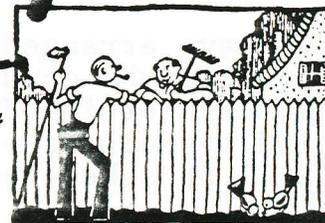




The Garden Spray

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



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

April 1988, Volume 46, Number 4

NEXT MGCM MEETING

TUESDAY EVENING APRIL 12, 1988

LAKE HARRIET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHOWEN AVENUE SOUTH AND 49th STREET

DINNER 6:00 P.M. PRICE \$6.00

RUSH YOUR RESERVATIONS TO RICK BONLENDER

PROGRAM:

Our own ARCHIE CAPLE will tell us about

"THE MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM"

Archie, a member of our club since 1977 and MGCM President in 1980 was in the first class of the Master Gardener program. He has been active in the program ever since. Archie likes to grow annuals and perennials--in quantity. He has 60 varieties of chrysanthemums.

The MINI-SESSION this evening will be devoted to BEGONIAS both the fibrous and tuberous varieties. Dave Johnson and Dwight Stone, both knowledgeable in that area, will conduct the session.

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday May 10 is the day of our plant auction. As always excellent plant material will be available including fibrous begonias and impatiens the number one bedding plant sold because of it's many new varieties and because of it's shade tolerance. Be sure to get some snapdragons, the flower of the year, for entry in our Flower and Vegetable Show at the arboretum August 20 and 21. If you would like any special items by the flat or by the dozen call Dave Johnson. BRING YOUR WIFE AND GUESTS for a night of fun with good food and good plant material.

1988 MGCA CONVENTION: SOMETHING NEW HAS BEEN ADDED

That statement will greet persons registering for the convention. Following the title SOMETHING NEW will be:

"We have arranged to have two short hikes available for any interested persons who do not plan to attend delegate sessions or women's events Monday morning July 4th or Wednesday morning July 6th. They will be led by members of the Minneapolis Municipal Hiking Club. Both hikes will be scheduled both days.

"Both will be along Mississippi river parkways. No. 1 will be below the bluffs along the river from the Franklin Avenue bridge to the University of Minnesota's West Bank campus. No. 2 will be along St. Anthony Falls to the Plymouth Avenue bridge--a newly developed parkway. In either case we will get back to the hotel in time for lunch.

"We can arrange a hike for as few as two people but you must sign up in advance so that we may have a leader available. Children are welcome if they are accompanied by parents. We will use public transportation to and from the hiking area so you will need to have change, 60 cents each way. Bus drivers do not make change. (Senior citizens who show Medicare cards pay only 10 cents.) Wear your convention badge so you can be identified by the leader."

MGCM members Vinton Bouslough, Ed Culbert, Al Miller and Juel Shefland who are also hiking club members came up with this idea and are working out the details, meeting places, leaders, bus schedules, etc. It is just one more effort to provide something extra for those who attend the 1988 convention to go home to talk about whether or not they participate.

IN MARCH THE MGCA BOARD

- Decided to have the current supply inventory list updated.
- Decided to check on the MGCM/IRS relationship.
- Decided raffle money is to be used for the Fragrance Garden and to pay for MGCM guests at the Christmas party.
- Discussed membership recruitment. Rick Bonlender presented the first step in developing a plan. The Board will complete a survey to be returned on March 22. Rick will work with Duane Reynolds in developing the plan. The goal is to maintain a stable number of 130 members.
- Heard that Norman TerSteege will help with site design and mapping of the Fragrance Garden which is to be planted on May 21.

