

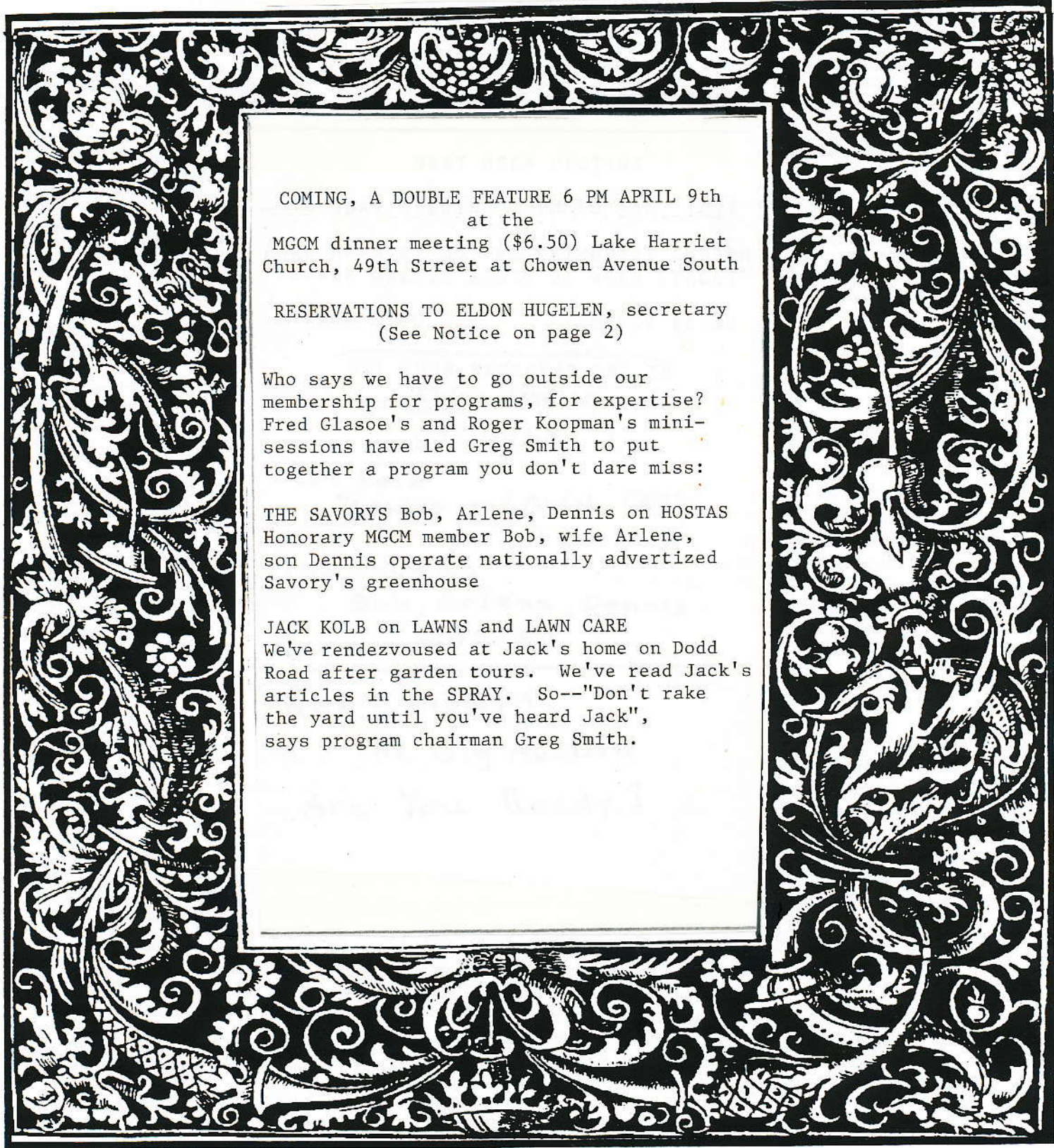
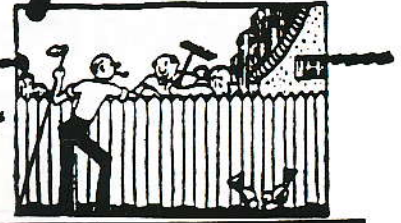


