

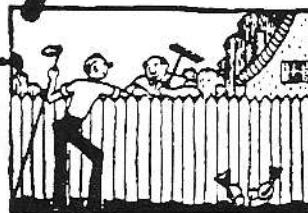


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

November 1998, Volume 56, Number 11



November Dinner Meeting...

The Poinsettia: *Euphorbia, pulcherrima* Speaker: Dale Bachman

Our own Todd Bachman will tell us how they develop beautiful holiday plants for the White House and your home just in time for the holidays.

Are you one of those that just couldn't throw out the green plant that has been with you since last Christmas and in the garden all summer? Todd will tell us about the basic production cycle used to bring these long lasting flowers to perfection for the holiday season. The cycle runs from stock plants, to cuttings, to the finished stage.

He plans to show us there are more than the red, white and pink varieties we have seen in the past. There is an explosion of interesting varieties and colors. He will bring some samples and, if they are not at perfection in early November, he will have slides, too.

Only 44 days till—and Todd will help us with the Poinsettia.

Notice of Annual Meeting

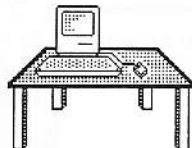
November is the Annual Meeting as required by the by-laws of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. Items required to be voted on are:

- Acceptance of the Budget
- Election of Officers

Date: Tuesday November 10, 1998
Place: Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Avenue South
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 extra meals are available

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) you are on the permanent list. **If there is no "p" on your label, you are not on the permanent reservation list and must notify Kay Wolfe by Friday, November 6, 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. 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

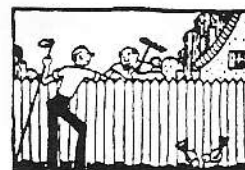
After almost a year as editor of the *Garden Spray*, I have a few thoughts on the experience. First of all, Andy Marlow has been a gem. When he asked to retire as editor he agreed to do the layout and printing. This he has done to perfection. I worry about what happens if he is unavailable. If anyone wants to learn the process and be a backup or do it full time, Andy would be happy to provide some instruction.

Howard Berg is another mainstay. He has attached stamps every month and for that I am most appreciative.

I am thankful to have two individuals that have been writing program reports, Maurice Lindblom and Tim McCauley. Of course, President Mary Maynard and Vice President Eldon Hugelen have been faithful in getting in their reports. Lloyd Wittstock and Joe Stenger have supplied many of the photos. Last of all thanks go to the writers. These include Kay Wolfe, Sher Curry, Clyde Thompson, Bob Olson, Lloyd Wittstock, Jerry Shannon, Jerry Olson, Lloyd and Patti Weber, Barb Berosik, Bill Hull, Marilyn Brummer and Stanley Crist. I also want to thank Margaret Hibberd for her typing.

The number of people that have written items seems quite large but it still is not enough to publish a newsletter every month. I feel that I have written too many; not because of the time spent but because the content tends to have the same flavor and writing style. I would rather have more diversity.

(continued on page 7)



Coming Attractions

Tuesday, November 3, 7:30 PM
Board of Directors meeting
Eldon Hugelen's house

Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 PM
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th & Chowen Avenue South

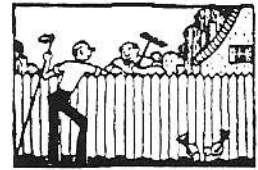
Friday, November 27, 5:30 to closing
Wreath Making (see article on page 9)
Klier's Garden Center
5901 Nicollet Avenue South

Tuesday, December 1, 7:30 PM
Board of Directors meeting
Walt Muehlegger's house

Tuesday, December 8
Holiday Party (See page 11)
Gathering 6:00 PM
Dinner 6:30 PM
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th & Chowen Avenue South

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

Well, it looks like winter is finally coming. As I write this, we still haven't had a frost on Dart Avenue, but it looks like we're going to get it in the next few days. So I'm heading outside to pick all the green tomatoes and hundreds of Phil's



Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

hot peppers that are still flourishing. And we'll have one last big bunch of dahlias and tender annuals.

I can't believe I'm saying this, but part of me is actually hoping for a freeze. I need to dig those dahlias, callas and cannas before the snow falls! This will be the first time I try to store dahlia tubers over the winter. It's a good thing we have access to the internet, since there are several good sites with advice for lifting and storing tubers. Of course, they don't agree with each other, but alternatives are good. I usually choose the alternative that is the least work, even if it doesn't produce the best results.