Among the items under the heading If You Are Looking For Family Fun in the STAR-TRIBUNE's Community section on March 17 we spotted:

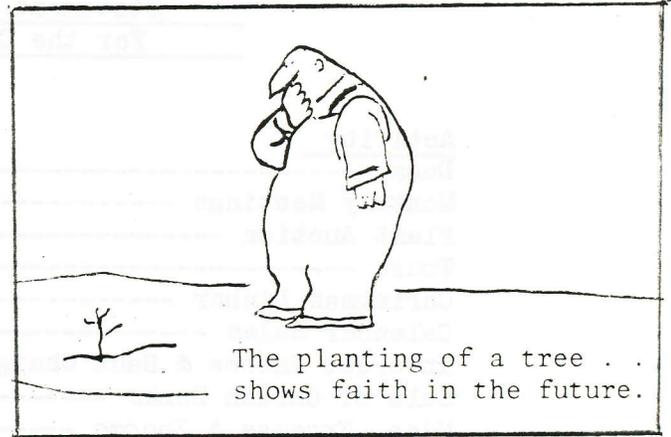
"Starting plants indoors A program on how to get a head start on spring by starting plants indoors will be presented by Gardener Archie Caple from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Wood Lake Nature Center. Tomatoes, cabbage and many kinds of flowers are examples of some of the plants that can be planted indoors successfully."

No fair, Archie, that's garden club night.

One stalk of broccoli has 400 i.u. of Vitamin A per cup; the seed head 3,000; and the leaves a fantastic 16,000.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There has been some research and a growing body of information on a disorder called S.A.D. Seasonal Affective Disorder. The belief is that during periods of decreased sunlight people experience a depression like disorder. Some people sit under a bank of florescent lights to increase exposure to light thereby improving their state of mental well-being.



Of course, gardeners who start plants under lights or simply spend hours staring out the window wishing for spring probably aren't effected by any noticeable affective disorder and are able to thrive any season.

I think the true gardening hobbyist has a distinct advantage over the person who claims to have a hobby, but is prohibited by Minnesota seasons from full participation.

The hobbyist can grow, probe, prod, nurture and maintain contact with his avocation.

The contact helps us to retain a sense of interest and most important a sense of balance in our life. Even if we do go overboard the compulsion is in a healthy and constructive area.

During the April meeting I will have the results of our vote and the location of the Christmas party will be announced.

Even though I talked about balance and mental health, I hope each of you can go overboard and act foolish during our May Auction. The auction is our main fundraiser, so spend that money!

P. S. One small error in the Directory - on the tour committee the chairman's name is half right. Greg Smith is the chairman not Russ.

HAPPY GARDENING!

-Duane

**HELP STAMP OUT
"NOBODY ASKED ME"**

Please contact your committee chairmen
to help them.

Mens Garden Club of Minneapolis
Statement of Income and Expenses
For the Calendar Year of 1987

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>+ or -</u>
Dues -----	\$ 1,896.00	\$ 2,579.00	\$ + 683.00
Monthly Meetings -----	3,829.03	4,408.65	+ 579.62
Plant Auction -----	2,088.04	3,637.75	+ 1,549.71
Tours -----	341.65	472.65	+ 131.00
Christmas Dinner -----	1,988.82	1,799.60	- 189.22
Calendar Sales -----	1,224.75	1,640.75	+ 416.00
Interest Income & Bank Charges-	119.64	240.40	+ 120.76
Sale of Garden Books -----	---	30.00	+ 30.00
Misc. Expense & Income -----	108.40	501.75	+ 393.35
Historical Write up Expense -	110.64	---	- 110.64
Spray Expense -----	951.41	---	- 951.41
Flower & Vegetable Show -----	176.93	---	- 176.93
Fragrance Garden Expense -----	447.53	---	- 447.53
Directory Expense -----	94.50	---	- 94.50
Memorial Expense -----	109.24	---	- 109.24
Rememberance -----	29.97	---	- 29.97
MGCA-Bldg.-Maintenance Expense -	100.00	---	- 100.00
Minn.-Horts-Bldg Fund Expense -	150.00	---	- 150.00
Honoriums -----	25.00	---	- 25.00
Arbor Day Expense -----	250.00	---	- 250.00
Arboretum Expense -----	350.00	---	- 350.00
Awards & Trophies -----	142.80	---	- 142.80
National Delegate Expense ---	600.00	---	- 600.00
Life Membership -----	100.00	---	- 100.00
Totals	\$ 15,234.35	\$ 15,310.55	\$ + 76.20
	76.20	---	---
Totals	\$ 15,310.55	\$ 15,310.55	\$ + 76.20



Planning your garden?
 The 1988 National Award
 Flower and Vegetable are
 the Snapdragon and the
 Green Bean (pole or bush)

Perhaps you would like to try to grow a potato-tomato plant just for fun. Spokane MGC's NITE CRAWLER advises. "Scoop out a hole in the potato large enough to hold the tomato's rootball. Gently place the tomato into the hole and firm it down. Add more potting soil, if necessary, to fill the hole.

