

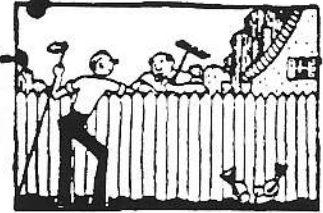


# The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

April 1998, Volume 56, Number 4

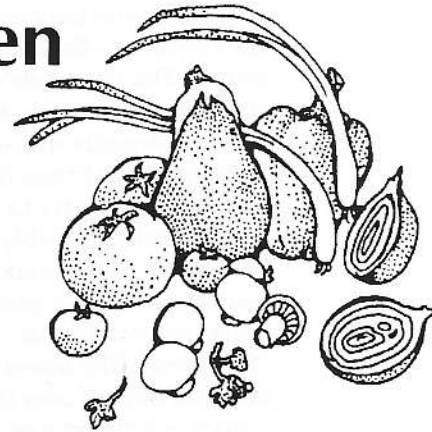


## April Dinner Meeting...

# In the Vegetable Garden

## Erika Jensen



Erika is the volunteer coordinator for the Minnesota State Horticulture Society. She is leaving MSHS to start a community supported agriculture farm in Wisconsin. An article on this subject by Erika appeared in the January issue of the *Minnesota Horticulturist*.

Erika's topic is "Organic Gardening"

She will address issues such as:

- \* What makes a garden organic?
- \* Garden preparation, spring and fall.
- \* Gardening from seed to harvest.
- \* Some good and better varieties.
- \* Weed control.
- \* Pest control.

Date: Tuesday April 14, 1998

Place: Lake Harriet United Methodist Church  
49th and Chowen Avenue South

Time: Dinner	6:30 pm
Business	7:00 pm
Program	7:30 pm

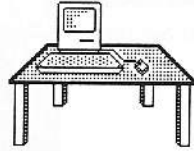
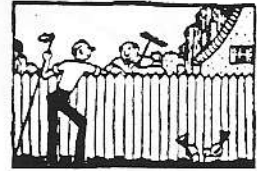
Cost: \$7.50 if reserved in advance  
\$8.50 at the door if meals are available

## New Caterers

The April dinner is the first month with our new caterer, Don and Ellie Rahman of Rahman's Catering and Consulting. Some of our members found them and their food at Calvary and Westwood Lutheran Churches. The board hopes you will be pleased. If you have any suggestions let us know and we will pass them on.

## Important Note about Reservations

The 1998 permanent reservation list will remain in effect for this meeting. Check your mailing label. If it has a "p" or "pp" (one or two reservations) in the corner you are on the permanent list. If there is no "p" on your label, you are not on the permanent reservation list and must call Director Kay Wolfe by **Friday, April 10**, to be assured a place at dinner. If you are on the permanent list and will not attend, you must notify Kay by the same deadline or risk being responsible for the cost of your dinner. Kay can be reached at 922-0762. Leave a message on her voice mail if you can't reach her in person or send her an e-mail at [opperwolfe@worldnet.att.net](mailto:opperwolfe@worldnet.att.net). If you have reserved a dinner and on Monday or Tuesday you have an emergency where you find you can't attend, call Howard Berg. **If the reservation can be sold to late comers or drop-ins, you will not be billed.**



### The Editor's Desk

Chuck Carlson  
Managing Editor

The MGCM Board of Directors really struggled with making arrangements for the Dayton's - Bachman's Flower Show outing. The flower show is a great event and the show itself is always magnificent. But, the struggle was with the dinner arrangements. Prices for meals downtown are high and we try to make things as economical as possible so everyone can participate. When making our first contact, the dinner price was in the \$25 range and we couldn't have the "Skyroom". The board felt that for a night out with our spouses this price would reduce our attendance too much. Thus our compromise was to have box lunches even though these, too, are pricey. There has been much discussion by the board to eliminate the outing and return to a normal dinner meeting at the church. Maybe some of you remember that the Dayton's - Bachman's outing was not always on the calendar of events. Make your thoughts known on the subject.

The board has decided to conduct a survey. We hope you will participate. We want to keep the club strong and vibrant, and to provide the members with what they want. If something bothers you or you have suggestions that are not covered by the survey, please add them in the space provided at the end of the survey. All suggestions will be seriously considered. *We really want the club to be your club.*

The survey will be passed out at a dinner meeting and mailed to those not attending. Please return your responses as directed by the survey.