Which brings me to roses. I know all true rosarians in the club have already buried their tender roses, but I have always relied on surrounding each bush with bags of leaves and filling in the center with loose leaves—the lazy person's approach. So far, I've never lost a rosebush—but the backyard looks like a leaf recycling center all winter. And I actually think the Minnesota Tip is a superior way to protect roses—just not for lazy people like me!

Have I ever mentioned that all the major trees on my property have died since Phil and I got married in 1990? As a result, we have very few leaves of our own. So I'm glad to see the early birds in

the neighborhood have started raking and bagging leaves for pickup by the neighbors in the dark of night.

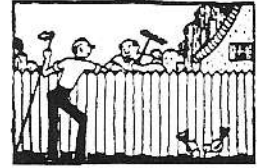
We had a good time on Sept. 26, when we distributed four truckloads of wood chips at the Perennial Trial Gardens near Lake Harriet. It was a lot of hard work, but it will make a huge difference in our maintenance efforts next year. The Perennial Trial Gardens effort has had a slow start, but I think we'll pick up the pace a little bit next year.

Eldon came through again with another fine program at the October meeting. Our speaker was very knowledgeable about trees and shrubs in our area, and there was a lot of interaction with our club members—many of whom are also experts.

We have two good events in November. It's always great to hear from our own club members, and I'm looking forward to hearing from Todd Bachman about Bachman's poinsettia efforts. Also, of course, we'll have our wreath-making event at Klier's Nursery on the Friday after Thanksgiving. If you've never gone, I encourage you to stop in. Howard and Ardis Klier and their staff give us a lot of space and good advice (not to mention cookies and snacks).

A lot of people like to make wreaths and centerpieces the old-fashioned way with a frame and wire, but I am a firm believer in Klier's wreath-making machines. They are very spiffy, especially for lazy people like me!. Ardis is in big demand for her bow-tying skills.

It's hard to believe that I only have one column left before Eldon takes over. This year is flying by. See you all at the November meeting!



October Program Report

by *Tim McCauley*

Program on Trees given by Don Selinger of Bailey Nursery

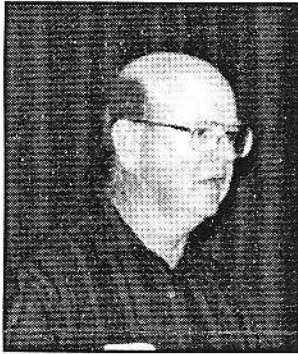


Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

Prior to the onset of Dutch Elm Disease, trees were thought to be almost invincible. We thought they would live forever; certainly longer than those of us who took them so much for granted. But trees have had a rough go of it lately and we now realize that this longest-lived perennial can't be ignored as in the past. We must tend trees as we tend the rest of the garden.

Hopefully the following excerpts from Don Selinger's timely and informative presentation will inspire us to take a more active role in conserving and renewing this valuable resource.

Trees In General

Trees are the foundation of the landscape. They are aesthetic and functional, whether used for shade, wind breaks or ornamental purposes. The current trend is to plant small to medium sized varieties more in proportion to the homes and urban environments of today. Who wants trees disfigured by pruning because they interfere with power lines?

Another trend has been interest in native trees. However, non-native trees are, and will continue to be, an important part of our landscapes. Trees are not native to urban conditions and we must plant varieties that will tolerate and thrive in these conditions.

Green Ash

This is a very good native tree that will tolerate a wide variety of conditions. But because we have used it so much we're beginning to see a number of problems with it. Ash Yellows, Ash Decline and various other diseases are affecting Ash, especially during drought conditions. Overplanting of any one species leaves us vulnerable to problems such as Dutch Elm Disease. It is critical that we plant a mixture of tree species.

Oaks

Another native species, Oaks have not been used greatly in the past because of transplanting difficulties. With the advent of container growing, transplanting is more successful. We're beginning to see more of varieties that have been overlooked in the past, such as Bur Oak and White Oak, species less susceptible to Oak Wilt.

Elms

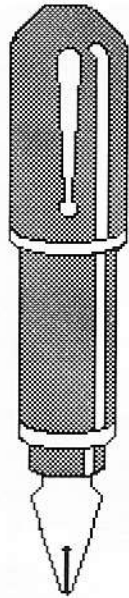
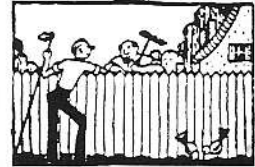
The American Elm was at one time universally planted and the mainstay of the nursery industry. It became a forgotten item after the Dutch Elm Disease epidemic. Much work has been done selecting and hybridizing disease resistant varieties. There is a reluctance by the public to plant the new Elm varieties but as their availability increases they should become more popular.

