

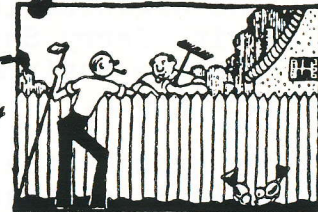


The Garden Spray

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

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

April 1983, Volume 41, Number 4



COMING at our April meeting A TRIPARTITE PROGRAM
Yes, that's right

At the TUESDAY APRIL 12th MGCM MONTHLY MEETING
following dinner and business, if any, we will have a meeting featuring:

- Rod Hendrickson, President and owner of the Tessman Seed and Chemical Company in Eagan on "NEW PESTICIDES FOR 1983".
- Sandy Tanck of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum staff on "THE LEARNING CENTER PROGRAM" developing at the arboretum.
- Fred Glasoe of the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club (Just one of his many affiliations and hats) demonstrating "HOW TO DIVIDE AND PLANT DAHLIA TUBERS."

You can't afford to miss it! Program chairman Kent Canine says, "Any one of these presentations alone would be worth your money", so

GET YOUR RESERVATION CARD BACK TO BOB CHURILLA PROMPTLY

SAME TIME: 6:00 P.M.

SAME PRICE: \$5.00

SAME PLACE: Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, 49th & Chowen S.

SAME REQUEST: If you have something to auction, bring it.

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DEMONSTRATIONS - UNCOVERING ROSES OVERWINTERED BY THE MINNESOTA TIP METHOD

Saturday, April 9, 10:00 AM - St. Cyril Church, 1315 NE 2nd St., Mpls.

(Bob Churilla will be uncovering the church rose bed)

Saturday, April 16, 10:00 AM - Bob Churilla, 3725 Lincoln St., NE, Col. Hts.

Saturday, April 16, 10:00 AM - George McCullough, 8812 Tretbaugh Dr., Bloom.

Saturday, April 16, 10:00 AM - Jerry Shannon, 1847 Eleanor Av., St. Paul

Sunday, April 17, 2:00 PM - Fred Glasoe, 618 E. 58th St., Mpls.

ALSO ON THE CALENDAR

Saturday, April 23, 10:00 AM - Arbor Day Replanting (See page 5)

Tuesday, May 10, 5:00 PM - Annual Plant Auction. How are the things you planted for the auction coming along? Have you spare perennials, bulbs, tubers, gadgets? Bring them, too.

Saturday, May ? - Work in the Fragrance Garden.

Tuesday, May 31 - Spring Garden Tour - A delightful surprise. We haven't had an early tour since we visited A. B. Franklin's peony farm in the 40's. Further details in May.

Add to Plant Auction and Youth Gardening committees: Ralph Calloway.

DEMONSTRATIONS AND LECTURE AT FEBRUARY MGCM MEETING

Reported by Andy Marlow

The fine art of the demonstration--not with placards, but with seeds and such--returned to the MGCM meeting schedule in February. Such demonstrations were regular features of MGCM meetings in the past according to some of the organization's senior members. The seeding and transplanting session with Jerry Shannon and Fred Glasoe at the February meeting was arranged by program chairman Kent Canine following a suggestion from the past president's group.

Jerry brought the demonstration materials, which included some of his own seedlings for transplanting and some seeds that needed sowing in February for earliest bloom in the garden. Some flower seeds, such as geraniums and fibrous rooted begonias, need to be started as early as December. Others can wait until as late as 4 to 6 weeks before they're transplanted outside.

Seeds germinate under a wide variety of conditions. Some need light and some must be covered with soil in order to sprout. Optimum germination temperatures range from the 50s to the 80s. With a strong second from Fred, Jerry suggested 2 reference books for determining the correct combination for any seed variety: Park's SUCCESS WITH SEED and the Stoke's seed catalog. The latter is free, and you can order your seeds from it.