## Coming Attractions

**Tuesday, April 7 - 7:30 PM**  
Board of Directors meeting  
Walt Muelegger's house

**Tuesday, April 14 - 6:30 PM**  
MGCM Dinner Meeting  
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church  
49th & Chowen Avenue South

**Saturday April 18 - 10:30 AM**  
Garden Club Fair  
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

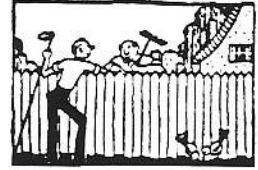
**Saturday April 18 - 8:00 AM**  
MSHS District 5 Spring Fling  
Robbinsdale Community Ed. Center

**Tuesday, April 28 - 7:30 PM**  
Board of Directors meeting  
Chuck Carlson's house

**Tuesday May 5**  
Plant Sale and Auction  
Westwood Lutheran Church  
9001 Cedar Lake Road  
St. Louis Park

*The Garden Spray* is published monthly by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc., for its members and friends. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity organization.

Managing Editor ..... Chuck Carlson  
Production Manager ... Andy Marlow  
Staff ..... Tim McCauley,  
Mary Maynard, Margaret Hibberd  
Howard Berg, and Bob Stepan.



# Mary's Meanderings

by Mary Maynard, President MGCM

And now it's April. It's really spring — not like that pseudo-spring we had in February. A time for renewal and growth. And sadness as well, as we have said farewell to our good friend Burton Deane.

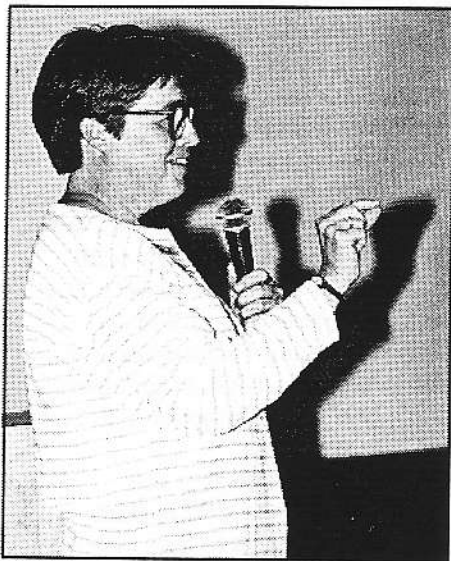


Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

The only problem with belonging to a club like MGCM is that you get to know so many good people, and you miss them when they're gone.

Things are going great guns under the lights in my basement. Flats of seedlings and cuttings are perched precariously under the shop lights, and the cat is usually sleeping under the

lights on the heat mat. I'm hoping that I'll have some things hardened off in time for the Plant Auction in May. I will also be looking at perennials in the garden to see what should be divided and brought in to the sale. The more I give away, the more space I have for new things!

I'm spending a fair amount of time wearing a path along the edge of my borders this time of the year, looking for the first signs of new growth. I'm wondering whether some of the Zone 5 things will come back this year, since we had such a mild winter. I have hopes for the agastache 'Heather Queen' and artemesia 'Powis Castle' — but we'll have to see.

And I'm wondering how some of the other new things fared, since I've never had any experience with them before.

I'm hoping that the new verbasicum 'Southern Charm' came through the winter for another nice show this year, although the catalog listed it as either Zone 4 or Zone 5 depending on which page you looked at!

I see, too, that the rabbits had a feast on my shrub roses over the winter. Keeps me from worrying about how to prune them, since it's done by the time spring is here. I do feel very smug about having pruned my grapevines during dormancy for once. Usually, I'm out there in April, and then every pruned end drips sap for days afterward and I feel so guilty, even though the grapevines seem to do just fine.

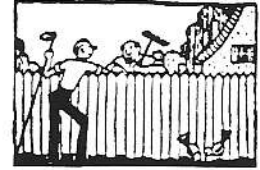
By the time you read this, I hope to have used my "new" shredder for the first time this spring. This was a purchase from the Plant Auction last year, and I have had a great time with it! I am very grateful to Howard Berg for donating it to the club for the auction last year. I have dreams of outstanding compost and mulch for years to come.

I'm looking forward to hearing from Erika at our April meeting. I hope she can tell me how to keep that leaf-spot from attacking my tomatoes!

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## Aphid...

