

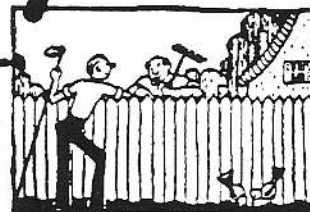


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

September 1998, Volume 56, Number 9



September Dinner Meeting...

Landscaping For Birds

By Dawn Graber

Move your perch over to the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis Dinner Meeting. You will have an evening of landscaping for those creatures that give us year around enjoyment in Minnesota gardens. Like plants, it takes water, food and other amenities to attract and keep birds in our gardens.

Some of the subjects Dawn Graber will expound on are:

- backyard bird feeding
- many related battles
- how to keep squirrels at bay
- selective feeding for specific birds
- fall and winter start-up
- question and answers

Dawn is co-owner with Anne Schmauss of Wild Birds Unlimited. Each day she gets to hear and answer questions customers ask about birds. So bring some of your own to our September meeting.

Added Attraction:

Photos from the Flower, Food and Foto Show contest will be on display



Date: Tuesday, September 8, 1998

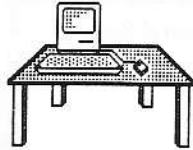
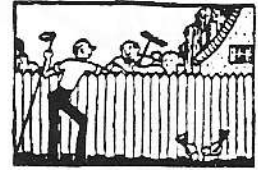
Place: Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, 49th and Chowen Avenue South

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

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, September 4, 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

Have you every heard someone say, "I have a garden from hell"? Maybe you've heard phrases like; "those weeds are hellish", "it's dry as hell", "it's hot as hell" or others which mention hell. You may also think that there are no gardens in hell because it's too hot and dark there with no water. Or, maybe you think all gardeners go to heaven.

Reading an article by Adam Levine in a magazine called *Garden Design*, I gained some insight on this whole situation. Maybe hell has a large garden designed for non-gardeners who didn't make it to heaven. One can see them trying to grow cool and moisture loving bog plants next to the ever burning flames of hell. Others may have to pull smart weeds or poison ivy without even a shirt.

Ragweed and goldenrod grow in abundance for those sensitive people who then sneeze constantly. Bonsai takes retaliation on those who cut their limbs and roots by forcing them to wear shoes many sizes too small.

Adam also imagined topiaries come to life, forcing their previous owners to submit to haircuts that even our present rockers would think was outrageous. Compost never rots and always smells. Weeds guzzle Roundup and laugh. Weeds never run out of roots when pulled, so one can pull and never win.

Hell might also include raking leaves from trees that never stop dropping them, and lawn care crews endlessly running noisy equipment without earplugs.

(continued on page 9)

Coming Attractions

Tuesday, September 1 – 7:30 PM
Board of Directors meeting
Maurice Lindblom's house

Tuesday, September 8 – 6:30 PM
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th & Chowen Avenue South

Tuesday, October 6 – 7:30 PM
Board of Directors meeting
Mary Maynard's house

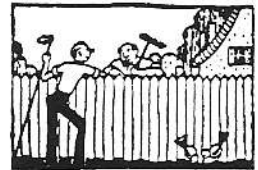
Tuesday, October 13 – 6:30 PM
MSCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th & Chowen Avenue South

Tuesday, November 3 – 7:30 PM
Board of Directors' Meeting
Eldon Hugelene's House

Tuesday, November 10 – 6:30 PM
MGCM Dinner Meeting
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, here we are in September already. How did this happen? It seems like it was just yesterday that I actually had hopes of completing all those grandiose plans for the summer. And here we



Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

are on the brink of the PSS (Possible Snow Season), almost time to start making grandiose plans for next year. Fortunately, I seem to be able to simply carry forward most items from this year's "To Do" list...Hmmm.

I'm looking forward to our program this month. My bird experience comes from two small feeders

outside a window, but even on that small scale it's very rewarding. I wonder if the subject of Squirrel Management will come up? One of my neighbors has a 12 foot sunflower growing in his boulevard garden thanks to our furry friends. It has become a landmark on Dart Avenue—my house has been described as "two houses past the sunflower". This may not be a good way to locate my house in the long term, but for now it's very accurate. Stop by sometime and see for yourself. If you need practice in weed identification, come on into the yard and take a tour!