Shannon also shared with members his recipe for a soil-less (and sterile) seed starting mix: 2 parts vermiculite, 2 parts perlite and 5 parts Jiffy-mix or Jiffy-mix Plus. He suggested starting seeds in this mix in small containers and then transplanting to individual pots or paks when 2 sets of true leaves have appeared.

Two secrets for successful germination were also revealed. Soak the seeding container for about 5 hours in a mixture of 1/2 tablespoon Benlate per gallon of water, drain and use. This helps prevent damping off (as does a sterile seeding mix). Second, put the container in a Baggie after seeding, with a label inserted in the soil to hold the Baggie up like a tent. This creates a miniature terrarium with perfect moisture retention. A propagation mat or heating cables can provide the proper temperature.

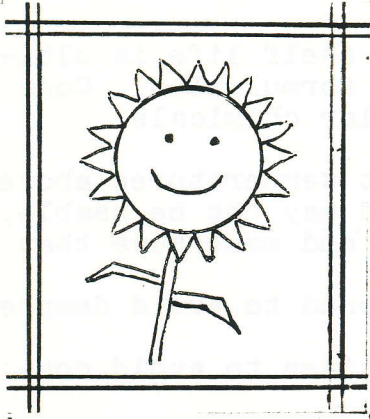
Transplanting is simple, as seedlings are more rugged than they appear to be. Jerry uses a transplant soil mix of 3 parts sterilized garden soil, 3 parts peat, 2 parts vermiculite and 2 parts perlite. Jerry sterilizes his own soil at 180° in the oven. Fred says he uses the microwave. Both emphasized that sterilizing the soil does little good unless pots and other planting containers are kept clean. Fred washes his in a chlorine bleach or in the dishwasher with very hot water.

The second part of February's program was a talk on selecting uncommon trees and shrubs by Mike Zins, area extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. He's also been in charge of the Master Gardener program for many years. He talked about 20 to 25 plants and showed slides of them all. This reporter's ability to take notes in the dark limits the number you'll read about below.

The rarely planted white fir is an excellent evergreen. It looks much like a blue spruce but, unlike the spruce, has flat needles. The young plant is often not of good shape, but the mature tree has the classical pyramidal silhouette of large evergreens.

(continued page 6)

JUST AMONG US GARDENERS



Our February meeting was a busy one, with a variety of subjects discussed and a double-barreled program. A start was made in reorganizing Special Interest Groups in flowers and vegetables and those groups will be published in The Garden Spray soon.

A new Youth Gardening Committee was announced and the committee is working on several possible avenues of activity for the summer. The committee will explain their plans at the April meeting and ask for volunteers for those activities chosen. We hope a good number of members will come forward to work with this committee. Most groups of children will be from age 8 through age 12.

Gardening questions were solicited from attending members and Fred Glasoe answered some as time allowed, with additional suggestions from members. This will be a regular feature of future meetings, with those questions not answered at the meeting being answered in a future issue of the Spray.

A National Spade Club Award was made to Michael Denesuk for bringing two new members into the Club in 1982. The change in our By-Laws covering the award of honorary memberships was discussed and approved by the members. Bob Churilla spoke for the Minnesota Horticultural Society and invited all members to the Home and Garden Show at the Auditorium. Several of our members worked in the Society plant sale booth during the show. (Did you hear that Jerry and Lee Shannon and Chuck King waded through the snow drifts to pick 50 bunches of pussy willows? Shannons then soaked them in their bath tub and forced them in their home. They sold like hot cakes at \$2.00 a bunch.)

Sherm Pinkham inducted two more new members, Dick Bormes and Neal Whitfield. And two of our newer members, Chuck Jonas and Herb Neby, furnished plants which led to a spirited auction engineered by Fred Glasoe.

Kent Canine introduced the two segments of the program, which started with the best demonstration I have seen of starting seeds for germination and of transplanting the seedlings. Jerry Shannon handled the mechanics of seeding and transplanting and he and Fred Glasoe thoroughly covered the field of soil mixes, sterilization and the use of fungicides.