Trees To Consider

Don showed slides of a wide variety of trees that are available in the nursery trade. Here are a few that impressed me:

- Autumn Blaze Maple - unsurpassed fall color.
- His Majesty Cork Tree - Arboretum introduction, interesting bark, becomes very large
- Snow Mantle Dogwood - Gray Dogwood selection, interesting flowers

(continued on page 5)



Board Meeting Summary

Walt Muehlegger, Secretary

October 6, 1998

Present: Howard Berg, Chuck Carlson, Eldon Hugelen,, Maury Lindblom, Mary Maynard, Tim McCauley, Ritchie Miller, Walt Muehlegger, and Kay Wolfe.

Lasts months secretary's report presented and approved.

Howard Berg presented the treasurer's report and it was unanimously approved.

The Biennial Scholarship Tour earned \$7,874.54 this year. Scholarship fund balance is \$9,295.32 in 4 CD's which mature in 1999 and 2000

Vice President Eldon Hugelen reported that the Herb Lady from Wisconsin will present a program about herbs at the January 1999 meeting.

Old Business

Maury Lindblom presented the first draft of some of the committee responsibilities.

The board further reviewed the survey results. A summary will be sent to the membership later.

New Business

Howard Berg reports the church rental was raised to \$85.00 and we must put up and take down tables and chairs.

The \$600.00 budgeted Arboretum donation will be sent. It was decided split it to \$300.00 each for the Arboretum and Dr. Harold Pellet's research at the Arboretum.

A Little Gossip

By Flavus Baptisia

What MGCM member is an author of national reputation? It is none other than Mr. Rose, our own **Jerry Olson**. He is co-author of a new book, *Growing Roses in Cold Climates*. It has just been released and he was proud to show it off at the last dinner meeting. It looks great! Congratulations, Jerry!

Lloyd Wittstock and Henry Orfield will both have photos in the year 2000 TGOA/MGCA calendar. You will have to wait till next year to see the pictures (by buying the calendar, of course).

The Gustavus Adolphus college publication, *Twin Flower*, had an article by MGCM member **Delores Johnson**. The publication is issued by The Linnaeus Arboretum and the article was called "A Night in the Garden".

Did you know that **Clyde Thompson** was elected Vice President of the newly formed Mid-America Region of TGOA/MGCA? MGCM is a member of this region, along with four clubs in Iowa and one in Nebraska.

If you know any good gossip send it to me "Flavus" in care of "CJ", the *Spray* editor.

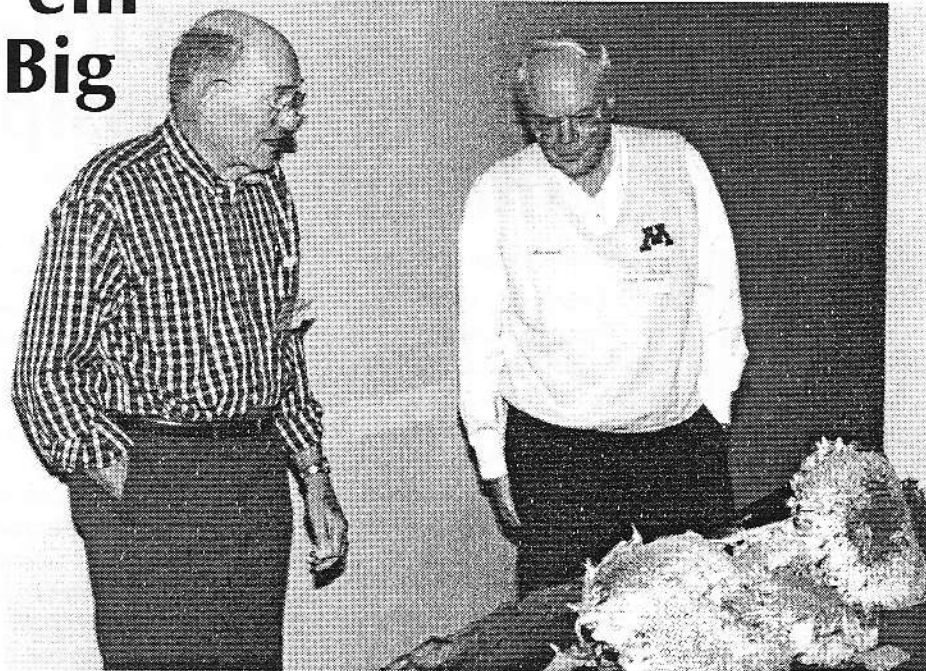
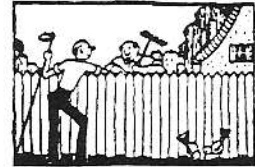
Trees