We had another great tour in August. Many thanks to the committee for making all the arrangements, and to Len and Jan Brenny, Sher Curry, Lee and Bill Strang for letting us into their splendid

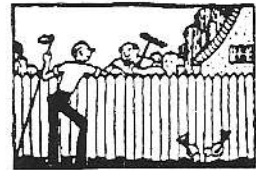
gardens. And special, super-duper thanks to Walt and Melba Gustafson, who had all of us tourists to their place for supper afterwards. As many of you know, Walt and Melba live on Minnehaha Creek in Edina — a lovely setting that can accommodate 60 people very comfortably. And we were very well-fed, especially our bus drivers, who took home big bags of cinnamon rolls. (We almost jumped our driver for his bag of rolls, but decided not to at the last minute.)

As I write this, we're getting ready for this year's Flower, Food and Foto Show. As usual, I'm very excited about it, because I love to show off! My thanks to Margaret Hibberd and the rest of the committee, who worked so hard to make it a success.

I seem to be always thanking one committee or another—and I've probably missed one or more along the way this year. If you're a new member, I encourage you to get involved in a couple of committees as quickly as possible, since that is the best way to get to know people in the club, and to feel like you belong. If you don't know how to get in touch with your committees, please don't hesitate to call me or Maury Lindblom, who is chair of our membership committee and would be happy to help you get connected with the committee. My phone number is 926-7506, and Maury's is 935-6913.

See you at the meeting!

September through mid-October is the best time to do lawn seeding



August Tour Report

by Chuck Carlson

This years members tour was, for me, one of the most enjoyable and relaxing tours I have taken since joining MGCM. All the gardeners who generated these settings should be congratulated on a job well done and deserve our thanks for letting us invade their space and trample their grass. The tour committee should also be given a pat on the back. I understand that Carole Ann Brekke, Mary Wahl and Kay Wolfe were responsible.

Garden of Len Brenny, Coon Rapids



(Bob Livingston and Len Brenny in Len's Garden. Photo by Chuck

The pre-tour information said I would find solace in the beautiful shady sanctuary Len has created. Also that I could leisurely tour the garden and sit by the stream and listen to the music of the club's favorite pianist, Henry Halvorson. This was mostly true—the garden was beautiful and Henry's

music was great. But I would have liked all the people to disappear, have a libation in my hand and have Henry's melodies waft through the windows. Then I could have found solace. A great garden, Len

Garden of Sher Curry, Crystal

Words such as cute, unique, nice, fun, different and wonderful were uttered by the garden visitors. But one could also see some great plants and combinations of

flowers, unusual leaves of various colors and shapes, and many grasses. All told a nice combination. Also the garage door was a nice touch to show off her artistry and personality. I was so impressed I toured the garden the next day with another club.

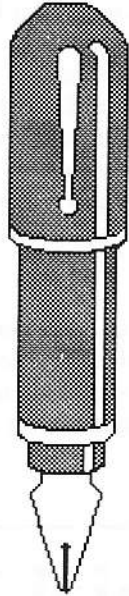
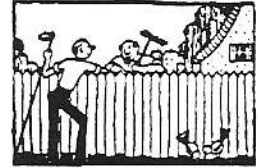
Garden of Lee and Bill Strang, Edina

A lovely setting with a very nice, large, curving semi-formal perennial bed. There were some added touches that made the total picture a truly great view. Some of the touches I thought set off the garden were: the lamp topped with a crane all mounted on picturesque curving wooden pole; and a bird bath with those little metal babies crawling over the rocks (by the way, those babies were made by Lee using her own children as models) I was also surprised how well the vegetables were hidden in the back of the flowers. There were some really nice looking ripe tomatoes. A very lovely garden.

Dinner at the Gustafsons, Edina

Walt and Melba Gustafson throw a great party. We are so lucky to have a couple like them in MGCM. The setting was just great. The raised beds all along the sloping grass yard ending at the bank of Minnehaha creek made a wonderful view. Just a great setting to sit on the patio and relax after a nice afternoon touring gardens. Walt and Melba, thank you for your generosity and for a terrific ending for a fine and enjoyable day.

More tour photos are on page 8



Board Meeting Minutes

Walt Muehlegger, Secretary

August 4, 1998

All officers and directors were present.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were presented and approved.

Vice President Eldon Hugelen reported the September 1998 speaker will be from Wild Birds Unlimited. The church will be reserved for

March 23rd which is the first Tuesday of the Bachman's -Dayton Show. Details for this meeting will be worked out later.

Committee Reports were given and all is going well.

Old Business

Survey results were reviewed and tabled until next month when we will review it again. All are to have comments ready.

There was discussion about Dr. Harold Pellett and the Landscape Plant Development Center at the Arboretum and honorariums.

New Business

The applications for membership from Julia Porter, Mike Nagengast and Alice Chapin were approved.

Next board meeting Tuesday, September 1, 1998 at Maury Lindblom's home at 7:30 p.m.

