	Episcia	Potted
84	Streptocarpus and other Gesneriads	Potted
85	Orchids	Potted
	A-Cattleya	
	B-Paphiopedilum	
	C-Phalaenopsis	
	D-All others	
86	Terrariums & Dish Gardens	
87	Bonsai	
88	Vining Foliage Plants	
	A-Potted	
	B-Hanging baskets	
89	Other potted house plants	
90	Other non-vining house plants in hanging baskets	

SCHEDULE OF VEGETABLE ENTRIES
SECTION C

101	Beans - bush	12
	A Green; B Wax; C Lima	
102	Beans - pole	12
	A Green; B Wax; C Lima	
103	Beets-table	5
104	Broccoli	1 head
105	Brussel sprouts	12
106	Cabbage	1 head
107	Carrots	5
108	Cauliflower	1 head
109	Celery	1 stalk
110	Corn-sweet	3 ears
	A Yellow; B White; C Bicolor	
111	Cucumber	
	A Slicing	3
	B Pickling (below 5")	6
112	Eggplant	1
113	Kohlrabi	3
114	Leek	3
115	Muskmelon	1
116	Okra	5 Pods
117	Onion	3
	A Yellow; B White; C Red	
118	Parsnips	3
119	Peppers	
	A Sweet Bell	3
	B Long hot	6
	C Any other pepper	3
120	Potatoes	5
	A White; B Red; C Russet	
121	Pumpkin	1
	A Small pie	
	B Field & Big Max	
122	Squash	
	A Summer	3
	B Winter	1
123	Tomato	
	A Red	3
	B Yellow	3
	C Small Preserving	6
124	Watermelon	1
125	Other vegetables not listed	
126	Apples	
	A Standard	3
	B Crab	6
127	Grapes	3 bun.
128	Pears	3
129	Plums	6
130	Raspberries	1 pt.
131	Strawberries	1 pt.
132	Other fruits not listed	
133	Patio vegetables	Potted
	Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, etc.	
134	Herbs	Potted

PLANT PROPAGATION FROM CUTTINGS, Installment 4

D. Cameron Smith, Minneapolis MGC

Cuttings Preparation For Sticking

Even though it is not always necessary, removal of leaves from those parts of cuttings which will be below the rooting medium is a good way to minimize rot. Larger leaved varieties often have the outer parts of their leaf blades trimmed with scissors to reduce transpirational losses, improve air circulation around them and permit closer spacing of them in the rooting medium.

Water is both sticky and elastic. When a cutting is severed from its stock plant the sap, which is mostly water, tends to pull back up the cutting from the cut surface. During storage transpirational water losses cause the sap to retreat further up the cutting. To overcome the problem of dehydrated cutting bases they should be recut shortly before sticking. Making this cut on an angle provides more surface area for contact with the rooting medium than if they were cut directly across the stem. Dormant cuttings which are made from parts of stem other than the tip can be easily oriented by making the top cut straight across and the lower one on an angle. This is important since the lower end of the cutting must be the one inserted in the growing medium.

Cutting length can vary considerably. To assure rapid growth, cuttings should have at least one axillary bud (the bud which forms on a stem just above the point where a leaf joins the stem) above and another below the growing medium. Two or more buds above and below are more often chosen. Because the distance between leaves on a stem varies between plants, cutting length is also variable. It is best to determine cutting length by the location of axillary buds rather than length. For most plant materials the lower cut should be about 1/4 inch below the bottom bud while the upper one, if a top cut is made, should be at least 1/4 inch above the top bud.

On some woody hard to root material controlled injury to sides of a cutting near its base can speed rooting. Before root promoting chemical treatments were available injury made it possible to root otherwise unrootable species. This injury is usually clean cuts such as those caused by razor blades. Any crushing should be avoided. The injury often made on cuttings is a series of three or four cuts across the stem deep enough to just reach the cambium (the tender layer, usually green, where new cells are formed). These cuts should start about a sixteenth of an inch above the cut surface of the cutting. They should be spaced roughly a sixteenth of an inch apart and go about a quarter of the way around the stem. No single factor seems to explain why this technique works but both the accumulation of naturally occuring root promoting chemicals and physical changes at the points of injury seem to be involved.

Storage of dormant cuttings such as grapes in moist cool sphagnum moss or peat/sphagnum mixtures seems to promote root initiation. This is generally done after the cuttings are prepared for sticking. On those plants which root better from callus (the shapeless gob of tissue which grows on the cutting bottom) this technique permits callusing without excessive transpirational or respiration losses; it also retards formation of leaves. Even though cuttings are completely covered and all light is excluded their orientation is a factor in this treatment since movement of naturally occurring rooting hormones seems to be influenced by gravity.

Use Of Rooting Hormones

Both naturally occurring and man made chemical growth regulators (hormones) play an important part in the rooting of plant cuttings. Study of the subject is fascinating. In the 1930s scientific research started to reveal some of the mechanisms through which they act. To this day there remains a lot of confusion and witchcraft in the use of rooting hormones. Strange concoctions made from plant extracts and synthetic chemicals are available. Their effectiveness varies with the plant material to which they are applied and the types of chemicals used.

Note that most of these hormones share one characteristic. They are fragile. Heat, daylight, moist air and prolonged storage all seem to decrease their effectiveness. Because unpurified extracts tend to have varying strengths of their active ingredients more predictable results can be obtained from standardized synthetic formulations.

Presently two compounds are widely used to promote rooting. These are IBA (indole-3-buteric acid) and NAA (napthalacetic acid). 2,4-D and 2,4,5-TP (sylvex) which are weed killers in high concentrations also show remarkable root promoting capacity. These and others appear in various liquid and powder formulations. We as amateurs and the commercial horticulture industry routinely use them as dips on the bottoms of cuttings.

Use of rooting hormones has several benefits. It promotes rooting speed and numbers of roots per cutting. Materials such as 2,4,5-TP also promote production of the tough, somewhat dark colored fibrous roots which resist damage in transplanting.

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
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AUSTIN '81

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