

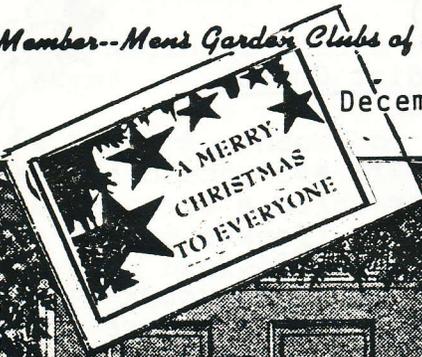
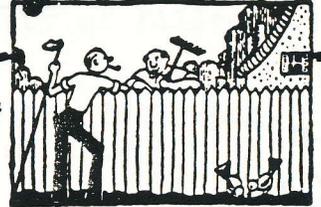


The Garden Spray

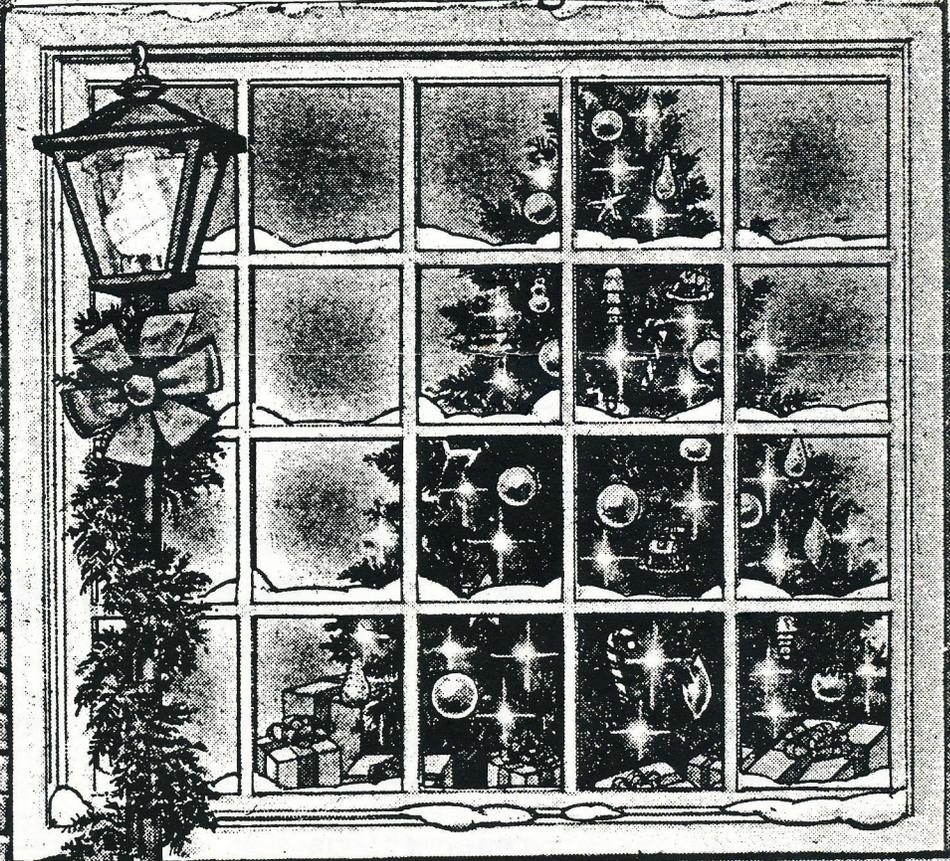
BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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