Directory Changes New Members

Julia Porter
2205 Pinto Drive
Wayzata MN 55391-9503
Phone: 612-476-1159

Mike Nagengast
5308 36th Avenue South
Minneapolis MN 55417
Phone: 612-722-4979

Alice Chapin
Walker Place #420
3701 Bryant Avenue South
Minneapolis MN 55409
Phone: 612-827-8578

E-mail Changes and Additions

Mary Brown
mary.brown@stpaul.com

Marilyn Brummer
N4732@aol.com

Rae Ann Vandeputte
rae_ann_p_@notes.fh.com

Raspberry Patch

Raspberries poised in blood red clusters of five

Their plump juiciness bending prickly canes

A plastic ice cream pail, suspended with silk neckwear

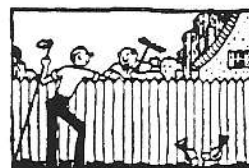


Foto Show Results

Our publishing date makes it impossible to provide the results for the Food and Flower part of the Flower, Food and Foto Show, but the Foto results are known. Again we report that Henry Orfield was the overall contest winner but we did have a closing of the gap. We had a number of people who won their first blue ribbons. We also had some brand new participants. For that we were happy, but we would like more. So, get out your camera and shoot a few flowers, vegetables, members' gardens or landscapes. There is a category for anything as long as it has some horticultural content.

Thanks to our judges for their efforts. They even get a new appreciation and increased knowledge about photography when they have to decide the winners and losers. The judges this year were Andy Marlow, Sher Curry, Bob Livingston and Joe Stenger. They said they would field any complaints or questions on their selections. They may even give you a critique of your entry.

Here is a summary of the major winners.

- **Best of Show**
Egg Plant, Garlic & Onions
by Eldon Hugelen
- **Best of Class (Slides)**
Rose Floribunda 'Peppermint Twist'
By Henry Orfield
- **Reserve Champion Slide**
Norfolk Pine
by Lloyd Wittstock
- **Best of Class (Print)**
Egg Plant, Garlic & Onions
by Eldon Hugelen

- **Reserve Champion Print**
Rose and Conifer
by Chuck Carlson
- **Special Award (Slide)**
Wildflowers with Waterfall
by Henry Orfield
- **Special Award (Print)**
Chicago Botanical Garden
by Henry Orfield

We will again display the photos at the September dinner meeting. You can then see all the winners and some of the also-rans. Another reason for coming to the meeting.

Biennial Tour Report

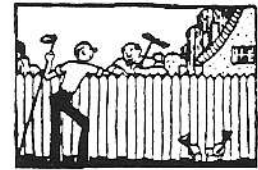
The 1998 Biennial Tour was the most successful we have ever had. We thank those who opened their gardens to the hordes of people tramping through. Without the gardens we wouldn't have a tour. Thanks to the Brekkes, the Caples, the Geisters, the Gilligans, the Johnsons, the Shannons, and the Uzzells.

The members of the committee also deserves congratulations for their yeoman efforts. I am sure some didn't know the amount of energy they would expend, but they finished their tasks with amazing results. I didn't hear any complaints—only praise. Make sure you thank those individuals personally for their efforts. The scholarship fund is in the best financial shape it has ever been.



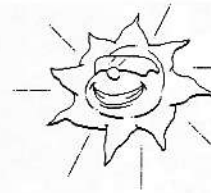
Notes from *The Avant Gardener*

- If you contact poison ivy and don't have any doctor prescribed medicine available try using common hypochlorite laundry bleach. All you have to do is coat the affected area with the bleach.
- A new slug control is available. It is called "Escar-go". Tests at the University of Berlin has proven it effective.
- A pocket sized directory of Gardens in North America is available. It shows 300 public gardens. \$4.95 from AABGA, 351 Longwood Road, Kennett Square PA 19348
- Many varieties of the plant Ameria (also known as Sea Pink or Sea Thrift) are available at Carroll Gardens, Box 310, Westminster, MD 21158.
- A flower you could try next year is one that florists love as a cut flower. It is called Amni or Bishops Flower. *A. majus* and *A. visnaga* 'Green Mist' are available from Park Seed. It is a tall plant and likes sun. One may want to cut the top bloom to get side shoots.
- Gardeners should make sure you are up to date on your tetanus shot. You need one every 10 years. Lockjaw, which is what it prevents, has a 50% fatality rate so make sure you get one.
- Strawberry runners make good free long-lasting plant ties.
- Save some hot peppers for making pepper spray. It keeps squirrels and



rabbits from eating those early flower buds. Also available as a product called Squirrel Away. Some say it is not very humane.