The Garden Spray

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

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

April 1991, Volume 49, Number 4



COMING, A DOUBLE FEATURE 6 PM APRIL 9th
 at the
 MGCM dinner meeting (\$6.50) Lake Harriet
 Church, 49th Street at Chowen Avenue South

RESERVATIONS TO ELDON HUGELN, secretary
 (See Notice on page 2)

Who says we have to go outside our membership for programs, for expertise? Fred Glasoe's and Roger Koopman's mini-sessions have led Greg Smith to put together a program you don't dare miss:

THE SAVORYS Bob, Arlene, Dennis on HOSTAS
 Honorary MGCM member Bob, wife Arlene, son Dennis operate nationally advertized Savory's greenhouse

JACK KOLB on LAWNS and LAWN CARE
 We've rendezvoused at Jack's home on Dodd Road after garden tours. We've read Jack's articles in the SPRAY. So--"Don't rake the yard until you've heard Jack", says program chairman Greg Smith.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Maurice L. Lindblom 935-6913
5307 Malibu Drive 627-4937
Edina, MN 55436

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE

CLUB POLICY IS IF MAIL RESERVATIONS ARE MADE THE MEMBER WILL PAY WHETHER OR NOT HE OR SHE ATTENDS. Reservations are made automatically through the permanent list, by sending a reservation card or, in extraordinary circumstances, by telephoning the secretary. CANCELLATIONS should be made to the secretary before the Sunday prior to the meeting.

-- Eldon Hugelen, secretary

STENGER IN THE NEWS

MGCM member Joseph L. Stenger is quoted twice in a recent article on the Desert Voice Project in Eagan THISWEEK, a community newspaper. Desert Voice is a radio station set up to assist servicemen and women in Saudi Arabia call their homes in the U.S. via short-wave radio and telephone. Stenger a ham radio operator who did volunteer work at Desert Voice for several months said:

"I can sympathize with the troops over there,...I served four years in the Navy during World War II and I know how lonesome and homesick you feel sometimes. I think what we are doing here is very important to our troops."

Calls were limited to 5 minutes each. Because they could be picked up by the Iraqis there were strict limits on what could be said. According to Stenger most of the calls go something like "hi, how are you doing; we love you; take care of yourself." And most of the calls are emotional. "You can tell a lot of times that the wife or child on this end of the line is crying."

Desert Voices is a non-profit radio communications system designed to facilitate the handling of radio/telephone calls and radio telegrams between U.S. service men and women serving in the Middle East and their families located here in the United States. It is the brain child of Edward Addy (St. Louis Park) and occupies the former U.S. missile site and buildings near Farmington now the property of the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

All materials, technical expertise and funds needed for this project were donated by the local and national business community. The dozens of radio operators needed are volunteers coming from the local amateur radio community.

Desert Voices which in it's first two months handled 1100 calls via short-wave radio to Phone Patches to service people's families is a MARS licensed station. MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) is a Department of Defense sponsored program, established following World War II. It was based upon the Army Amateur Radio System (AARS) formed by a few dedicated pioneers in the United States Army Signal Corps following World War I. This organization continued until the start of World War II when operations were suspended.

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Peas were developed in India, Afganistan and Ethiopia. Spinach hails from Persia and was introduced into China from Nepal. Cucumbers came from the hills of northern India and eggplant was originated in India and later developed in China. The radish is a widely eaten vegetable in China where many varieties have been developed.



Grow With Us

Guest Column

By Tom Atoe

04/01/91

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you what's hot and what's not.

First of all, what's with this Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis business? That name is about as appropriate as a compost pile full of dog bones. As I understand it, to be a member you don't have to be a man, you don't have to have a garden and you don't have to live in Minneapolis. So all one has to do is join the club? Not hot. If you want to stick with this Men's business, (and these days, why bother) how about a moniker that fits, such as: The Seven County Mosquito Control District Dull Men's Apathy Club? (TSCMCDDMAC) You wouldn't even have to volunteer for a committee. If they ever had meetings, they would circle the rockers, sit around in their cranberry colored polyester double knit leisure suit (wearing loafers) and discuss crabgrass, the 2 door versus 4 door sedan dilemma and wonder out loud what to do with their worn out drill bits. Hot stuff eh?

Moving along to less controversial topics, the results are now in on the new plant varieties tested last year. The Reynolds Pomato (potato plant grafted to tomato plant) produced beautiful tomatoes on top of the plant while growing nice spuds around the root system. A great space saver, for sure.

