

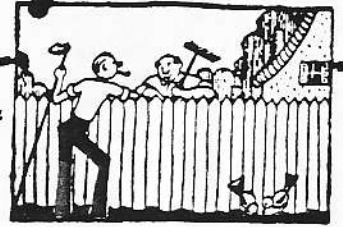


The Garden Spray

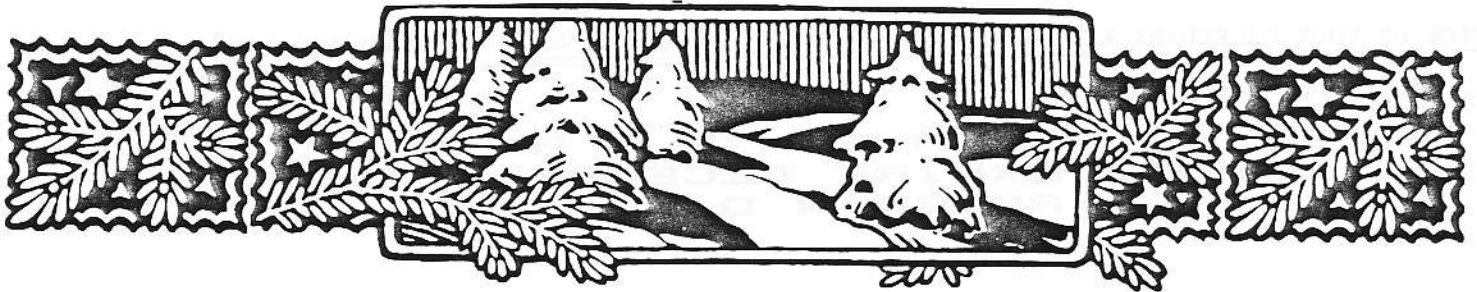
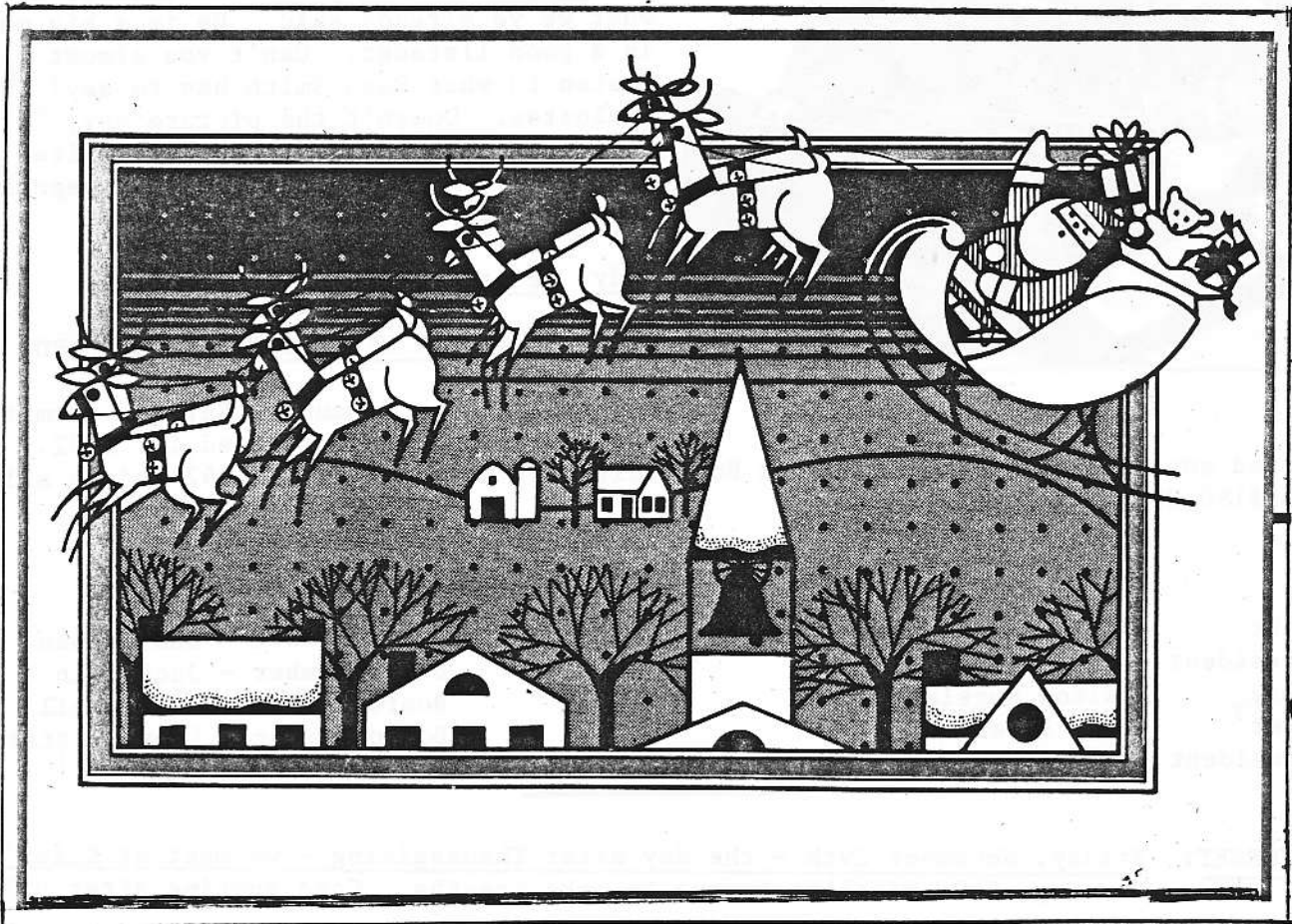
BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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