An insect pest that inphests gardens, pheasts on prize specimens, pheedst voraciously, makes gardeners phoam at the mouth, stamp their pheet, and utter phour letter words. Not only that they never phast, never pay a phee and are not particularly pheeble. *Boy did this give the computers spell checker a workout.*



## In memoriam... **Burton Deane** **1931-1998**

In March we lost a long time member of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. Burton Deane was a member for 22 years and served the club well.

His service was not limited to MGCM. In his occupation as a social worker for 34 years, he served. In two churches, Westminster Presbyterian and Faith Baptist, he served. For Hennepin Parks system, he served.

Burton was a gardener, dabbled in magic and loved the outdoors through hiking, camping and nature studies. I know that those who got to know him will miss him. Even those in the club who didn't know him personally will miss him at the table handing out name badges at every meeting. So every time you look at the round dots on your dinner meeting badge, think of Burton Deane. To his wife Betty and his brother-in-law George McCollough (also a MGCM member) we offer our condolences.

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## **A Note About Memorials**

If you decide to give a memorial in honor of someone who has died, and you want to designate MGCM or some other organization, send it directly to the organization. If MGCM receives a memorial, we will send a letter to the family noting the giver and condolences. When directing memorials to MGCM, send them to Treasurer Howard Berg.

## **Garden Club Education Day**

**April 18, 1998**

On Saturday April 18 between and 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is holding its first Garden Club Education Day.

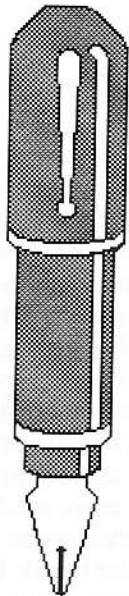
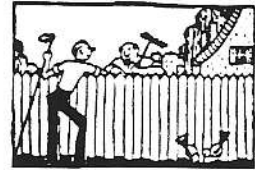
Displays will be presented by various clubs in the auditorium and lectures will be presented in the classrooms of the Snyder Building. Topics are: Herbs in your Life, Down & Dirty with Daylilies, General Rose Care, How to Dry and Preserve Flowers, Raised Bed & Square Foot Gardening Techniques and New to Me Perennials. MGCM members, Archie Caple and Eldon Hugelen will be among the lecturers.

Barb Berosik is setting up our display but needs help to staff it. Barb would like six individuals to take care of three shifts (9:30 to 11:30 AM, 11:30 to 1:30 PM, and 1:30 to 3 PM). This will be a way to promote our club and our public garden tour. Not only that, those attending might learn something new about gardening.

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## **Corn and Fish**

Give a man some ears of corn and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to plant corn and he will eat for years. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day, but teach him how to fish and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.



## Board Meeting Minutes

Walt Meuhlegger, Secretary

March 3, 1998

All members were present.

### Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the February 3, 1998 Board Meeting were approved.

### Treasurer's Report:

The Feb. 28, 1998 report was presented and approved.

### Committee Reports

**Flower, Food and Foto Show:** First committee meeting was held and is off to a good start.

**Garden Spray:** Needs editorials and articles.

**Membership:** Approved applications from Mary Brown and RaeAnn Vandeputte.

**Plant Auction:** Tim reported that the committee held their first meeting and has everything under control

**Tours:** The tour committee has met and things are starting to roll.

### Old Business

Barb Berosik is working the April 18, 1998 Education Fair at the Arboretum.

Maury Lindblom is working on committee duties definition.

It was decided to have a club survey.

Slide show snip-its will be shown at future business meetings.

Payment has been sent for a MSHS brick for Don & Vi Powell's memorial

### New Business

Chuck Carlson sent Marilyn Brummer a list of members for the arboretum.

Howard Berg ordered the pumpkin and sunflower seeds.

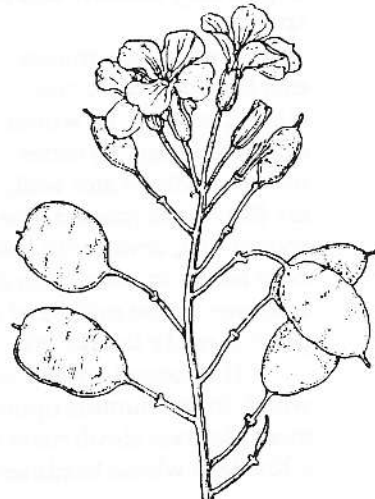
Doug Whitney and Bob Voigt will be asked to check our tax status with the IRS.

