



The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



April 1963
Volume 21, No. 24
G. Victor Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors
Wm. H. Hull, Otto Nelson
Neil Barry

April Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 16, 1963
Place: Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church
Knox Avenue at W. 50th St.
Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp
Price: \$1.75

Officers

Ev. Haedecke	President
Dwight Stone	Vice-Pres.
G. R. Christenson	Secretary
Charles Proctor	Treasurer

Office of the Secretary
8300 Sheridan Ave. So.

PROGRAM

Grafting Demonstration -
Ted Wear, Ass't. Sup't.
Minn. Fruit Breeding Farm

Shrub Auction - Proceeds to
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
Leon Snyder

NOTICE: The April meeting will be the third Tuesday in April; not the second as usual.

This note received from the family of Maurice-K. Lifson:

"Please convey our thanks to the Garden Club for everything you have done for my father--I know he treasured his friendship with all your wonderful members as much as he did his flowers--I will always remember him sitting cross-legged right in his garden with his hands in the dirt oblivious to everything else--I only wish he could have spent another summer there."

Sincerely,

The family of Maurice K. Lifson
(Mrs. James Ehrlich)

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

We certainly express our sympathy to the family of Maury Lifson, our good member who died suddenly on February 28, just after our last SPRAY had gone to press. An active and dependable member, Maury had contributed a lot to our club in the fifteen years he had been a member. But Maury would also say he had gained a lot in friendship and gardening comradeship. We will miss him.

Fluorescent gardening grows in popularity daily. If your name is not among those I can recall as disciples of this hobby, will you let me know: Bezoier, Brastad, Brooks, Cerney, Durst, Erickson, Flack, Hoyme, Hughes, Hull, Les Johnson, Kaufmann, Otto Nelson, Paul, Proctor, Phil Smith, Stillman and Witmer. There must be others but, if not, that's still 18 people. A good percentage.

Dale Durst and Arvid Ahnert are working furiously on the plant auction but will need our backing. How about picking out a few of those excess seedlings and having them ready to contribute? Be sure to label them as completely as possible and attach all the information you feel a potential buyer might want to know.

Recently I gave away my 200th blooming African Violet. Most of you in the club have received one, except a few who live at great distances from me or whom I never seem to catch at home. If you want one, please speak up. The trouble with violets is that they take up room this time of the year when I'm growing annuals. At this writing in early March, the seedlings are already beginning to crowd. Yes, you're right. I need a greenhouse.

Word is getting around about the 1963 MGCA convention. Already we've heard that Ev Haedecke, Dwight Stone, Les Johnson, Charlie Proctor, Fred Holzman and myself are going. If you plan to attend, please let me know. The Rockford group has been trying to get Rachel Carlson and an antagonist to appear on the same program for the convention but it isn't finalized yet.

Did you hear about the woman who insisted she'd have no more children after having four? She'd heard that every fifth child is Chinese.

Fred Holzman went down to Elgin, Illinois, this fall to meet National MGCA rose test chairman, John Kienzle. While there he talked John into burying all of his roses, Minnesota style. Mr. Kienzle, a known authority, has received lots of publicity nationally regarding his work with roses, but we all can learn. Isn't a large part of gardening fun trying new processes and plants?

Has anyone used CV-13 in water for nematodes? And with what results?

Have been looking around for a hydrosome riviera--Sacred Lily of India--Leopard Palm--formerly called Amorphophallus. Name change for obvious reasons. Finally found one. Should make a good looking garden plant this winter. Vic Lowrie says we auctioned off a few at the club a few years ago. Anyone else have one?

OVER THE GARDEN GATE (Cont'd.)

Special note to Joe Witmer--good article on cold frames. I can tell you where you can get your choice of hundreds of storm windows for one dollar each, but perhaps you already know.

Does anyone have room to grow an old-fashioned dipper gourd? Some seeds free for the asking, if desired. Also Queen Anne's Pocket Gourd seeds, the name supposedly being derived from a habit Queen Anne had of carrying these small round fruit in her pockets because of the pleasant odor they disseminated.

Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" continues to raise a ruckus. The weight against her comments appears overwhelming. Here are a few of the remarks:

"...unfair, one-sided and hysterically over-emphatic. Many of the scary generalizations, and there are many of them, are patently unsound. And not even Miss Carson can point to a single sizeable sprayed area where no birds sing." (TIME Magazine, 9-28-62).