December 1984, Volume 42, Number 12

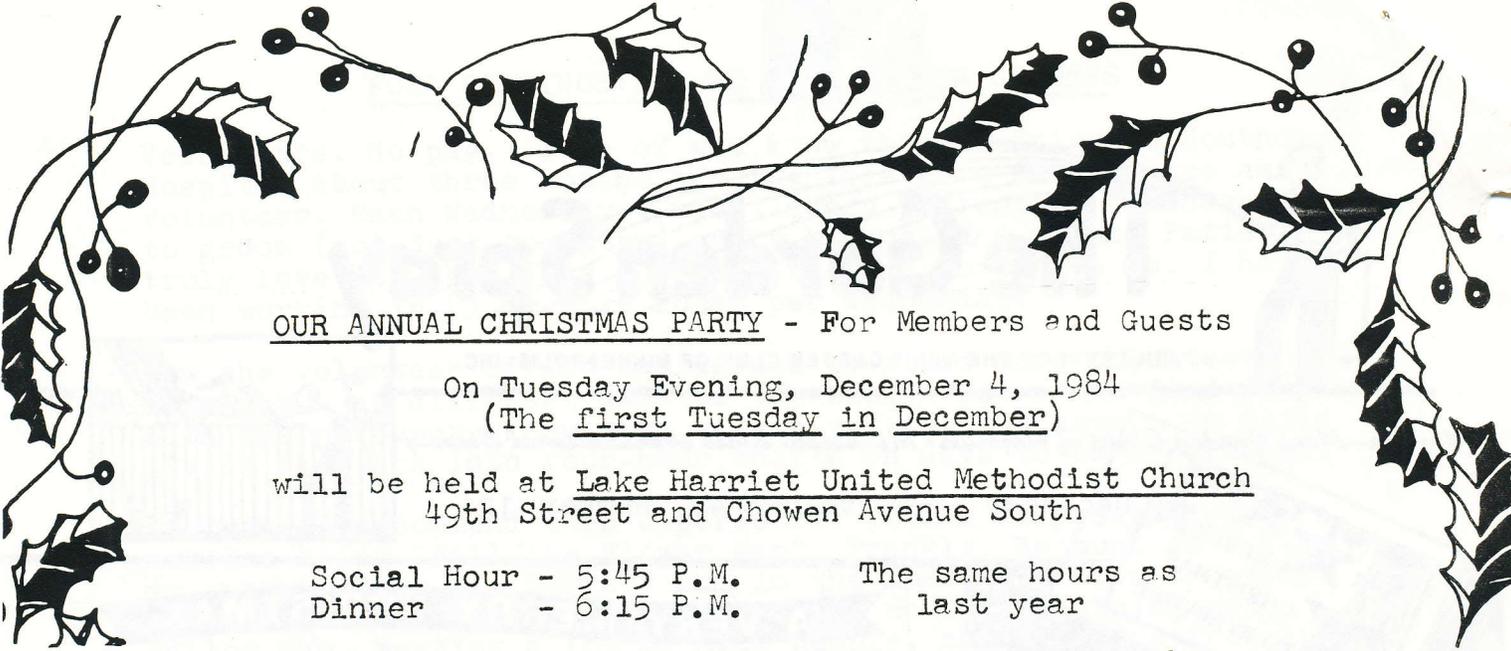


A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS



It's Christmas

COME TO THE PARTY
THE MGCM CHRISTMAS PARTY
YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS IT
WE'LL SEE YOU THERE



OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY - For Members and Guests

On Tuesday Evening, December 4, 1984
(The first Tuesday in December)

will be held at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th Street and Chowen Avenue South

Social Hour - 5:45 P.M.
Dinner - 6:15 P.M.

The same hours as
last year

BY RESERVATION ONLY -- \$9.00 per person, same as 1983.
Your reservation along with your check and the names of your
guests must reach Bill Hull by December 1 (The Saturday before
the party).

IF YOU HURRY YOU CAN STILL
MAKE THE DEADLINE.

ALSO,

**REMEMBER
DUES are DUE**

Fill in the form below, detach and mail with your check to Bill Hull,
6833 Creston Road, Edina, MN. 55435 (Tel. 926-1327)

Please make _____ reservations for me for the MGCM Christmas Party on
Tuesday, December 4th. My check for \$ _____, payable to the Men's
Garden Club of Minneapolis is enclosed.

Indicate if you are willing to carve--
_____ Yes, I am willing to carve a turkey and will bring carving
tools, apron and hat (if I have one).

_____ Sorry, I won't be able to attend the Christmas party.

My Name _____
Names of My Guests (Please Print) _____

CONTAINER GARDENING

(condensed from a 1984 Press Release of the National Garden Bureau, Inc.)

The essence of gardening can be captured in containers. Container gardening opens the opportunity of creating gardens where plants don't ordinarily flourish. With containers, balconies and patios of apartments, condominiums, or townhomes sparkle with colorful bloom and usable, edible produce. Even homes with yards are enhanced by the beauty of filled containers on patios, at the front door or on the deck.