DECEMBER 1991, VOLUME 49, Number 12



Happy Holidays



MEET YOUR NEW EDITOR - ANDY MARLOW

You've met him before? Of course you have. He's a twelve year member of MGCM. He's a big guy easy to recognize. He has a readily distinguishable voice--clear and distinct as befits a man who is accustomed to speaking over the air or before an audience.

His ability to listen, to evaluate is exemplified by his monthly resumes in the SPRAY of the talks at our garden club meetings. The resumes also show he can scribble out notes in the dark which transcribed and filled out later appear in the editor's hands as full scale articles ready for the printer. He has on occasion edited the GARDEN SPRAY. He has chaired several club committees.

But why such a big picture? Because it proves what we've already said. He is a big man. He is a good listener. Can't you almost hear him listen to what Russ Smith has to say? He evaluates. Doesn't the picture say, "I'm listening but show me"? He is a writer and speaker--or why all that sheaf of papers he is carrying.

Andy, We salute you! Carry on!

AT IT'S OCTOBER MEETING THE MGCM BOARD

° Established a Community Service Committee to be defined and budgeted for 1992.

° Approved advertising in the Minnesota Horticulturist during 1992. (1992 budget allocation to be \$180.00 for 9 months)

MGCM OFFICERS FOR 1992 ELECTED AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING

President	- Greg Smith	Board Member	- Bob Stepen
Vice President	- Lee Gilligan	Board Member	- Jack Kolb
Secretary	- Eldon Hugelen	Board Member	- Don Powell
Treasurer	- Mel Anderson	Board Member	- Lloyd Wittstock
Past President	- Merle Pulley		

DON'T FORGET: Friday, November 29th - the day after Thanksgiving - we meet at Klier's Nursery, 5901 Nicollet Avenue to make wreaths. Come anytime after 6:30.

PICK UP YOUR CALENDARS AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY. DON'T FORGET, says Howard Berg.

**R E M E M B E R !
DUES EXPIRE DECEMBER 31st
RENEW N O W !**



Grow With Us

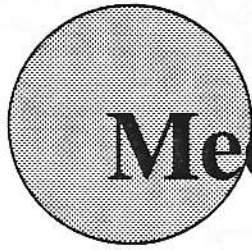


Thank you for the opportunity to serve as
President of Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season and
a most bountiful new year.

Cordially,

M. Thomas Pulley



MGCM Meeting Report

by Andy Marlow

November 12, 1991

Over the past 9 years, MGCM member Chet Groger and his mentor, the late Sherm Pinkham have made many people aware of the natural beauty of our world -- and made a significant amount of money for MGCM and the Men's Garden Clubs of America. They have done so by showing MGCA musical slide programs to church, senior citizen and other groups throughout the Twin Cities.