"Lovely writing, but the implication of harm to our health is just not true...no known ill health in man has resulted and life expectancy in this country continues to increase at every age...It is unfortunate that Miss Carson's book is promoted by its publicists and proponents as the work of a scientist. I have seen no evidence in "Silent Spring" which justifies calling Miss Carson a scientist...what evidence there is would lead me to the opposite conclusion." Frederick J. Stare, M.S., Ph.D., M.D., Prof. of Nutrition and Chairman of the Dept. of Nutrition, School of Public Health, Harvard University.

"...the use Miss Carson makes of these facts creates a false and misleading impression of unregulated chaos in the application of pesticides which does far more harm than good." (Dr. George Decker, Principal Scientist and Head, Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana.)

"The author's literary skill is apparent but the theme is quite outside her scientific field, which is marine biology." AMERICAN NURSERYMAN, 11/1/62.

"...over-embroidered and over-sentimentalized, a one-sided viewpoint." The Pennsylvania Hort. Soc., 9/62

"Anyone who can read and who is willing to apply a little common sense can use chemical pesticides safely in home gardens." Cynthia Westcott, Ph.D.

"The harm man has done to wildlife in felling forests, tilling fields, draining wet places, polluting waters, and through urbanization, is of much greater consequence collectively, than are the relatively small and temporary losses that have occurred from pesticide use. Of the total land and water area of the U.S.A. more than 95 percent receives no pesticides in a typical year; in the wildlands (about 75 percent of the total area) the figure is 99 percent." New York State College of Agriculture, et al.

SHOULD I ADOPT ORGANIC GARDENING? -- OR INORGANIC?

Today, our better gardeners are using the best of both Organic and Inorganic Gardening. They are conserving the organic residues and often buying more organic materials. These organic materials are being supplemented with liberal quantities of "Premium" fertilizers containing additional nutrients. They are composting the residues to develop a product that will not produce an "explosive" reaction when it is applied into or on the soil. Better composts are being prepared by using "Premium" high nitrogen fertilizers in the compost piles. Other gardeners are not using compost piles as such, but are composting on the soil surface by mulches which are fortified with the proper premium fertilizer.

Desired mulching and fertilizing practices both improve and maintain a good physical condition in the soil. This condition is preserved by never permitting a soil to have its structure destroyed by rain drops. A desirable physical structure in a garden soil must always be the goal. The proper uses of mulches and fortified fertilizers are one of the keys to good healthful garden products. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the importance of a good deep soil with an open porous structure and ever-changing organic mixture for a high retention of both water and nutrients.

Another factor in good chemical and organic gardening is the effect on soil microorganisms which are very essential to a good garden soil. Organic materials, such as plant and animal residues, supply the energy for the organism. A "premium" chemical fertilizer supplies the food. A combination of these two methods provides a good growth medium for the desired organisms, and helps control undesired organisms in the soil.

Although the organic gardeners claim their practices help control diseases and insects better than chemical fertilizers, the combination of both practices gives better control than either alone. Since diseases and insects use our plants as their homes and sources of food, the importance of having a plant properly feed is essential to give resistance to any disease or insect invaders. This combination adds a plant in throwing out barriers against undesirable pests. A well-fed plant requires less sprays and dusts.

Today's successful gardener uses the practices which he thinks will produce good results. Very few use the best practices which they could use and know should be used. There is nothing like observing the ways of nature and then working with her. The master hand of our Creator is continually pointing out the proper paths. The wonders of nature are always being illustrated to us. Man, with all of his ingenuity cannot duplicate these accomplishments. In our gardens we see excellent examples every day of what happens to a species which always has a chip on its shoulder. It may be king for a while, but it usually ends up as food for its contemporaries and successors. In these days of quality and quantity production, regardless of whether it is a lawn, garden, individual plant or a field, neither the organic or chemical gardener can be entirely successful alone. A combination of the two practices produces the best results.

Reprinted from an article by
Dr. Royle P. Thomas

A PLAN FOR VISITING MEMBERS' GARDENS.

This plan envisages no change in our established Garden Tours. But it does present a simple scheme whereby, with little effort, we can visit many more gardens.