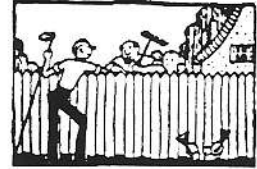
*(Editor's note: This is a condensed version of the board meeting minutes. If an unabridged version is needed it is available from Secretary Walter Muehleger.)*

## New Members

Mary G. Brown  
9300 Old Cedar Avenue #119  
Bloomington, MN 55425-24007  
Phone: 885-0913

RaeAnn P. Vandeputte  
4704 Zenith Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55410  
Phone: 925-5018  
E-mail: rvandeputte@pioneersoft.com





Shrub Rose...

## Flower of the Month

By Jerry Olson

The flower of the month is the shrub rose. There are too many varieties to list them all, so I have selected two excellent winter hardy varieties which will add color and beauty to any garden.

The first variety is 'Winnipeg Parks' one of the Parkland series developed at the Morden Arboretum. This variety is hardy, repeats bloom rapidly and is ideal as a bedding plant. It was introduced in 1990 and was named for the City of Winnipeg Parks and Recreation Department centennial in 1993.

The plants are bushy and average about three feet high and three feet across. The flowers are medium red and slightly fragrant. The blooms average about two to three inches across, have 22 petals, and are produced in clusters of one to four blooms. It has moderate to good resistance to powdery mildew and black spot.

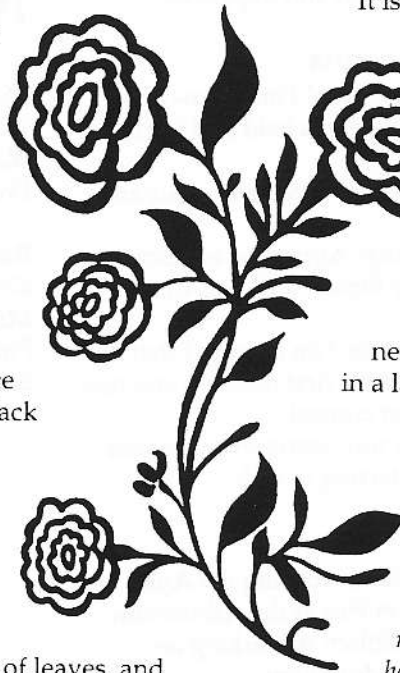
This variety makes excellent plants for container planting. To winter: dormant spray, tie canes into a bundle, water well, lay flat on the ground, use rodent bait, cover with lots of leaves, and hold leaves in place with chicken wire. Uncover by the middle of April and the plant is ready to take off.

The second variety is 'Robusta', which in my humble opinion is one of the most glorious shrub roses of them all. It is a Kordeesii whose hardiness has been

reinforced by crossing it again with *Rosa rugosa*.

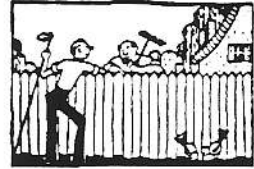
It is most attractive even without blooms as the foliage is dark green, leathery and very glossy. It is a vigorous grower up to five feet and makes a nice bushy plant. This variety repeats bloom faster than any floribunda I know. The flowers are single, bright red and in clusters, plus they are slightly fragrant. As the plant becomes more established, the clusters of bloom increase in number.

It is winter hardy, however in some winters dieback may occur. This is no problem—just cut off the dead wood, water and feed (organic matter is best). It responds quickly and by June it is once again its vigorous, glorious self. This variety needs room, therefore it is best in a larger garden.



*Jerry Olson has been an MGCM member since 1957. If you haven't met him you are missing something in life as a gardener. He is known as Mr. Rose and is nationally recognized. He even has a rose named after him. He*

*writes for The Minnesota Horticulturist. His Bloomington garden, as you might expect, is a rose garden with hundreds of roses. I understand he supplies roses in great abundance to friends, neighbors and his church. If you have a question about roses, ask Jerry.*



## The Bane of the Garden: Slugs!

By Jerry Shannon

The damage is clear—holes chewed through the middle of leaves of your hosta, sweet william, Shasta daisy and other garden plants, with no sign of the chewing culprit. No beetles, caterpillars or other chewing insects or their larvae to be found anywhere. The guilty party is none of the above, but a creature of the night—the garden slug.

Slugs are in the mollusk family, with more than 30 species in the United States. They come in white, lavender, pale yellow, purple or nearly black with brown specks and with black or brown mottling. They range in size from half an inch to the seven inch banana slug. Minnesota slugs are gray, brown, black or combinations thereof and are one to two inches long.