The idea was born at a lunch table at the MGCA convention in 1979. It grew out of a desire on the part of Sherm, Chet and others to put to good use the winning slides from the annual MGCA photography contest. (This was well before the winners -- including our own Russ Smith for September 1993 -- began appearing in the MGCA calendar.) By 1982 the first slide show was set to music and ready to show. Chet recalled first seeing the finished product in Sherm's living room, after helping sort the slides and install them in their carousel. That first show, "We Find God in Our Gardens," is still being enjoyed by the audiences to which Chet shows it.

After they had the show in hand, Chet began contacting senior centers and Sherm called churches to see if they would like to have the program presented. They asked no fee, only what the group felt it would like to donate. Soon Sherm was busy several days a month. Chet would help out "when necessary."

In 1983, it became "necessary" to do more than just help out. Sherm had surgery and Chet took over as the showman, assisted "when necessary" by Larry Catron. In 1984, Sherm passed away and left the job to Chet as his inheritance.

Over the years, Chet and Sherm raised over \$7800 from those donations. \$3500 went back to MGCA to develop more slide shows. In 1987, Chet began to donate the donations to MGCM for the 1988 MGCA convention committee. Since

1988, these funds have gone to the fragrance garden account. That usually gives Chet the opportunity to talk about the fragrance garden and other community projects before he starts the slides.

Chet has been carrying the ball on this important project since 1984. He's 75 years old now, and is looking for someone to take the job from him, as he took it from Sherm, so he can retire. Word of mouth has kept up interest in the show, and little marketing is needed. What is needed is a "showman" or "showwoman" to introduce the program, talk a little bit about MGCM and MGCA, answer questions and take the booking for the next showing. Give Chet a call if you are interested -- or if you can be persuaded!

Thanks in part to the money Sherm and Chet sent back to MGCA, there are now five shows. A second, slightly longer version of "We Find God in Our Gardens" has joined the original. Both are set to sacred music and are illustrated with slides of flowers, gardens and beautiful scenery, but each is a unique experience.

"The Birds Sing -- The Flowers Bloom" is a 28 minute program of pipe organ music with a background of bird calls. It is relaxing and beautiful, as it presents flowers and gardens in sequence from spring through autumn with related poetry.

The two "America the Beautiful" shows are a bit longer than the others, at around 35 minutes. They include scenic pictures from a variety of states, narrated in colorful fashion with musical accompaniment by an old time orchestra. "America the Beautiful -- No. 1" covers nine states, including Alabama, Ohio, Texas and California. "America the Beautiful -- No. 2" gives glimpses of Minnesota, Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington, among others.

Chet concluded his presentation by showing "America the Beautiful -- No. 1." It is a truly gorgeous country in which we live.

THE "HIBISCUS KING" REPORTS

Recently a lady who lives nearby came to my house to get copies of my new book about nurses most memorable events; she was surprised to note my dormant bed of hibiscus because she had known me as "the hibiscus man" but not by name. For years she had walked her large family of little children to my streetside hibiscus bed to photograph the kids "smelling" the hibiscus. Turns out those kids all became professional models and mother's photos of them and my hibiscus helped them get established.

As you should know, I've grown Southern Belle and other hibiscus for over twentyyears. Outside. And encouraged many others to start them too. Never lost a plant until that bad December 1989 freeze when about twenty plants were wiped out.

I get enthusiastic about them and, if and when we have to give up our home, I'll miss them and my great Supersteak tomatoes more than anything else.

This early morning, November 17, guess what? (As the kids say.) I'm roughing out my 1992 seed needs, without any current catalogs.

This last year (1991) I branched out and test-grew more, different hibiscus, realizing they woud all be annuals here in Minnesota. I tried several new-to-me varieties from Park Seed Co. and from a Texan friend, also called "The Hibiscus Man".

Right now I'll tell you - don't waste your time with "Red Shield", "Golden Bowl", and "Texas Star". Our season is simply too short for these varieties.

I started these under lights on March 1, just back from a winter trip, and transplanted them into the garden as quickly as possible,

"Red Shield" (*Acetosella*) grew to 12 feet and never bloomed. However, it provided a haven for those raven-sized blackbirds we have, and endangered my garage outdoor light fixtures. I needed an axe to remove them in the fall. Interesting dark red foliage, lousy branching growth habit, and no bloom. Who needs that?