Michael Zins, our speaker for the evening, gave an excellent slide lecture on the work the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum has done in the selection and development of uncommon trees and shrubs for our environment.

A program covering this many subjects takes time and must be kept moving. We try to start the meeting and program at 6:45 and be into the program by 7:15 or shortly thereafter. We aim to adjourn between 8:30 and 9:00. I would appreciate comments about the programs and if we are trying to crowd too much into a meeting. Good programs are the key to good attendance and we would enjoy your comments and suggestions.

As I write this, we are looking forward to the spring party at the Dayton-Bachman Flower Show. This new annual party has changed the make-up of our annual meeting schedule and has replaced the regular March meeting. We may possibly add a meeting this year if some possible changes in tour dates occur. The Tour Committee is working on some variations and details will be announced either in the April Spray or at the April meeting. I have always marveled at the efficiency of our MGCM committees.

Chet Groger

SHELF LIFE OF SOME PESTICIDES USED BY NURSERYMEN

by Jeffrey Carlson, Asst. Pesticide Coordinator, Dept. of Entomology,
University of Massachusetts

The information below gives only a general idea, since shelf life is ultimately determined by storage conditions, stability and formulation. Consult the label for any specific conditions for particular chemicals.

1. Store pesticides in a dry, well ventilated place at temperatures above freezing. Liquids will separate out after freezing and may not be usable.
2. Always keep a pesticide in its original container, and make sure that it is tightly sealed.
3. Store granular and powdered materials above the ground to avoid dampness.
4. Keep the temperature under 100° F.
5. Keep volatile herbicides separate from other pesticides to avoid contamination.
6. Keep an accurate inventory of the stored chemicals. Date the label when you receive it. Use up the pesticides as soon as possible.
7. Every company contacted regarding shelf life recommends not storing pesticides longer than 2 years. Most companies will not back their products after this time.

<u>PESTICIDES</u>	<u>SHELF LIFE</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
<u>Insecticides</u>		
Carbaryl, w.p. (Sevin)	Several years..	W.p. formulations have been stored up to 5 years without loss of effectiveness.
Diazinon	5-7 years.....	Diazinon formulations will last provided concentrate containers are kept tightly sealed, and granular and dusts are kept dry.
Disultoton	2 years.....	Under normal conditions.
Guthion, w.p.	2 years.....	Under normal conditions.
Malathion, w.p.	Indefinite.....	Very stable when stored properly. Decomposes when exposed to high temp.
Meta-Systox-R	2 years.....	Under normal conditions.
Methoxychlor, w.p.	Indefinite.....	Very stable under normal conditions.
Phosmet, w.p.	2-3 years.....	Under normal conditions.
<u>Fungicides</u>		
Benomyl, w.p.	2 years.....	Keep tightly sealed and dry.
Captan, w.p.	3 years.....	Under normal conditions.
Thiram, w.p.	4 years.....	Keep tightly sealed and dry.
<u>Herbicides</u>		
Ammate, sol. salt	2 years.....	Keep dry, under 100° F. No low temperature limit.
Casoron, 4G	2 years.....	Tightly sealed in cool, dry place.
Dacthal, w.p.	2 years.....	Under normal conditions.
Glyphosate, liq.	2 years.....	Store under 140° F. Don't freeze.
Kerb, w.p.	2 years.....	Under normal conditions.
Paraquat, liq.	Indefinite.....	Do not allow to freeze.
Simazine, G, w.p.	Indefinite.....	Has been stored as long as 9 years.
Surflan, w.p.	3 years.....	If stored at high temperatures, mix well before using.
Treflan, G	3 years.....	Lost 15-20% activity when stored at 100° F. Store under dry conditions and temperature below 80° F.