"Carefully plant your potato-tomato in the garden. Leave only the top two leaves of the tomato above the soil. As your plant grows, hill up earth around it until you have a mound at least a foot high. The roots of the tomato will grow through the potato. You'll harvest tomatoes from above the earth all summer and potatoes from beneath the soil surface in the fall."

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

by Ed Culbert

Are you planning to plant fruit trees or bramble fruits this year? If so why not try the new University of Minnesota introductions Summercrisp pear and Redwing raspberry. Our nurserymen members probably can obtain them for you.

Summercrisp pear is a home garden variety for areas too cold for other kinds to fruit or survive. In testing it has proven very hardy, and blight resistant. It needs cross-pollination to set its medium size red-greenish fruits which are ready to pick about August 15. They should be picked while firm, before yellowing, and used immediately or refrigerated, otherwise the grit cells will develop and flesh may brown. This is not a canning variety.

Redwing raspberry, a hybrid between 'Heritage' and 'Fall Red', ripens up to two weeks ahead of 'Heritage', and is expected to be more productive in areas with shorter growing seasons. It can take colder winters with less damage than 'Heritage', which it is expected eventually to supplant, or at least supplement. The handsome red, firm berries have better flavor.

Why not try raised bed gardening this year? You can grow more in less space, weeding is easier and paths between beds no longer need be a problem. For spacing in raised beds refer to the table on the address page.

If you want to start annual flowers indoors you are already too late for most varieties. There is still time to start vegetables for transplanting. For guidance see the table on the address page. For the vegetables checked X Dr. Leon Snyder recommended direct seeding. If you want to know the best date for indoor seeding in the Twin City area refer to the table on page 70 in Dr. Snyder's book "Gardening in the Upper Midwest".

Vern Carlson grew Burpless cucumbers on his back chickenwire fence. I suppose it was a form of the staking now recommended. Of staking the Arlington Texas MGC bulletin has this to say

"Cucumber plants like to sprawl naturally, so you give them lots of room to roam. But, how often are yields moderate and fruits rotted? 'Try training cukes up and not out', is the advice of researchers at the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station. In recent comparisons of thirteen slicing varieties, plants set more fruit, suffered less fruit rot, and outyielded unstaked plants by one and a half times, partly because vertical training increases plant's photosynthesis by exposing greater leaf surface to sunlight. Trellising also reduced plant spacing from twelve to six inches, increasing the number of plants per row and subsequent yields."

Monica Brandies in FLOWER AND GARDEN suggests digging in 5 to 10 pounds of wood ashes per 100 square feet of garden as soil conditioner. The ashes add phosphorus, potassium and trace elements. She says spread over the ground between rows later they discourage slugs, snails, cutworms, deer and rabbits. They also repel red spiders and bean beetles, keep aphids off lettuce and peas, prevent scab on beets and turnips. Around cauliflower and onion plants they control root maggots. Wood ashes can even be layered into the compost pile to speed decomposition and to reduce odor. They have one drawback. They add lime so can burn tender plant tissues and are a no-no for acid loving plants.