"Golden Bowl" (*Abelmoschus manihot*) or Sunset hibiscus, grew to 10 feet in two different locations, was covered with buds when frost/freeze wiped them out. Two little six-inch flowers made it. The stalks were as heavy as field corn. I have a dried two-inch segment which is rock hard. I never did get to remove the roots. Will they perform, as Park indicated, as perennials, and send up new shoots next spring? Wanna bet?

"Texas Star" fared no better. These are just not for Minnesota.

I continue to rave about Southern Belle and its poor cousin, Disco Belle, just as I continue to wonder why the success

'don't grow and promote them.

Oh, yes, there's one other new one I grew. It was astonishingly successful - but that's another story.

Bill Hull

MEMORIES



PLANTING THE COMMUNITY GARDEN



Henry Bachman
December 5, 1977

❄️ May all the happiness ❄️
of the HOLIDAY SEASON be yours

Tuesday December 3, 1991 at Lake Harriet Methodist Church
Chowen Avenue South at 49th Street, Minneapolis

P.S. We are also collecting new, unwrapped toys for Santa Anonymous and canned goods for the Food Shelves. If you'd like to take this opportunity to help others this holiday season, we'll be accepting donations on the 3rd.

You Would Have Liked ARCHIE FLACK

Archie was president of our club, MGCM, in 1954. He was a fine gardener - no, rather a horticulturist, a graduate of Kew Gardens in England and a lifelong student of flora and fauna.

He lived at 4305 Mackey Ave., SLP, with his dear wife, Ruth, where he showed the world how a true British Gardener would present flower beds. It was indeed outstanding. A somewhat wandering border around three rear sides of the back yard with considerable depth in the furthest back portion, behind which he screened cutting beds, compost and cold frames.

I remember predominately annuals, very precisely spaced, yet creating a mass effect. Graduated heights, rising to the rear with colors in beautiful harmony.

In those days we had a Photography Special Interest Group (as we called them then) and staged demonstration shoots at Archie's. I still have a photo of a group - the only other person I can remember being therein is past member Eng Hoyme.

Archie was president of our club in 1954 (a long time ago for our new members).

He was very active in starting the Arboretum and has been recognized repeatedly. Archie, a deceased member and past presias being one of the first proposers thereof. He was another one of our great members. You would have liked him indeed.

Bill Hull, MGCM Historian

You Would Have Liked GEORGE LUXTON

Why be different? Everybody else liked him, too.

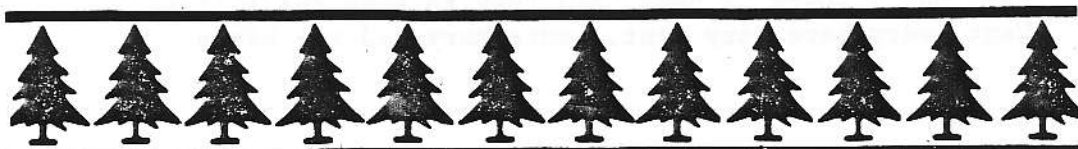
George Luxton was the garden writer of the Twin Cities for many years, columnist and garden editor for the Minneapolis Star & Tribune as it was known at that time. Not only was he a garden writer, he was a darned good garden writer, building a reoccurring theme about his Grandma's Garden. He referred constantly to her in his column, wrote books about adapting her garden ideas to today's world, and popularized that lady.

He was undoubtedly the one who left the legacy that beer in a saucer would rid your garden of cutworms. It could also lead you to not caring if there were cutworms in your garden.

He was one of the organizers of our club way back yonder in 1942. When I first came to know him in the club, in 1952, he was 71 years old which I considered very old at that time. (One's age makes a difference in the viewpoint, you know.) But he lived another ten years to 81.

Not only was George a good communicator, he was a funny man. His great sense of humor entertained us at many a dinner meeting, as he told of his special interests in roses, mums, and phlox of as we gradually learned of his civic activities including being president of the Prospect Park Improvement Association, active in the Citizen's Club and other groups. Physically he was a rather small man but I didn't know him in his prime. I wish I would have. We can be proud of being members of a club fostered by Minnesota's outstanding garden writer of the past.

Bill Hull, MGCM Historian



REPORTS OF EARLY MGCM MEETINGS

December 16, 1947 The Grand Annual Ladie's Night Dinner took place at the Fountain Terrace. A fine steak dinner was enjoyed by...a total of 116 members and guests. The star performer of the evening was Eugene Pfister, the well known Rosarian from Chicago. His witty and intensely interesting talk was much enjoyed by all. He gave us the low-down on all the latest novelties in the rose world and, in addition, he described the fine growth of the Men's Garden Club throughout America.