Let the Sun Shine

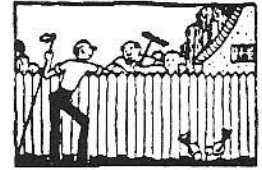


Chuck Cutter has been incapacitated with a number of broken bones. I understand it occurred during a two bicycle accident.

We wish Chuck a complete and speedy recovery. We send our best wishes and prayers.

More Normal Gardener/Obsessed Gardener

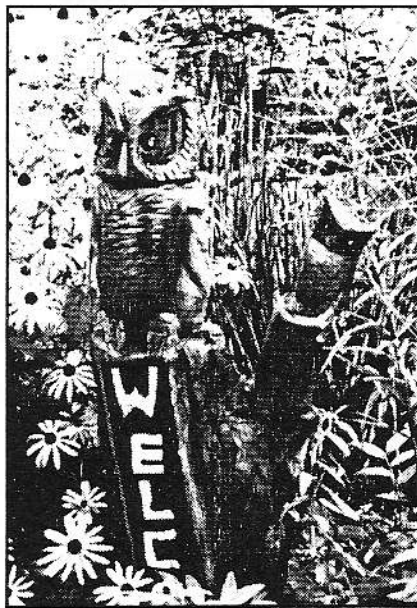
- NG: Someone says you have PAS (plant acquisition syndrome)
 OG: You take it as a compliment
- NG: You invest in fine gardening tools
 OG: You keep spares in your trunk for emergencies
- NG: You are proud of your baby carrots
 OG: You carry pictures of them in your wallet
- NG: You teach your children the wonders of gardening.
 OG: You forgot to have children



August Tour Photos

by Chuck Carlson

Henry Halvorson and Kay Wolfe enjoy some fellowship on the tour (top). Owls welcome visitors and keep pests away in Sher Curry's garden (bottom).



A Little Gossip

By Flavus Baptisia

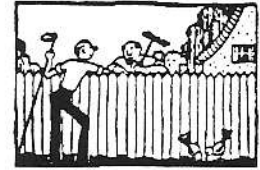
Our member Clyde Thompson was featured in a magazine called *North American Gardener*. Guess what the article was called? "Mr. Thompson's Neighborhood".

Dave and Delores Johnson and their garden were on TV. WCCO's program *Out and About* had scenes of their garden of love on a segment about gardens that Ralph John Fritz's dog has never visited.

Guess who is called "Shorty"? Lynette Uzzell.

All I Need to Know about Life I Learned from Trees

- It's important to have roots.
- In today's complex world, it pays to branch out.
- Don't pine away over old flames.
- Don't be afraid to go out on a limb.
- Be flexible so you don't break when a harsh wind blows.
- Sometimes you have to shed your old bark in order to grow.
- If you want to maintain accurate records, keep a log.
- Grow where you're planted.
- It's perfectly okay to be a late bloomer.
- Avoid people who would like to cut you down.
- If the party gets boring or dangerous, just leaf.
- You can't hide your true colors as you approach the autumn of your life.
- It's more important to be honest than poplar.



Editor's Column

(continued from page 2)

Adam ends his article with a hopeful idea that the gardeners who all go to heaven will have access to gardens that have every plant that they craved on earth. Also remember that we will all get manicures and won't have that constant dirt under our fingernails. I sure hope all gardeners go to heaven.

Classifieds

Wanted

Articles for the *Garden Spray*. Send typed, e-mail or even handwritten articles to Chuck Carlson. Have computer, will edit.

Wanted

Do you need help with your garden or someone to do your dirty work? Contact Dazey Mae Christi at 612-920-4851 or e-mail to dazey@bitstream.net. Dazey is Sher Curry' daughter, a hard worker and believes in doing a job well. The charge is \$10.00 per hour. Things I do: paint, mow, trim, weed, plant, dig, water, landscape and whatever else you can come up with.

For Sale

A gardeners property. Almost 2 acres of flowers, berries, and 147 apple trees . The 3 bedroom, 3 bath, 2200 sq. foot house goes with the garden. Contact Lee Gilligan.

Flower of the Month...

Canna

By Chuck Carlson

This perennial had its heyday in the Victorian era, but made a big splash again in the U. S. in the 1950s. New hybrids are now making it popular again.

The canna is native to South and Central America, and made it's way to Stockholm in 1880. From there it found it way to the U.S.

It also goes by the name *Indian Shot*. The comes from its hard, smooth , round seeds that look like shot gun pellets. Maybe another name should have been the *rosary flower*, because in Europe the seeds were used as rosary beads.

Today the Canna is making a resurgence in popularity because of new varieties and an interest by gardeners in it's form and leaves. The large leaves and the plant's height makes for great garden texture. This is particularly true of the varieties with colored and variegated leaves.