The National Garden Bureau suggests using containers in the following ways:

- Plant a window box with annuals.
- Add herbs to a kitchen window box.
- Decorate a balcony or deck--from simple to ornate.
- Create a small-scale vegetable garden.
- Hang baskets overflowing with flowers, vegetables and/or herbs.
- Place containers of scented flowers on each side of an entrance.

CHOOSE A CONTAINER BEST FOR YOU

Here are some qualities to look for:

Suitability and Durability--Select a container that's suited to the area in which it will be used. Bushel baskets and plastic pails are fine for private or hidden areas, but you'll probably want to use decorative containers such as ceramic or Mexican clay in public areas. Flimsy plastic, styrofoam, and even paper containers are excellent for starting seedlings, but year around, reusable containers should be made to last.

Size--Containers should be large enough to hold sufficient soil so that plants will have plenty of growing space and a continuous supply of water and nutrients. Small, low-growing annuals look better in shallow pots, but taller vegetables and flowers look better in deeper and larger containers.

Drainage--Holes drilled or punched in the bottom of the container and sides near the bottom allow excess water to drain freely. They prevent overwatering that can damage plants. However, waterproof saucers can help catch runoff on balconies and overhead areas.

Stability--The base should be wide enough and the container heavy enough to prevent tipping. Supports for hanging baskets and window boxes must be strong and solid. At elevations, such as balconies where winds are stronger, use containers made of heavy material in a larger sized pot.

Appearance--Think of the container as a piece of furniture and the plants as a living bouquet you're arranging for your home.

NEEDS OF CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS

Water. Plants all need water, although not in the same amounts. Organic matter is added to container soils to absorb water and keep it available until roots can use it.

(over)

Oxygen. Roots need oxygen. Plants grow poorly, and may even die, if the soil becomes so compacted that the tiny air spaces in the soil remain filled with water. When taken out of the garden environment ordinary soil quickly compacts and loses its ability to provide good drainage. So soil amendments like vermiculite, perlite, or coarse builder's sand are added to allow water to percolate freely through the soil, pulling vital oxygen into the spaces left behind.

Nutrients. Periodic use of a well balanced fertilizer (such as 5-20-5 or 10-10-10) is recommended once plants are established to replace nutrients lost through use or watering.

Anchorage. A loose soil provides growing room and a good supply of oxygen throughout the container so that roots can get a good foothold thereby adhering to the four needs of a good mix.

Recipe for Container Soil

1 part garden soil	1 part drainage material
1 part organic matter	5-10-5 or 20-20-20 fertilizer

Combine first three ingredients. Add water until slightly moist. Add one tablespoon fertilizer to each 12 inch pot; mix well.

The following condensations or tables from the National Garden Bureau, Inc. press release will appear in future issues of the SPRAY:

HOW TO PLANT IN CONTAINERS
HOW MANY PLANTS PER POT
WHAT TO GROW IN CONTAINERS
COMMON PROBLEMS IN CONTAINER GARDENING

"THIS IS THE TIME of year when the vegetable gardener secretly wishes for a frost, though it isn't quite cricket to come out and say so. He has ripened just about enough tomatoes for this year. He is willing to call it quits and wait for May. By then he will be fed up with canned tomatoes. But right now he'll settle for a weekend without a hoe in his hands.

"That's one of the best things about nature in a land of four seasons-- frost comes and puts an end to the growing things. No garden should endure, with its demands, more than about six months a year. The other six months one should be allowed to rest and dream and yearn."
--Condensed from Hal Bordland's Twelve Moons of the Year

NEW MEMBER

Walter C. Gustafson
3812 W. 57 St., Edina 55410

926-3124

HOW TO PLANT IN CONTAINERS

As soon as the weather warms seeds of some plants can be sown directly into the containers they are to be grown in. Root vegetables need to be grown this way as they dislike being transplanted. But many other plants can be started early indoors and transplanted into larger containers 4 to 6 weeks later.

Plant seeds in a moistened soil mix, following seed packet instructions for correct planting depths. Keep the soil moist, but not soggy, until the seeds germinate. Problems from overwatering can be minimized, or eliminated, by using a good soil mix and a container with adequate holes for drainage. After the seedlings emerge, thin them to the spacings recommended on the seed packet.