October 12, 1948...Our principal speaker for the evening was Horace W. Barnes of Wayzata, a real entertainer as well as a good horticulturist. His topic was "Fall Work in Your Garden". He said that fall work was the penalty for work you should have done last summer.

...Following the program Archie Flack and others presented various methods of raising money for the national convention (in Mpls.) next year. The plan finally agreed upon called for the sale of special subscriptions at \$35 each to our members, the money to be placed in a special fund in our treasury and to be used to underwrite the cost of the convention. It was estimated that we would need at least \$3000 in this fund before the convention could start. Before the meeting closed we had \$1250 in the fund.

October 11, 1949...During the business session we were treated to one of Herb Kahlert's best efforts on the subject, "We had ourselves a convention". He received an ovation when he stated that the big show had ended up in the black and that all of us who had contributed to the Underwriter's Subscription Fund would get our money back in full...

December 11, 1951 The Annual Christmas Dinner Party held at the Donaldson Tea Room... The retiring President...had selected Larry Corbett to act as Toastmaster, and the choice proved a happy one especially to the large number of ladies present....

George Luxton was introduced as our principal speaker and asked to tell us more about his famous grandmother. (The logo for George's garden column was a little old lady in a black cape.) George was getting along famously until suddenly the dear little old lady appeared--in the somewhat disguised person of Frank Janes--and began belaboring George unmercifully with her umbrella for telling such outlandish stories about her and especially to such a gang of unbelievers as the Garden Club. The shock was so great that George could not continue for some moments. He apologized later for this delay and whispered, "You know, she really did look like grandma". When George was able to again continue his speech he carefully avoided his original theme and spoke at length of some of his very interesting experiences through the years as Chief Photographer for several of the large Minneapolis Dailies.....

December 9, 1954 The Annual Christmas Party was held at Stouffer's...160 members and guests present. Through the efforts of Kaufman, Adams and others the tables were tastily (sic) decorated and copy of Everett's "How to Grow Those Plants" was presented to each lady present.

October 12 and 13, 1956...Our club acted as host to the Minnesota Horticultural Society Garden Forum held at Mount Olivet Church. With nineteen of our boys on the speaking program and the rest of the club headed by Witmer and Kaufmann acting as hosts and handling all the details, the meet appeared to be a success. At least according to the society officers it was one of the best conventions they had ever had....

SOURCE: History of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

Mary had a swarm of bees, and they to save their lives,
Went everywhere Mary went, cause Mary had the hives.

HOLIDAY PARTY FEATURE



Have we got news for you! Since the November GARDEN SPRAY came out Curtis and Loretta, the HAYMARKET MINSTRELS have been booked to perform "A Victorian Christmas Program" at our Christmas Holiday dinner to be held at the Lake Harriet United Methodist Church on Tuesday evening December 3rd.

The blurb for their cassette (labelled "Christmas with Curtis and Loretta") reads: Their harmonies are as sweet as ever, on such traditional carols as "The First Noel", "Silent Night", "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen", and more. Nicely balancing the religious selections are some playful celeste and harmonica instrumentals, such as "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town", and "Up on the Housetop". Loretta plays the celeste (an acoustic keyboard that sounds like bells), folk harp, guitar, and mandolin. Curtis plays mandocello, mandolin, and harmonica.

Now you couldn't afford to miss all that and the Parade of Turkeys, too, could you? So if you haven't already sent in your reservation (\$12.50)

DO IT NOW...To Walt Gustafson, 3812 W. 57th St., Edina, MN 55410. Better call him at 926-3124 to let him know it's in the mail to be sure.

THOUGHTS UPON LEAVING by ED CULBERT

Twenty one years, 252 issues, of getting out The SPRAY. It wouldn't have been possible without the help of so many others: Bill Hull, Bob Smith, and Phil Smith who provided a page for almost every issue that first year and have continued to supply articles practically every year since.