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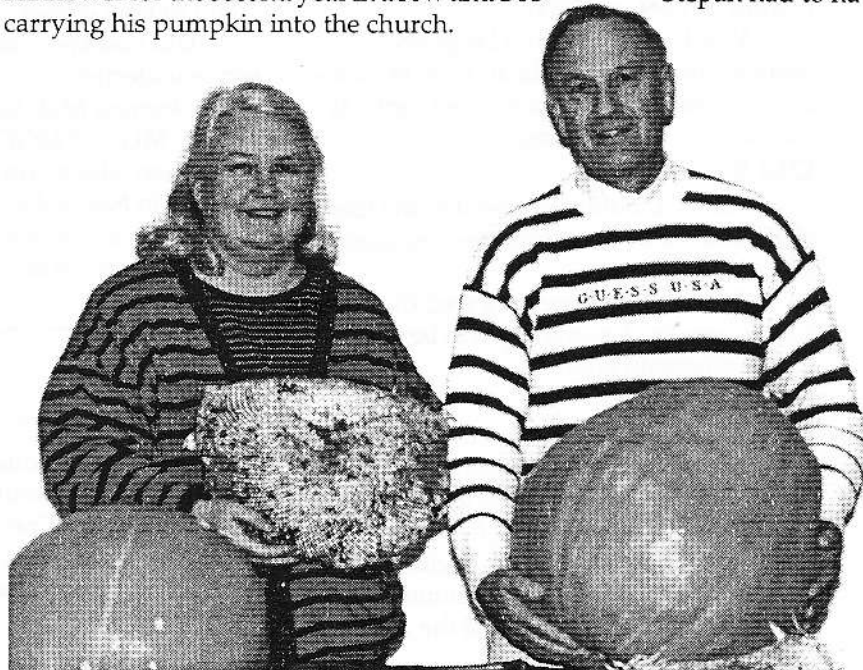
- Merrill Magnolia - fully hardy in the twin cities, beautiful white flowers
- Prairie Fire Crab - newer variety, rosy red flowers
- Don Wyman Crab - white flowers, small red fruit

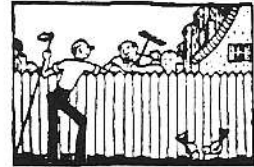
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Growing 'em Big



Big pumpkin and big sunflower contests were held at the October MGCM meeting. Above, Judges Mel Anderson and Duane Johnson weigh their decision. Below, the prize winners are displayed by their owners. Margaret Hibberd had the largest sunflower for the second year in a row and Bob Stepan had to have help carrying his pumpkin into the church.





Nominations for Club Officers

President	Eldon Hugelen
Vice President	Ritchie Miller
Secretary	Margaret Hibberd
Treasurer	Howard Berg
Past President	Mary Maynard
Director	Chuck Carlson
Director	Dave Johnson (Fridley)
Director	Tim McCauley
Director	Kay Wolfe

Directory Changes

Address Changes

Marty Anderson
14325 Sorrel Way
Eden Prairie Way 55347

Joane Anderson
8755 Forestview Lane N
Maple Grove MN 55369-6813

New Members

Lynda Carlson
5105 Halifax Ave S
Edina MN 55424-1419

Darwn Hendel
2340 Seabuty Ave
Minneapolis MN 55406-1453

E-mail Changes and Additions

Marty.Anderson@aexp.com

Editor's Column

(continued from page 2)

Thus I implore all of you to sit down and put your knowledge and expertise in writing an article. MGCM's major goal is to educate our members on the intricacies of gardening. One way is to write something for the *Spray*. I have also found that putting it down on paper helps you learn and retain that gardening knowledge.

As an aid and to help you in deciding what to write, I have listed a few ideas:

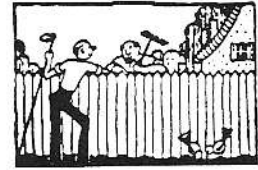
- Flower of the Month
- Back to the basics or how to articles
- Gardening successes or failures
- Garden experiments
- Garden humor, sayings, poems etc.
- Last month's program reports
- Member's gossip (only good things)
- Editorials
- Tours you have taken

Currently there is no backlog of articles for future editions of the *Spray*. So sit down, get out a pen and write. What better time than winter when you can't be outside in the garden. I would like your material by e-mail or typed but will take them anyway I can get them. Remember the TV program —*Have Gun will Travel?* Well I— *Have Computer will Edit*.