If seedlings are being grown indoors, give them plenty of light from a sunny window or fluorescent lights and cool temperatures, if possible, to promote strong, sturdy growth. Keep the soil fairly moist until about two weeks before you plan to transplant, then slowly decrease the amount of water.

Transplant the entire root system, keeping as much soil around the roots as possible. One way to easily remove seedlings from individual pots is to place one hand over the top of the pot, palm down, with index and middle fingers spread apart to make room for the stem. Pick up the pot from the top with your fingers and turn it over. The root ball may slip easily into your hand. If not, tap the bottom of the pot to dislodge it.

Fill the permanent container part way with soil mix and place the transplants at the same depth that they were growing in the original container, but with the soil level 1/2 to 1 inch below the rim of the new container. This allows room for easy watering. Fill the rest of the container with soil mix, and firm it gently around the root system to eliminate any large air pockets.

Watering. You will need to water your container plants on their schedule, not yours. Container soil mixes are made to be light and fast-draining. Frequency of watering depends on many factors: soil mix, type of plant, size and depth of container, the material the container is made of, and weather conditions. Vary the frequency and amount of watering you do according to these conditions.

Check to see if plants need water by carefully poking a finger or pencil into the soil. If the soil does not cling to the finger or pencil, the plant probably should be watered (unless it is a plant that prefers more arid conditions). If the plant is wilting and the soil surface is dry, it probably needs more water. Try to make hanging baskets accessible and easy to take down, or keep a step stool nearby so you can easily distribute the water on the soil.

Fertilizing. Since container plants are watered more frequently, they lose nutrients faster through drainage water. Plants grown in mixes containing soil need less fertilizer than those grown in soilless mixes. After the plants have been established and are gaining new growth, it is time to begin a routine fertilizing program.

Grooming. Few container plants need to be fussed over, but flowers can be persuaded to bloom longer and more profusely if blossoms are removed when they begin to fade. This process, called deadheading, prevents flowers from going to seed. Vegetables, too, can be encouraged to produce abundant

(over)

harvests if fruits are kept picked as they mature.

Removing dead leaves and flowers is a good sanitation practice in containers or the garden. It helps discourage insects and disease organisms. And, of course, it makes your containers more attractive.

--culled from a 1984 National Garden Bureau press release

YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT
Says Ed Culbert

Earlier this year I told about pulling up most of my rutabagas thinking them to be radishes I had planted to mark my parsnip rows. By the time I realized my mistake only four were left; but these four were enough to, during the summer, all but crowd out my parsnips. On November 3rd I harvested my crop. The parships did fairly well considering the rough time the rutabagas gave them; but Oh, those bagies!

The printed blurb Michael Denesuk gave me with a dozen or so seeds last spring credited professor Radcliffe B. Pike of the University of New Hampshire with "development of what he considers to be a milder but finer flavored rutabaga. It was obtained by cross-breeding the common rutabaga with Chinese cabbage".

Chinese cabbage my eye! That turnip was crossed with a boa-constrictor. From the globular root extended a curved neck. The stem, if that's what it was, had scars all around where leaves had once erupted, I suppose, for it looked like the trunk of a palm tree which had dropped its leaves as it grew. Those abscission layers almost touched.

The stem on the number 1 rutabaga was longer than my arm and a full 3-1/2 inches in diameter by actual measurement. It resembled nothing so much as an ox-bow. I put it around my neck for the edification of two neighbor urchins. The globular portion hung half way to my waist. The leaves fell below my belt on the other side.

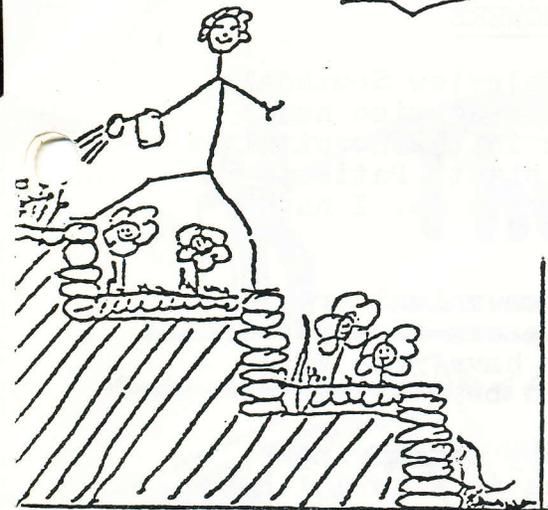
The long stem on bage number 2 was split open and spread wide for most of its length. Much of the root, too, was split open. Root and stem openings displayed a series of dry sinews probably as edible as what they looked like--the basic strands of a piece of braided hemp rope. Number 3 had a smaller globe and a shorter stem; number 4 no globe at all.