The Johnson Stink Plant exceeded all expectations. Not only do these cultivars smell worse than a buzzard's breath on an outhouse, they also attract abundant herds of deerflies, gnats, mosquitoes and woodticks. Why anyone grows stink plants is beyond me.

The Marlow Hardy Banana continues to produce well into March here in Minnesota. How convenient to pick little green bananas right in your own backyard. A gardening tip to first time growers: Let the bananas thaw out at room temperature for a few days to make peeling easier (timing is important here because they go from green to black in the wink of an eye).

The results on the Maynard Hybrid Bunker Prarie Sandburr are still being calculated.

Finally, some advice from a friend, J. Wallace. Problem: How to keep from getting stiff in the joints. Solution: Stay out of the joints.

Ed's Note: Due to incompetency, the Club President missed the deadline for this month's SPRAY. This column is by Mr. Tom Atoe, who is employed by the Rum River Bait, Boat and Tackle Shop as a minnow bucket rinser.

Obituaries

Noted local horticultural hobbyist Nathan Siegel

Nathan Siegel, 89, a horticultural hobbyist whose roses and terraced rock gardens were visited by busloads of fellow gardeners, died of a heart attack Monday at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis.

"He started small," said his son, Edward, of Minneapolis. "He just had a rock garden in his back yard in south Minneapolis. As we grew up, we watched the garden get bigger and the yard get smaller."

Siegel was past president of the Minnesota Horticultural Society, the Minnesota Rose Society and the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club. He was a board member of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen.

He was a charter member of Minneapolis' Committee on Urban Environment (CUE) and created its Blooming Boulevards program when he returned from a trip in the mid-1980s to Vancouver, British Columbia, where he saw homeowners planting flowers on their boulevards.

CUE's annual Blooming Boulevards award is named for Siegel.

He was a lifelong student and often took extension classes at the University of Minnesota. He set up a scholarship fund for needy students at Minneapolis Community College.

"He had just a wonderful, benign, sunny disposition," his son said. "Everybody loved him. He was sometimes indistinguishable from his flowers."

Siegel was born and raised in Superior, Wis., where his family owned a men's clothing store. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1924. He worked for Bloom Brothers, a shoe manufacturer in Minneapolis, and later was factory manager for Bloom-Ease in Minneapolis. He worked for Pioneer Shoe Co. in Minneapolis from 1958 until he retired in 1976.

Besides his son, he is survived by his wife, Elsie; a daughter, Joan Abrahamson, of Minneapolis; a sister, Gita Braude, of La Jolla, Calif.; seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held 3 p.m. Thursday at Temple Israel, 2324 Emerson Av. S., Minneapolis. Memorials to the Nathan Siegel Scholarship at Minneapolis Community College are suggested. Arrangements are by Hodroff & Sons.

Wednesday/March 6/1991/Star Tribune

Nate as he preferred to be called (He is listed that way in the Men's Garden Club directory and on the cover of "The Story of the Community Garden" he prepared and the club published in November 1987) was friend to everyone. Soft spoken, a good listener; he was a thoughtful contributor during discussions. His little gem of a garden was on many MGCM garden tours. He and his wife, Elsie, were gracious hosts.

When Elsie needed more care than could be provided at home Nate took an apartment at Walker Residence to be near her. In recent months MGCM members had picked him up there to bring him to meetings. En route to our February meeting he remarked to Joe Stenger only that, "I've never felt so tired in my life." That was typical Nate--no complaint.

We are glad to have known you, Nate; to have enjoyed your friendship. We shall miss you.

Just in case...May is not that far off!
Neither is the annual plant sale. More help is needed for set-up, at the sale, and clean-up.
Don't make the sale a "Well kept secret"--- begin now talking to your best customers; family, friends, and neighbors. **May 14**

- cord will get tangled in the branches. From the ground you have to reach through a mass of branches yet still can't cut at the right spot or angle.
- (3) A pruning saw--single edged. Those double edged ones are wonderful for cutting yourself or messing up the bark of branches you don't intend to trim. Use your carpenter saw if you have to but it is harder to manipulate between branches and cuts too slowly.
 - (4) A stepladder--not an imperative but there is no better way to reach into trees or reach the tops of tall shrubs. If even the stepladder is too short stay safe. Stay on the ground.