Average Number of Weeks From Germination to Transplant

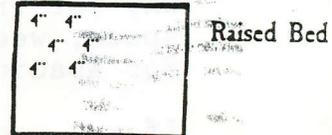
Asparagus —	12-14	Lemon Balm —	8-10
Basil —	6	✕ Lettuce —	4-6
✕ Beans, Lima —	3-4	Mustard —	4-6
✕ Beans, Snap —	3-4	Onions (all) —	4-6
✕ Beets —	3	Oregano —	2-3
Broccoli —	6-8	✕ Parsley —	4-6
Brussels Sprouts —	6-8	✕ Parsnips —	4-6
Cabbage —	6-8	✕ Peas —	4
✕ Carrots —	5-6	Peppers —	6-8
Cauliflower —	6-8	✕ Potatoes —	n/a
Celeriac —	8	✕ Pumpkins —	4
Celery —	6-8	✕ Radishes —	n/a
✕ Chinese Cabbage —	4	Rosemary —	8-10
Chives —	6-8	Sage —	6-8
Collards —	6-8	Spinach, Malabar —	8-10
✕ Corn —	4	✕ Spinach, New Zealand —	4-6
✕ Cucumbers —	2-3	✕ Spinach (other) —	4-6
Dill —	8-10	✕ Squash, Winter & Summer —	4
Eggplant —	8-10	Savory —	8-10
Endive —	4-5	Sweet Potatoes (sprouts) —	6-8
Escarole —	4-5	✕ Swiss Chard —	4
Garlic —	4-6	Thyme —	8-10
Kale —	6-8	Tomatoes —	6-10
✕ Kohlrabi —	6-8	✕ Turnips —	3-4
Leeks —	4-6		

Intensive Spacings for Raised Beds

Distance Between Plants

Asparagus —	12"-18"	Leaf Lettuce —	
Basil —	12"-18"	Mustard —	
Beans, Lima —	3"-4"	New Zealand Spinach —	10"-12"
Beans, Snap —	3"-4"	Okra —	10"-12"
Beets —	2"-3"	Onions, bulb —	3"-4"
Brussel Sprouts —	15"-18"	Onions, bunching —	2"-3"
Cabbage —	15"-18"	Parsley —	4"-6"
Carrots —	2"-3"	Parsnips —	3"-4"
Cauliflower —	12"-15"	Peas —	1"-2"
Celery —	6"-10"	Peppers —	12"-15"
Chinese Cabbage —	6"-9"	Potatoes —	10"-12"
Collards —	10"-12"	Pumpkins —	24"-36"
Corn —	8"-10"	Radishes —	2"-3"
Cucumbers —	12"-18"	Rutabagas —	3"-6"
Dill —	6"-10"	Sage —	12"-18"
Eggplant —	12"-18"	Spinach, other —	2"-4"
Endive —	8"-12"	Squash, Summer —	18"-24"
Garlic —	3"	Squash, Winter —	24"-36"
Kale —	6"-8"	Summer Savory —	12"
Kohlrabi —	3"-6"	Sun Flower —	18"-28"
Leeks —	2"-3"	Sweet Potatoes —	10"-12"
Head Lettuce —	10"-12"	Swiss Chard —	6"-9"
		Tomatoes —	18"-24"
		Turnips —	2"-4"

NOTE: The less distance between plants, the greater the efficiency. Using beans as our example, if you space them equidistantly 4", you will yield up to 4 times more plants, than yielded in conventional rows spaced 30" apart with plants spaced 4" apart in the same square-foot area.



For specific and more detailed information on individual plants, contact your local county extension service.

A few vegetables may be unusual to you but that's part of the fun of gardening--raising and eating something different. --F.A.C. McCulla

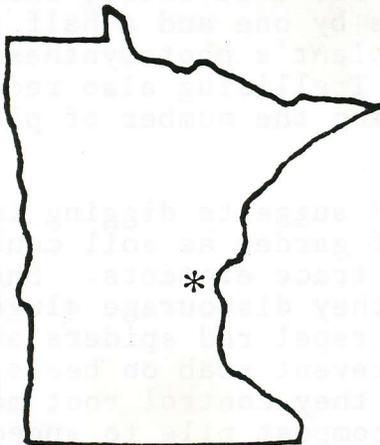


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MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA

NATIONAL CONVENTION
JULY 3-6, 1988
MINNEAPOLIS, MN.



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Mr. Howard H. Berg
10107 Lakeview Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55343

NORTHERN GARDENING AT ITS BEST