Trees

(continued from page 5)

Many of the trees Don mentioned can be observed at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. People should be urged to view mature trees before making their selections. Also keep in mind their requirements for sun, soil, water and climatic conditions. Location of understory trees and large shrubs also need to be considered.



Flower of the Month

By Chuck Carlson

Scabiosa

Scabiosa is an old flower with recorded history back to 1629. In the Mediterranean area, where it is native, they were used as memorial flowers because of its availability and almost purple-black color. It has a domed flower head with the center resembling a pin-cushion surrounded by laced or ruffled edges. The plant is studded with flowers that sit on top of single, somewhat crooked stems. It is a slightly fragrant flower and good for drying, especially the seed head. Be careful of leaving the seed heads on too long because it will freely re-seed itself. Deadheading before the seeds are formed will promote more blooms. It can be propagated by seed, cuttings in the summer or divisions in the spring.

Scabiosa is also known by a number of common names: Pincushion Flower, Mourning-bride, Sweet Scabiosa, and Widow-in-mourning.

- S. *astropurpurea* —A half hardy annual, two to three feet tall with dark purple, pink or white flowers.
- S. *stellata*—A half hardy annual 18 inches high with blue or rose violet flowers. An excellent dried flower.
- S. *caucasica*—A perennial, most of which are hardy to zone 4 and some only to zone 2. It grows 18 to 24 inches high with flower colors of blue, lilac, lavender, purple and white.
- S. *japonica* 'Alpina'—A perennial for the rock garden, only four inches high with lavender flowers
A few cultivars are;
 - Butterfly Blue—A perennial 12

inches high

- Pink Mist—A sister of Butterfly Blue
- S. *japonica* 'Alpina'—A perennial only four inches high with lavender flowers.
- Ace of Spades—A three foot high annual with a deep purple (almost black) flowers.
- Drumstick, alias Paper Moon or Ping Pong—A one-footer good for dried seed heads.

Information from a book by Anne M. Zenan, Taylor's guides and seed catalogs.

A Thanksgiving Heart

Watch out for Thanksgiving dinner. Your heart works harder after eating in order to pump blood to your stomach and intestines. In one study, after a 240 calorie minimal meal of corn flakes and skim milk, the heart pumped an extra 84 quarts of blood. After a 720 calorie meal, the heart pumped an extra 258 quarts of blood. No wonder many doctors say heart attacks seem to increase after big holiday meals like Thanksgiving dinner. As always, it seems the nasty word *moderation* comes into play.

The above is from *The Germinator* newsletter.

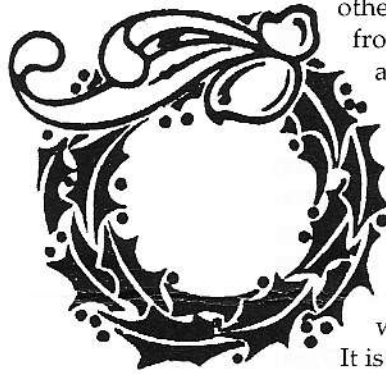
Editors note: I wish you a good Thanksgiving holiday. Above all, make sure you give thanks for this wonderful year of gardening and it's bounty. Don't forget your friends and relatives and any other blessing you have received. After dinner heart attacks not allowed.



At Klier's Garden Center...

Make a Wreath Party

Come on Friday, November 27, and join in the fun of making a wreath, swag, centerpiece or whatever holiday decorations you need. Bring a wire cutter and pruners. Everything else, including wire frames, various greenery, ribbons, and



other accessories, is available from Klier's Garden Center at a nominal price. If you have never made a wreath come and learn how. There are a lot of people to give you advice and many good examples. Crimping machines are available or you can hand wire the boughs to a frame.

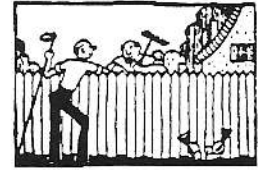
It is a party with treats supplied by Klier's. Spouses and friends are welcome to attend. No reservations needed. A fun time is had by all.