FOR WORK ON THE LAWN aside from your mower and your fertilizer spreader (Fertilizer can be the original way. Broadcast by hand.) you will need:

- (1) A lawn rake--sometimes called a lawn broom--primarily to rake up leaves since the latest advice is "Leave the clippings on the ground."
- (2) A lawn edger though a straight edged shovel or an ice pick does about as well.

how to get started STARTING SEEDS



The seed packet will tell you the approximate time for direct seeding out-of-doors as well as for seeding indoors for later transplanting out. Regardless of what the seed packet says the table (right) controls when you plant outdoors and the temperature you must maintain if you start seed indoors for later transplanting.

The sketch (above) doesn't limit your choice of containers, however. Consider the paper cylinders from within toilet paper and towel rolls--biodegradable like peat pots. Use egg cartons, the bottom of waxed milk cartons, frozen juice cans. All are good for holding a few seedlings from which to choose one.

I like to start seeds in a clay pot and move those which germinate to individual containers when the first true leaves develop. That way I haven't wasted much time or space if germination is poor. I place the pots on a basement shelf just under a south window and cover them with a sheet of glass to prevent drying. I check daily for germination. After germination they are kept in better light. When I use metal or plastic trays sized somewhere near 5" x 8" I encase them in plastic bags. These I place on top of the refrigerator, on a south window ledge, or rarely even on top of the furnace though that spot is apt to be too hot.



SEED STARTING TEMPERATURE RANGES MINIMUM (min), OPTIMUM (opt), MAXIMUM (max) (In degrees Fahrenheit)

vegetable	min	opt	max
bean	60	80	95
beet, cabbage, cauliflower, radish, turnip	40	85	95
corn	50	95	105
cucumbers, eggplant, melon, okra, pepper, pumpkin, squash	60	90	100
lettuce, onion, parsley, pea, spinach	35	75	85
soybean	40	50-85	95
tomato	50	85	95

MARILYN JOHNSON

1932-1991

Dave Johnson's beloved wife Marilyn died March 13th, following a courageous defense of lung cancer diagnosed last summer.

Dave has been a hardworking and dedicated club member for many years. Club members have visited their garden on numerous tours and appreciated the gardening efforts of both Dave and Marilyn. Marilyn helped with much of the planting and maintenance, and had a personality in keeping with the grace and beauty of their garden.

Marilyn's hospitality and gracious entertaining skills have been shared by club members on numerous occasions. She was always willing to host club committee meetings with something special to eat, provide snacks and beverages at tours, and made all visitors feel most welcome. Marilyn's hospitality and contributions to their lovely garden will be missed by all club members.

Dave and Marilyn were married 37 years and have two lovely married daughters, Molly and Greta. Marilyn's father, Leonard (age 92) still resides with Dave.

A memorial service on March 19th was attended by over 400 friends, including a good percentage of club members, despite being the same evening as the March meeting. We send our sympathy and concern to Dave and his family during their sorrow.

Phil Smith

GOOD THEN. GOOD NOW.

The May 1950 YARDNER, Houston TX. MGC quotes Paul Pfund of Elmhurst, IL. "Soils and growing things are not only my living, but my consuming interest. During the fifty-odd years that I have been studying soils and growing things, I have become increasingly convinced that we must help rather than tamper with nature's wonderful processes, even though the procedure seems to be very slow. The great 'balances of nature' are such that if plants are proper and healthy, insects can be on them and take no toll from them. (I have) not used an insecticide other than tobacco dust and sulphur, neither of which is a poison, in more than ten years, (I) have never lost leaves or buds from rose because of bugs or blight. The same is true among (my) other plants whether they be flowers, grasses, trees, shrubs, or vegetables. To provide properly healthy plants, they need good complete rich soil. This richness does not come from the chemist's bins. It comes from the slow processes of Nature itself. The richness measure of soil is earthworm castings. A good compost pile is a necessity. Application of compost to the soil in the garden or lawn then sets up additional bacterial action, and thus the soil is rebuilt gradually to fertility and balance."

From THE NIGHT CRAWLER, Spokane, WA.MGC, May 1990. Due to the mild winter, insects will become a problem. Spray your shrubs often with cold water to help control spider mites. You can eradicate aphids with an insecticide "soap", spray compounds of which are readily available under several trade names at most garden centers. Unlike the well-known chemical pesticides, the soap sprays can't injure humans and plants - and certain insects - have an immunity. The "soap" spray destroys the membranes of the aphids; they also have proved effective in dealing with leadhoppers, mealybugs, mites, scale, whiteflies, earwigs, and pear slugs.

DRIIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

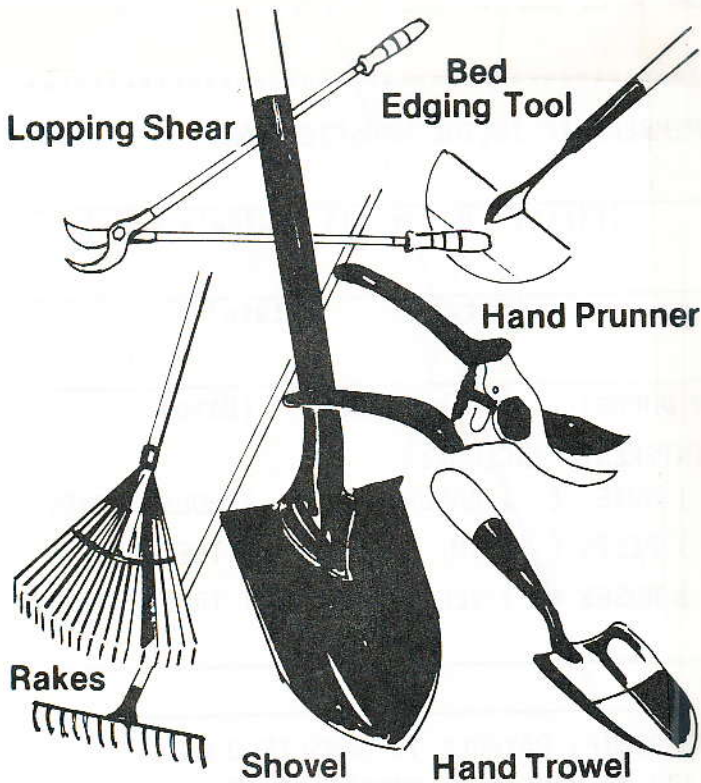
by Ed Culbert

Have the warm days of March given you the itch to dig in the dirt--to start gardening? Don't be in a hurry. In Minneapolis we've had frost in May after fruit trees were in full bloom. No fruit that season. Want to get a jump on your neighbor? I've planted during a warm spell in April. My Scandinavian neighbor waited a month. By June his garden was ahead of mine. Of course, he kept the soil moist to ensure germination.

One thing you can do is assemble your tools. Are handles tight? Are blades sharp? A file will do wonders for hoes and shovels. Better let a professional work on your saws and shears. Needless to say all your tools should be made of good quality steel to hold their edge and to last a lifetime. The hoe grandpa Goldsworthy used in his potato patch still stands me in good stead though grandpa died in 1912.

FOR WORK IN THE VEGETABLE OR FLOWER GARDEN four tools are sufficient. If you have more sooner or later any others will gather dust or be given away. You need:

- (1) A long handled spade. Don't believe the folks who tell you to get a shovel with a short handle to ease your back. It's good to lean on, to shovel iron ore, to tamp railroad ties. That I know from my days working in the open pit mines. But for digging over your garden, for digging out clumps of iris, for throwing dirt from place to place in your yard you need the long handled one.
- (2) A standard sized triangular shaped hoe for digging over and leveling the soil turned over with the spade.
- (3) One of those little triangular hoes about 3" on the side for use between vegetables and around flowers. You can get along without it but it beats the big one for this purpose.
- (4) A steel rake for raking the beds smooth before planting. It also helps make the soil finer.
- (5) A hand trowel for use in transplanting, filling pots, etc. If you haven't one a putty knife will work.



With the trowel it is easier to make holes for plants in peat pots. I find the putty knife handier for non-potted stock. The only disadvantage with the putty knife is that it's easier to lose. The one I lost over a year ago I dug up when turning over my garden last fall.

FOR WORK ON THE BERRY BUSHES, SHRUBS and TREES you need:

- (1) A hand pruner--scissors type or anvil type. You can't get along without it. It is useful for cutting off berry bush canes as well as the smaller branches of trees and shrubs.
- (2) A lopping shears to cut larger branches because it gives greater leverage. You may be tempted to purchase a sectional handled shears to reach higher branches. Don't! Held at an angle it is unwieldy and gosh awful heavy (leverage again). The
(over)