A slug's body is 80% water. It can lose up to 19% of its body water content and still survive. A greater loss than this and the slug will die. To keep from dehydrating during the heat of daylight hours, slugs hide under clumps of soil, a planter, a rock, a board, in mulches, or anything else that is cool and damp. Slugs are most active two hours before and after sunset and during cloudy, rainy days.

Slugs are hermaphroditic (male and female in one body) but require another slug to fertilize the eggs that each carry. Each slug can lay 300 small transparent eggs in clusters of 25 just below the soil surface, which hatch in 30 days or less, depending on the temperature. Population explosions begin in June from eggs that have wintered over and continue at an exponential rate throughout the balance of the growing season.

Gardening practices that encourage slugs include using mulches, plant

materials that are close together, shade areas, plant debris left in the rows, boards, stones and other materials that provide a cool daytime hiding place. Conditions that make for happy slugs make for unhappy gardeners.

Control measures fall into two categories:

- Non-chemical – materials to form barriers or by physical removal
- Chemical – use of poisonous and nonpoisonous chemicals

### Non-chemical

Have resident toads in your garden; they eat many insects and slugs. Be sure to provide water and shelter, so your toad has a cool place to spend during daylight hours.

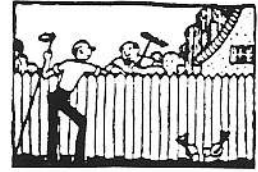
Put barriers around plants and garden beds using materials that annoy or injure slugs: wood ashes, sharp sand, number 2 chicken grit, crushed granite, diatomaceous earth (natural grade not pool grade which has been treated chemically), pine needles (use the coarse type such as Scotch and Red pine, preferably shredded) and one and a half inch wide strips of copper.

These barriers work to some degree, but lose their effectiveness when wet, especially those that are water soluble. When the surface of copper oxidizes and forms a patina, the copper's repelling electrical shocks are eliminated.

Another non-chemical method uses a hand sprayer containing a solution of 50% ammonia and water to coat the slugs. This works best in the early morning or during the day after a rain.

Hand picking, when slugs are active, destroys a lot of slugs. Another good time to hand pick is during early spring clean-up when the winter mulch is removed. This helps remove adults that wintered

*(continued on page 8)*



## Slugs

(continued from page 7)

over. Be sure captured slugs are killed by putting them in a salt solution or by crushing them mechanically.

### Use of Chemicals

Use containers as bait stations, baited with nonpoisonous materials which attract slugs and which they crawl into and drown. Baits can be beer, a mixture of yeast and molasses, honey and water ( 6 teaspoons of honey in a pint of water), or a commercially produced attractant. Use one trap for every 10 square feet. If the infestation is heavy you will need to clean out and destroy the dead slugs and re-bait the traps each morning. The addition of a little flour to the traps will prevent the slugs from crawling away.

Chemical baits containing poison are another alternative. Metaldehyde and metaldehyde/carbaryl combinations are effective in destroying slugs. They come in pelletized, meal or liquid form. They cause the slug to secrete enormous amounts of mucous, eventually leading to dehydration and death. They can be used around food plants.

Methiocarb bait paralyzes the slug so it cannot seek shelter from the sun, causing it to dehydrate and die. It cannot be used around food crops. Baits should be scattered rather thinly around plants, (not in mounds or piles) after watering or a rain and in the evening. They work best if rain does not occur within 48 hours. I prefer a bait called Corry's Slug and Snail Death, which is a metaldehyde in meal form, which makes it less attractive to birds and other animals.

In 1994, an article in *Fine Gardening*, told of using a solution of aluminum sulfate in the late fall before the ground freezes. This will kill the slug egg masses

just below the soil line. A solution of 3 tablespoons of aluminum sulfate per gallon of water is used to treat four delphinium size plants. I have used this method with all our perennials and have found it very promising. By cutting back the concentration in the fall you can repeat the procedure in early spring just before the plants break dormancy. If your soil is very acid, you should treat only in the fall and test your soil in the spring, Add lime if the pH is getting too low. The newest weapon being tested in England to eliminate slugs is the use of a specific species of nematode that attacks and kills the egg masses. This may be the ultimate answer in the battle with the garden slug.

The secret to controlling slugs is to use all your weapons continuously, never allowing a population explosion to occur. If you do not battle them early, you're sure to lose.