Kliers's Garden Center
5901 Nicollet Avenue South
Friday November 27
5:30 PM until closing

Ideas from the Garden

Lilies in a Pot

I have found the *Stargazer* lily to be ideal for a container. Three bulbs planted in the spring in an eight inch pot makes a beautiful show in August. You can plant



white petunias or vinca around the base. The lilies will grow to about 24 inches and have an intoxicating fragrance.

Maurice Lindblom

Think Small-Large Yield

Eleanor and I live at Elim Shores and have a small plot to grow a few things, so space is a premium. I planted 4 seeds of a burpless cucumber in one small hill. When they started to grow, a little fertilizer was applied and grow they did. So far I have harvested 50 to 60 cucumbers and they are still coming. This one small hill has supplied us and friends at Elim Shores with more than we needed. Another Surprise— Out of our compost bin rose a tomato plant that produced silver dollar sized tomatoes clustered like grapes. Again more than we needed. If you have a compost pile that is not going to be touched for the season, plant a tomato on top. The pile is a wonderful spot for it.

Phil Peterson

Ageratum

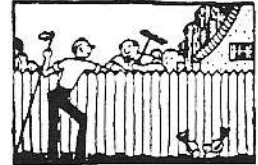
One of my favorite annuals, it is not as uncommon as they used to be. But you still don't see them as a bedding plants in stores all that much. It goes by the name of *Ageratum* 'Blue Horizon'. A nice tall *ageratum*, which is easy to start from seed. This year, it also came up as volunteers all over the place! Boy, did I have a lot of them!

Mary Maynard

Blue Mink is another tall *Ageratum* to consider.

Chuck Carlson

Editors Note: These are the first three garden snippets from those share requests I gave out at the last dinner meeting. As of now only three people have responded. We need your input to keep this column going.



1999 Budget

The budget will be voted on at the November Annual Meeting. Please look it over and come prepared to vote on it.

Category	Income	Expenses
Arbor Day	—	\$250
Awards Trophies	—	200
Biennial Tour	—	—
Calendars	\$1,000	1,000
Church Rent	—	765
Club Tours	2,000	1,500
Convention Delegates	—	400
Directory	—	300
Donations Arboretum	—	600
Donation MSHS	—	400
Dues	6,000	—
FFF	200	900
Holiday Party	3,000	2,500
Honoraria	—	200
Honorary members	—	468
Insurance	—	300
Interest	250	—
Meeting Meals	7,200	7,200
Membership Publicity	—	100
Memorials	—	—
Misc.	200	200
MSHS Dues	—	2,400
Office Supplies	—	400
Perennial Garden	—	—
Photography	—	100
Plant Sale/Auction	7,500	4,000
Raffles	200	—
Scholarships	4,000	4,000
Service Charge (Bank)	—	100
Slide Shows	200	100
<i>Spray</i>	—	1,567
Sunshine	—	300
TGOA/MGCA Dues	—	1,500
Hospitality	—	—
Totals	\$31,750	\$31,750



It's Time!
 To place your reservations for the
Annual MGCM Holiday Party

Tuesday December 8, 1998
 Cost: \$15.00
 Lake Harriet Methodist Church
 Chowen Avenue at 49th Street
 Minneapolis

Social Hour: 6:00 - Dinner: 6:30 - Program and awards follow dinner

The South High Singers will entertain us.
 They were warmly received a few years ago and we're told they're just as good this year!
 Awards will be made and we'll meet the scholarship winners.



Reservations will close November 27
 or when 157 reservations have been made
 (We nearly maxed out last year - Don't wait!)



Reservations and money will be taken by Walt and Melba Gustafson

Are you willing to be a carver and be in the Parade of Turkeys?
 Call Rick Coldren, 435-6506
 Bring your own tools
 Hats provided

Bring non-perishable food items for the Food Shelf, please.

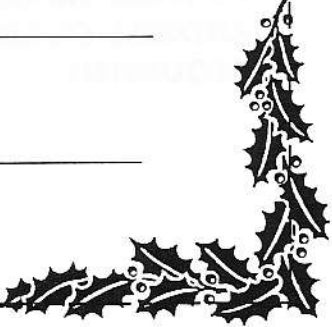
MGCM Holiday Party Dinner Reservation

Names: _____

_____ persons x \$15.00 Each = _____

We would like to sit with _____

Send reservations and check for the appropriate amount to:
 Walt and Melba Gustafson, 3812 W. 57th St., Edina, MN 55410-2333



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MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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5219 Malibu Drive, Edina, MN 55436

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The Garden Spray

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