- (a) Different gardens will be at their best at various times of the season--spring, midsummer and fall. Some will present special attractions of specialty groups which will vary with different dates.
- (b) The plan would avoid a request to visit a certain garden at a particular time when the host might have other commitments, be out of town or on vacation.
- (c) It would save much time and energy in telephoning, etc. for all concerned.
- (d) It would provide opportunity to visit many more gardens at the host's convenience at a time when his garden or a particular specimen is at its best. Several members in close proximity might combine their visiting day. During long summer days, evenings could be used as well as week ends.
- (e) There is one drawback--through inertia or lack of interest some members would not volunteer to be a host. But it would remove the cause of his squawking (and there has been plenty) because his garden had not been visited.

The plan is very simple--the would-be host could simply write or phone "The Spray" when he would be "at home" in his garden on a certain date at a certain hour and he would welcome visitors.

Is it feasible? I talked to Vic Lowrie (who is Mr. Spray) and he said it is. He said he will publish anything, which is not libelous, and is of benefit to gardening and the Garden Club--provided the material is sent in to him. He employs no reporters nor solicitors for the Spray.

The listing would cover the month of issue of the Spray. The Spray is mailed the first week of each month. The visiting schedule could include the period from the second week of each month to the first week of the following month.

Fred. C. Rodda
Chairman, Garden Visiting Committee

EXAMPLE OF LISTING

Day & Date	Hours	Garden & Specialty	Name	Address
Sat., May 11	2 to 4 P.M.	Delphinium	Bill X.	4657 -----*
Wed. May 15	7-7:45 P.M.	Azaleas	J.D.	Address
	7:45-8:30 P.M.	Roses	D.P.	Address
	8:30-9:15 P.M.	Carnations	J.W.	Address

*Should give directions, if location is hard to find.

Editor's Note: The number of gardens covered by our regular summer garden tours is quite restricted. This supplementary program looks like a practical solution toward getting around to see more members' gardens in Spring, Summer and Fall. GVL

NEW FLOWER ANNUALS

by

Bruce Johnstone - Northrup King & Co.

ZINNIA THUMBELINA. This is the first All America Gold Medal Winner, I believe, since Fire Chief Petunia, and is the most radical and different departure in zinnias in many years. It is a truly Dwarf Miniature Zinnia ever introduced. It will vary in height from 4 to 6 inches with a color range of 5 to 6 of the major colors including red, pink, orange, scarlet and yellow. It has extremely short internodes, small double button-like flowers that have a self cleaning apparatus in that the spent blooms are hidden by the foliage and it blooms very early in its advance seedling stage and should continue flowering until frost. It is something very unique and should be excellent for dwarf edging or window box purposes. It, of course, will take the usual zinnia treatment of warm rich soil, full sun and is best direct seeded unless one has peat pots in which to transplant.

ZINNIA FIRE CRACKER. This is an All America Winner and an F1 Hybrid in the Cactus Flower class. Blooms are extremely large with coral petals and a vibrant scarlet. Plants are medium sized and blooms very prolifically. Seed is costly, of course, because it is an F1 Hybrid so possibly the use of peat pots or careful transplanting might be worthwhile on this variety.

CASCADE PETUNIAS. This is a new extremely large flowered class of Grandiflora F1 Petunias in red, white, rose pink and white and violet variegated (Fandango). These Cascade series have about the largest flowers of the Grandiflora Hybrids plant although dwarf in height is rather spreading and is exceptionally good for window box use as well as regular garden planting.

SPRITE SNAPDRAGONS. These are true F1 Hybrids in a semi-dwarf habit being between the Dwarf Magic Carpet height and the taller habit of the common Majus or Rocket types. Being half dwarf it has a stocky stem and does not lodge or fall down as badly as most of the other snapdragons. It is tall enough, however, for good cutting material and is excellent for either bedding or bouquet purposes. The Sprite Snaps are available in most of the regular snapdragon colors with the exception of the pink which will not be out for another year.

EARLY CHARM ASTER. This is a new aster mixture that is exceedingly early to bloom being a week to ten days ahead of the Queen of the Market type with a full color range and fully doubled with incurved heads, good long stems and a high percentage of full double blooms. An excellent outdoor aster for this climate.

PETUNIA NEW DOUBLE MULTIFLORA COLORS. The double Multiflora Petunias have received increased attention both in the breeding program and usage the past year or two. The smaller flowered doubles show more blooms per plant, are more colorful in masses and are somewhat more weather resistant than the large doubles that have been popular in the past. Honeybunch is a new salmon in this category and is most attractive and satisfactory. Cardinal is a scarlet red and Cherry Tart is the Multiflora a double in a variegated white and crimson and is having a great deal of popularity. Snow Bird and White Riches are the white versions of the new double Multifloras and are both good where one wants a white.