Here are some references for further study:

- *Controlling Lawn and Garden Insects* by Susan Roth, Project Editor Ortho Books, Chevron Chemical Company 1987
- *Fine Gardening*, October 1994 Taunton Press, Inc.
- *Handbook of Natural Insect and Disease Control*, Barbara W. Ellis and Fern Marshall Bradley Rodale Press, 1992
- *Organic Plant Protection*, Roger B. Yepsen, Jr. Rodale Press, Inc., 1976

(About the author: Jerry has been a member of MGCM since 1977. In 1982 he was president of the club and in 1988 the Bronze Medal winner. He is an active member of the MSHS, The 7th district, the Rock Garden Society and other specialty clubs. He and his wife Lee have a St. Paul garden which is one of the finest in the area. If it isn't in their garden, it doesn't grow in zone 4. Jerry is retired from the St. Paul school system.)



# The Bearded Iris

by Lloyd Weber and Patti Lee

The word iris is taken directly from the Greek word *iris* which means rainbow. In fact, Iris was the Goddess of the Rainbow and the Messenger of the Gods.

The iris is truly the rainbow flower as all colors can be found in its flowers from pure white to almost black. In the wild there are over 200 kinds of irises and with hybridization these numbers have been multiplied many times.



The iris flower is tripartite and has architectural qualities appealing to gardeners, designers and artists alike. The flower is composed of three upright petals called standards and three downward or horizontal petals called falls.

Some iris flowers have a tufted row of colored bristles sitting upon the falls that is called a beard. This article will be confined to those iris classes containing a beard in their flower.

The bearded iris group is divided into six classes based on size, form and maturity:

## Miniature Dwarf Bearded (MDB)

Height 3" to 8" tall  
bloom size 2" to 3" across  
bloom season starting mid-April

## Standard Dwarf Bearded (SDB)

Height 8" to 15" tall  
bloom size 3" to 4" across  
bloom season starting mid-May

## Intermediate Bearded (IB)

Height 15" to 28" tall  
bloom size 4" to 5" across  
bloom season mid-May to early June

## Border Bearded (BB)

Height 15" to 28"  
bloom size 4" to 6" across  
bloom season starting end of May

## Miniature Tall Bearded (MTB)

Height 15" to 28"  
bloom size 2" to 3" across  
bloom season starting end of May

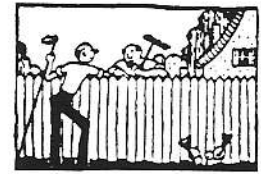
## Tall Bearded (TB)

Height 28" to 45+"  
bloom size 5" and more across  
bloom season end of May to late June

Some additional items of interest about these classes are:

- MDB are the smallest and are ideal for rock gardens and in front of borders.
- SDB have had a big demand from city gardeners so hybridizers have been spurred to give these smaller irises all the colors and patterns of the tall bearded class. They also fit nicely in front or slightly back in the borders.
- IB are a step down in size from tall bearded and bloom somewhat earlier. These also have been aided recently by many new introductions.
- BB are junior versions of tall bearded and bloom about the same time.
- MTB are also called "Table Irises" as they have the long slender stems and proportional flowers that work well in arranging and designing.
- TB are the "Queen Ladies" of the iris world, the last to bloom and with magnificent, large flowers. They feature every color of the rainbow and an incredible array of patterns. The color patterns may be self (one

*(continued on page 10)*





## Iris

(continued from page 9)

color), bi-tone, bicolor or plicata, which is a ground color stippled, stitched, or veined with another color. The flowers may be ruffled, laced, or have a texture smooth as silk.

Iris are purchased as rhizomes, a swollen horizontal stem from which the roots and fans of leaves grow. They need at least six hours of sunlight to perform well and especially need well drained light soil. When planting be sure that at least one-half of the rhizome is above ground with the roots fanned out underneath. Crowding with other plants can pose a problem as adequate air circulation is necessary to prevent disease.

The most serious disease of iris is bacterial rot. This disease can be recognized when leaves wilt or fall over and the rhizome has an area of mushy tissue. The treatment is to remove the mushy area from the rhizome with a spoon, scraping gently to remove all soft tissue, then wetting the area with full strength liquid Clorox. Keep the rhizome clear of soil and the rotted area should heal over.