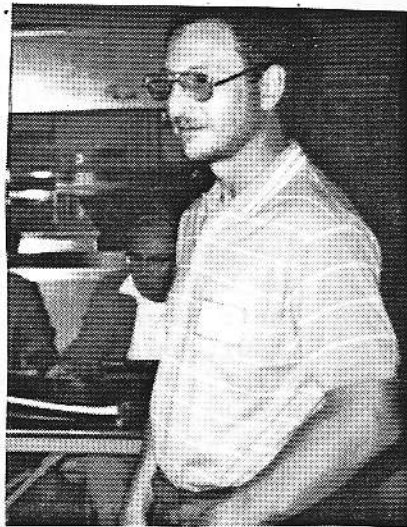
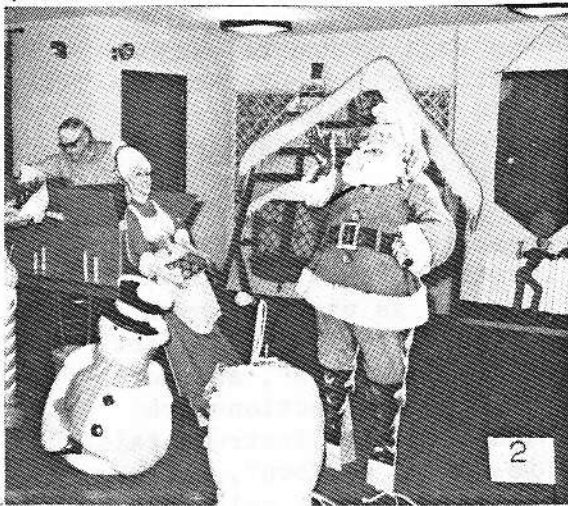
Bob Olson and others who supplied photographs; Larry Corbett, Chet Groger, Jack Kolb, Andy Marlow, Jerry Olson frequent contributors; plus others deceased or no longer members; plus the 21 Presidents who faithfully delivered their columns month after month. Likewise, the chairmen of the various committees: program, tour, auction, party, community garden, etc. And those not listed who provided an article, a clipping, a suggestion, an idea, a topic to explore.

In addition: Nancy Tallman who year after year has translated my scribbles, hieroglyphics, sketches into proper typed page format; my wife, Barbara, who keeps out of way while I write and folds and labels the SPRAY before it goes out.

Without the help of all those above I could not have lasted nor the SPRAY have received national status in MGCA. To all THANKS, and may my successor be so fortunate!

-- Ed Culbert





GETTING PARTY DECORATIONS READY . . . WAITING TO PICK UP DINNER . . . DAYTON BACHMAN SHOWS..

and VERA SNYDER



Deck the Halls

To help your greens retain their needles, first select a Christmas tree that is fresh and then consider shape, height and price. When selecting a tree, shake it as hard as you can, then reach into the trunk and remove all of the needles that have accumulated in the center of the tree. If you do this while you're still at the tree lot, you won't need to vacuum excess needles when the tree is in the house.

As soon as you bring the tree home, and while you still have it outdoors, cut one inch off of the bottom of the trunk to remove the dried sap that prevents the tree from absorbing moisture. Into a bucket of extra warm water, add one-quarter cup clear corn syrup and a tablespoon of Clorox dry bleach. Set the tree into the bucket and let it soak overnight. Then, before you bring the tree indoors, spray it with Wilt Pruf or Envy to help retain moisture in the needles. After this spray dries, place the tree into a tree stand that holds water. To keep the needles from shedding too rapidly, add a Christmas tree preservative to water in the stand at the recommended rate. Since some trees use up to two quarts of water per day, check the water level in the stand daily and make sure that you keep it full throughout the holiday season.

Evergreen roping, to be used indoors or out, should be soaked in room temperature water for 24 hours, then allowed to dry before spraying it with Wilt Pruf or Envy.

Soak the stems of greens for table decorations in the corn syrup solution overnight, then spray them with Wilt Pruf or Envy. When this spray has dried, make fresh, sharp cuts on the ends and force them into pieces of oasis (a holding material for cut flowers) that have been soaked in a Christmas tree preservative and wrapped in foil to prevent evaporation.

Follow these simple steps and your greens will stay fresh and fragrant throughout the holiday season. When the holidays are over, make sure that you dispose of the greens properly. *Do not burn greens in your fireplace!* Sparks can travel up the chimney and set fire to the roof, or burn so hot that they'll cause a fire in the flue. Remember, It's better to be safe, than sorry!