Since Cannas thrive in long hot summers, here in Zone 4 we must cultivate them differently than in zones to the south. Though the rhizomes can be planted directly outside after the last frost, the best way is to start them inside in a large pot about a month before the frost free date. Then put outside in the ground when the soil is warm.

The rhizomes can be cut to propagate. They should be cut with a sharp knife, making sure that there are one or two eyes per division. The eyes should be planted two or three inches below the soil surface. They can be grown on in any normal soil but prefer it amended with well rotted manure plus a little phosphorous.

(continued on page 10)

News from the Arboretum

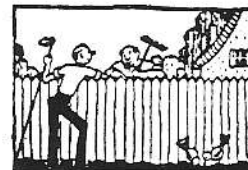
By Marilyn Brummer

The Arboretum has new garden cart. This cart is for use by any group in order to provide information to the public about gardening, answer questions, promote the group, generate new memberships, etc. The cart is planned to be used out in the gardens. Specialized groups would most likely use the carts at the area where the groups specialty garden is located. Our group used it during our Flower, Food and Foto Show. We located it next to the annual display gardens

A new five-ten year plan has been approved by the Board of Trustees. The first priority is building a visitor's center which will house the gift shop and other functions. The tea room will be expanded. The Snyder Building will then be used for meetings, classes, etc. The demand for use of the Snyder Building is three times its present capability.

Drawings for different versions of this plan and other construction plans will be on display on the second floor on the wall by Peter Olin's office. Everyone is invited to look and make comments. The plans include adding another wing to the Snyder Building, providing additional meeting room space and classroom space. This will give the Anderson Library a complete third floor wing for archives and additional book space. The plan is quite extensive, but will not precede the number one priority which is to acquire the land surrounding the arboretum.

Editors note: Marilyn is the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis liaison with the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.



Cannas

(continued from page 9)

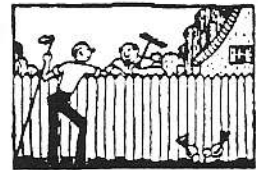
The flowers should be deadheaded continuously. In the fall let the frost kill the tops and then dig up the rhizomes. Trim off the tops and let them dry before storing. Dust with sulfur or a bulb dust and layer them in peat moss. Store in a cool dry place.

Some varieties to try:

- 'Pretoria' – Variegated leaves, orange flowers; sometimes called Bengal Tiger
- 'Polly Gay' – Red flower with yellow edge
- 'Tropical Rose' – A dwarf variety and 1992 AAS winner.
- 'Pink Futurity' – Excellent flower color with burgundy foliage.
- 'Red King Humbert' – Can grow to 7 feet has bronze foliage.
- 'Picasso' – A yellow flower spotted with red.
- 'Lucifer' – A dwarf plant with a red flower having yellow edges.

Fellow gardeners usually have too many after growing them for a couple years. Maybe they will share. Canna is a plant for your garden that's a little different and adds some texture. Try it, you may like it.

1999 MGCM Membership Renewal



(Must be received by **November 1, 1998** to assure you get
January issue of the *Minnesota Horticulturist*)

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Initial)

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

(City) (State) (Zip+4)

Business Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Check here if you are a Master Gardener: []

Please list me in the directory as a mentor gardener. My specialties are:

Please list any occupations or hobbies you have or have had that might be useful to MGCM:

I will serve on the following committees (minimum of two). If you do not select two committees, you will be assigned as needed. *Circle your choices.*

- Arbor Day Awards & Trophies Auction Calendar Sales
Flower, Food and Foto Show *Garden Spray* (Production) (Writing) Garden Tours
Holiday Party Hospitality Membership/Publicity Photography Perennial Garden
Plant Auction Sunshine Telephone

I am willing to chair the _____ Committee.

Breakdown of Dues (Payable by November 1, 1998)

	Ist Mem.	2nd Mem.
The Gardeners of America (TGOA/MGCA)	\$15.00	\$10.00
Minnesota State Horticultural Society (MSHS)	\$17.00	\$7.00
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis (MGCM)	<u>\$10.00</u>	<u>\$5.00</u>
Total Dues	\$42.00*	\$22.00*

Total Renewal Dues Enclosed \$ _____

* Please deduct the appropriate fee if you are a life member of TGOA/MGCA, MGCM, MSHS or a member of MSHS) directly or through another club.

Mail this form with a check payable to (MGCM) to: Howard Berg, MGCM Treasurer,
10107 Lakeview Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55305-261

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MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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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

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2740 Florida Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55426

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The Garden Spray

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