Iris is susceptible to some fungal or leaf spots. It usually starts at the top of leaves and progresses down. Leaf spot can be more of an esthetic problem than a threat to the plant. When you notice small spots or streaks, just cut off the leaf below the infected area.

The only major insect threat to the iris is the iris borer. Left unchecked it can raise havoc on an iris garden. If you noticed the signs of the borer in the past summer, the eggs are in the soil ready to hatch this spring and you best go on the offensive early.

The surest method to control the borer is to note on a calendar with a big X

each day when the temperature reaches 70 degrees. On or immediately after the third day, spray your iris with Cygon II-E according to recommended directions. Then you will need to repeat with Cygon again after two weeks time. By this time, you should have killed 90% of the larvae which would come to the surface.

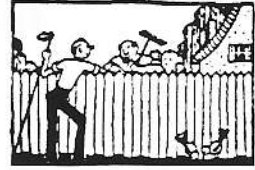
It is wise to keep your iris bed weed free and cleaned of any debris to help prevent the iris moth from finding an egg laying site.

In the winter is when irisarians eagerly await the annual catalogs from growers around the country. We have generated a list for those interested. It will be posted at our general meeting and is also available from the *Spray* editor.

There are many web pages about irises. The place to start is the American Iris Society page at <http://www.isomedia.com/homes/ais>. The AIS recently celebrated its 75th anniversary and is a great organization. They have a quarterly bulletin loaded with information about growing, exhibiting and hybridizing iris.

Our local Minnesota Iris Society is also loaded with talent and wisdom. If you have an interest in the Society or any questions about iris, please call Lloyd or Patti at 572-8158

*(About the authors: Lloyd and Patti joined MGCM in 1997. They are on the Flower, Food and Foto Show and Plant Auction committees. Their Fridley garden has both sun and shade flowers with perennials predominating. Iris obviously play a big part but it also includes hostas, daylilies, and roses interspersed with annuals for added color. Interests besides gardening are golf, theater, travel and grandchildren. Both are in the dental field with their office in Brooklyn Center.)*



## April Garden Tips

- Apply dormant oil spray on apple trees prior to budding out.
- At the end of April remove any wraps from trees
- When soil can be worked without creating sticky balls, you can direct seed peas and other cool season vegetables. Mid-April you can put out cool season transplants of onions, cabbage, broccoli, etc., but keep in mind they may have to be protected and they must be covered during any hard frost.
- At the end of April remove the top layer of cover from your roses and perennials.
- Check bulbs for the start of spouting. If cover isn't removed you will have long white leaves. But cover again if a hard freeze is predicted.
- Cut fall blooming raspberry canes to the ground. Summer varieties of raspberries only produce on last years canes, so trim out 1/3 of last years canes at most.



*(Above: National Director Bill Hull (left) inducts 1998 officers, including Director Kay Wolfe, Treasurer Howard Berg and Director Tim McCauley. At right: Maury Linblom joins the ranks of MGCM Past Presidents as he hands over the job to 1998 President Mary Maynard, the first female member to hold that office.)*

## Photos from January Meeting



## Inside:

Page 2/	Editor's Column Events Calendar
Page 3/	President's Column
Page 4/	In Memoriam: Burton Deane A Note About Memorials Garden Club Education Day
Page 5/	Board Meeting Minutes New Members
Page 6/	Flower of the Month
Page 7/	Bane of the Garden: Slugs!
Page 9/	The Bearded Iris
Page 11/	April Garden Tips January Meeting Photos

## MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

### CLUB OFFICERS:

**President:** Mary J. Maynard  
4375 Dart Ave. So., St. Louis Park, MN 55424  
**Vice-President:** Eldon Hugelen  
7473 West 142nd Street, Apple Valley, MN 55124  
**Secretary:** Walt Muehlegger  
715 Lone Oak Road, Eagan, MN 55121  
**Treasurer:** Howard H. Berg  
10107 Lakeview Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55305  
**Past President:** Maurice Lindblom  
5219 Malibu Drive, Edina, MN 55436

### DIRECTORS:

Charles J. Carlson  
1001 Hackman Circle, Fridley, MN 55432  
Tim McCauley  
325 West 82nd Street, Chaska, MN 55318  
Ritchie Miller  
4249 Twin Oak Lane, Robbinsdale, MN 55422  
Kay Wolfe  
2740 Florida Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55426

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Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.  
Charles J. Carlson, Managing Editor  
1001 Hackman Circle  
Fridley, MN 55432-0463

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