Source: Bulletin of Toledo, Ohio MGC

BEFORE OUTDOOR GARDENING SEASON ARRIVES REMEMBER

- To make sure the working end of every tool is in good shape. A sharp edge on a shovel or hoe will do a job better than a blunt one. Even rakes and spades benefit from a filing job. Yearly maintenance of tools takes little time compared to the extra time and money you can spend with bad tools. Learn to sharpen, oil, and sand properly.
- To check leftover (saved) seeds for viability. With halfway decent care most seeds are good the second year. Even parsnip, the poorest of the lot often can be used.
- To get your hot beds and cold frames repaired and ready for use.
- To prepare soil mixture for starting vegetable and flower transplants for the garden.
- To see how the tubers, bulbs and plants that you carried over are doing.
- To check tender barked trees and shrubs for rodent damage--give the entire yard and plantings a thorough inspection and renovation.
- To check over last year's garden results and make notes on how you can improve this year's production.
- TO STAY OUT OF YOUR GARDEN UNTIL IT IS DRY ENOUGH TO WORK.

Arbor Day/Crab Apple Replanting

Many years ago members of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis planted a beautiful collection of flowering crab apples near the Lake Harriet rose garden in Minneapolis. This collection grew and furnished visitors to Lake Harriet a magnificent display each spring.

In June of 1981, a devastating tornado touched down and Many of the specimen trees in the area, including the crab apple collection were all but destroyed.

This spring, as part of our Arbor Day activities, we would like to replant the ornamental crab apple collection. Just as the original collection was planted by individual members, our plan is to have any member who would like to purchase a bare rooted tree to assemble at the area just north of the rose garden on Saturday, April 23, 1983, at 10:00 am to plant his tree. Non-tree sponsoring members are also invited to participate in this Arbor Day activity.

We will be able to plant up to fifty trees in clumps of 3-5. If you are interested in being one of the members to sponsor a tree, please fill out the form below and inclose a check for \$15.00, made out to the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. Seven different varieties will be purchased and brought to the planting site. Send your check and completed form to Jerald Shannon, 1847 Eleanor Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55116. I should receive your check no later than April 14, 1983.

I would like to purchase and plant an ornamental crab apple tree.

Name

Telephone

Address

City

State

Amount of money enclosed

FEBRUARY MEETING (from page 2)

Two shrubs with striking fall color were noted by Zins. They are the Alleghney service berry and the chokeberry. Both are native to areas farther east, but adapt well to our part of Minnesota. The service berry has lots of white flowers in May followed in June by fruit that attracts birds in large numbers. It can actually be grown as either a shrub or with proper pruning, a small tree. It grows to about 25' in sun or partial shade. The chokeberry will tolerate more shade. It attains a height of 6' and readily colonizes (or suckers) into a mass planting. It, too, has white spring flowers and black fruit.

The Korean barberry has yellow flower clusters on its 6' stems. The fruits form along racemes and stay on the plant until a lucky bird gets them. Excellent fall color and ability to tolerate either sun or partial shade are advantages for this plant.

Two trees Zins suggested as alternatives for the usual shade tree choices are the sweet birch and the blue beech. The sweet birch gets its name from the sweet taste you get if you chew the buds. It has a gray bark and, best of all, is resistant to the bronze birch borer. The blue beech is a native tree, or large shrub. It has a bluish, muscled bark, red fall color and clustered fruit. Either full sun or partial shade allows it to grow to 10' -15'.

Zins also plugged several new varieties developed at the Arboretum and to be available from nurseries soon. Available this year, Northern Sun is a hybrid forsythia that blooms to the top every year, even after -30° winters. North Sky and North Blue are blueberries that should be on the market in a few years. North Sky is the smaller of the 2 (about 2') with better flavor than either of its parents, the half-high blueberry and the high bush blueberry. North Blue is slightly taller (about 2-1/2'), but also has improved flavor. These are three more reasons to appreciate our Arboretum and staff members like Mike Zins.

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
Edwin C. Culbert, Editor
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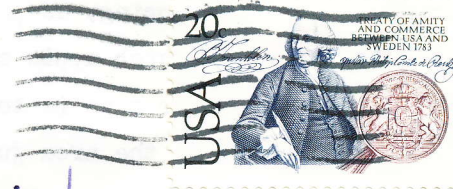
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