NEW FLOWER ANNUALS (Cont'd.)

PETUNIA QUICK SILVER. This is a new species petunia that is completely dwarf, prostrate and for use as a ground cover only. The blooms are extremely small being only a quarter of an inch in diameter and in a pale pink color. This Petunia Quick Silver was first seen on the west coast by the writer and we sampled it last year in our trials for those interested in ground cover annual plants. This should be tried with caution until it is more thoroughly tested but it did seem to make an excellent low ground cover and can be obtained from the Ferry-Morse Seed Co. in Mountain View, California if it is not obtainable by plant growers or nurserymen locally.

SELECT VEGETABLE VARIETIES ADAPTED TO MINNESOTA

When you thumb through seed catalogs this spring, don't let the attractive pictures of vegetables be the deciding factor in your choice.

A question every Minnesota gardener should ask is: how well is this variety adapted to local conditions? Selection of adapted varieties of vegetables is one of the most important steps to a successful garden, according to O.C. Turnquist, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota.

A list of recommended varieties for Minnesota gardens is given in a University Agricultural Extension Service revised publication, 1963 Vegetable Varieties, Extension Folder 154, just off the press. Copies are available from the county extension office.

Recommendations of both old and new varieties of vegetables for Minnesota planting are made as a result of vegetable variety trials conducted by the University Agricultural Extension Service in cooperation with both home and commercial gardeners around the state. Included in the publication are many new introductions which are more productive, more disease resistant and of better quality than some of the older varieties. Reliable older varieties are also listed.

Among some of the newer varieties of vegetables Turnquist recommends for planting are these: snap bean - Executive, a new all-America snap bean which is an improvement of the Tendergreen; bush bean - Royalty Purple, with round purple pods which turn green in cooking; beets - Early Wonder Staygreen, earlier than Detroit Dark Red; carrots - Emperor 408, an improved strain of Emperor with roots 9-10 inches long; cucumbers - Saticoy hybrid, mosaic-resistant, early bearing; lettuce - Fordhook, butterhead type with glossy dark green outer leaves and creamy yellow hearts, fairly heat resistant; corn - Spring Gold, early hybrid with high quality ears 7 inches long; tomato - Early Salad, a new hybrid, producing heavy crops of small fruits that can be served whole; squash - Seneca Baby Crookneck, a hybrid summer squash.

Reprinted from Institute of Agriculture
University of Minnesota

Action taken by our Board upon motion passed at the February meeting.

February 19, 1963

The Honorable Board of Park Commissioners
of Minneapolis, Minnesota
c/o Mr. Howard I. Moore, Superintendent of Parks
325 City Hall
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Sirs:

At a regular monthly meeting of the Men's Garden Club Of Minneapolis, held February 12, 1963, the following motion was made, seconded, and carried:

- "Whereas - George Luxton made a valuable contribution over a period of many years to the citizens of Minneapolis through his articles and columns on home beautification and gardening in the Minneapolis Press.
- And whereas - He gave freely factual information on all elements pertaining to gardening through personal appearance at Garden Clubs.
- And whereas - Through his knowledge of photography he contributed greatly to the use of photography in the horticulture field.
- And whereas - His work in horticulture societies has been recognized throughout Minnesota by receiving many honors from horticulture societies and having a variety of flowers named after him in honor of his work in the horticulture field.
- And whereas - He lived and took an active part in community activities and projects for over forty years.

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, We respectfully request a Park or Recreational Field in the area of Prospect Park be Named in his honor as George Luxton Park."

The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis has a membership of over 100 men all interested in natural and man-made beautification and in recognition of George Luxton's contribution to beautification of Minneapolis, we sincerely urge the Honorable Board of Park Commissioners give all possible consideration to naming a Park in his honor.

Horticulturally,

G. R. Christenson
Secretary, Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

WANTED: INFORMERS

Some of our sick brethren go without the "cheer" of a visit or call from Cheer committee chairman, Otto Nelson, because Otto never gets the word. Let's pass this information quickly to Otto at Fe 6-1132 or Ta 5-6943, and to the SPRAY (Mrs. Warren - 927-5461)