Barbara cooked numbers 1 and 3. Number 1 was delicate tasting, tender and mashed easily. Number 3 couldn't be mashed, was stringy tough and inedible. The fibers scratched my tongue.

In an experimental mood I chopped off 12 inches of the 3-1/2 inch diameter stem of number 1. It looked and smelled like rutabaga but had a 3/4 inch light yellow core inside the darker normal bagie colored meat. My wife refused to cook and sample it on the grounds, "It may be another of your poisonous plant parts."

AN IDEA FOR HOUSE PLANTS:

Cut up an old cellulose sponge and place a chunk in the bottom of each pot. It provides needed aeration as well as an added supply of water. After planting with potting media, these pots will need less watering and will also be a little lighter and easier to handle.



TERRACE TALK

The year surely went by fast, Christmas already. I have enjoyed being President and hope that I have kept the program on an even keel at least not letting it decline.

I am so pleased with the new slate of officers - Andy Marlow, President, Bob Churilla, Vice President, Duane Reynolds, Secretary, George McCollough, Treasure, and Board members, Robert L. Smith, Stan VanVorst, Bob Olson, and Charlie Proctor. Good luck to you all. I am sure the club is in capable hands. I of course as Past President will be available to assist the board and officers wherever I can.

The Klier's Nursery day after Thanksgiving party was a huge success this year. First time for Janet and I. Even us novice made attractive center pieces and the wreaths, made by many, were so attractive. Over 90 members and guests attended. Many thanks to Howard Klier and staff for the lovely party and buffet. We certainly appreciated it.

It was a good thing that this last weekend was four days. It gave me a chance to get may fall cleanup done. Let it snow now. Merry Christmas and see you at the Christmas party.

Every Member Sponsors A New Member Every Member Sponsors A New Member

- Russ

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

I remember a fellow in college who was so depressed he said "Oh, hell, I might as well shoot myself". Several of us knew he was disturbed over breaking up with his girl - but we didn't take him seriously. He DID shoot himself.

The combination lock I'd owned and used from 1933 until today is now 51 years old. Last year on its Golden Anniversary I wrote the manufacturer a comedic note wondering if the lock were about to wear out. The letter was very obviously in jest, yet I anticipated a fun response. I never heard a word. Someone missed the opportunity.

Now we are about to engage in a struggle to put on a fine convention for MGCA. We are inviting thousands of people to be our guests. We're hoping for a thousand. Let's not miss this opportunity. Let's plan. Let's work. Let's do what we need to do to hold our heads high afterwards - when people leave and say we were good hosts. We invite your ideas at any time.

Bill Hull, 1988 Convention Chairman

Volunteers. No pay. Some of you know that at Fairview Southdale Hospital about three months ago I initiated a new service as a volunteer. Each Wednesday I visit every patient in the hospital to groom (not just to water) every bouquet and plant. Patients truly love it - but it's too much for one person to do. I have been working in 85 or more rooms per Wednesday.

Now the volunteer office has agreed to staff more volunteers in this job - at different days of the week - if we can find people with the necessary knowledge - like you fellows have. We would divide the work into four-hour shifts on days to be determined.

I strongly recommend this experience. It's a very satisfying service being "Bill the Flower Man". Frankly, as much as I like my work in Same Day Surgery and in the Emergency Room on other days, this is the most satisfying. You would be helping your fellow man, meeting a lot of nice people, and having a free lunch with other guys.

Wouldn't it be nice if four of you (just four) would call me at 926-1327 and say "Bill, I'm interested. Let's talk." Wouldn't it be nice if MGCM could take over this service. Call me right away. Let's do it.

Bill Hull - 926-1327



Return to
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plan for the 1985 MGCA CONVENTION TO BE HELD AT THE O'HARE MARRIOTT HOTEL, JULY 16-19, 1985.



Christmas USA 20c



By Filippo Lippi, National Gallery

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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