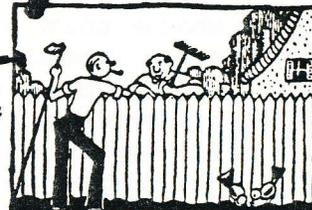




# The Garden Spray

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



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

JULY 1986, Volume 44, Number 7

## MEN'S GARDEN CLUB EVENING GARDEN TOUR

Tuesday, July 8, 1986

Meeting Place: Webber Park Community Center

4400 Dupont Avenue North Phone: 348-6436

- Parking lot next to Community Center - overflow parking on the street.

To Get There: Take Dowling exit (38th Avenue) from Interstate 94 if coming from the south

6:15 p.m. Buffet chicken dinner catered by Delaria's

- Cost - \$7.50 (includes dinner and bus tour) Sign up below

7:00 p.m. Tour starts: - Air conditioned bus - 5 members' gardens

. Gene Ackland . Herb Neby  
. Duane Reynolds . Phil Smith  
. Hal McIntyre

YOU ARE INVITED by Don O'Donnell, Chairman of the Interior Design for the restoration of the Governor's Home, to tour the residence and garden on Saturday afternoon August 2nd at 3 P.M. There is no charge but O'Donnell must have the number of people attending as he has also invited five other garden clubs to which he belongs to attend. His number is 926-7159. Call before August 1st.

The Governor's Residence is located at 1006 Summit Avenue, St. Paul. To get there take Highway 94 to the Lexington Avenue exit. Then go south to Summit; turn right and in 1½ blocks you will be there.

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Tear off and return to George McCollough by July 3

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ dinners and places on the bus for me and my guests (men only on the evening tour) on July 8.

Find enclosed my check for \_\_\_\_\_ (\$7.50 per person).

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Send to : George McCollough, 8812 Tretbaugh Drive, Bloomington, MN 55431

## HYATT-REGENCY HOTEL LOOKS LIKE GOOD CHOICE

It appears increasingly obvious that your 1988 Convention Committee made a good decision a year or so ago in selecting the Hyatt-Regency as our headquarters hotel.

While this hotel keeps rolling along maintaining its position, other hotels we considered have seen changes. The Amfac has been sold and is now the Minneapolis Marriott (which may even be progress); the Sheraton Park Place has been somewhat isolated by freeway construction (maybe just a temporary situation); the Leamington has announced it is closing.

Recently I attended a convention of 450 people at the Hyatt-Regency. The same day there was another group of 600 present on the ground floor, and a smaller group on what I call the mezzanine level. These totalled at least 1200 people - all of whom had to be fed at lunch at the same time. I observed carefully to see how they met the test. I know only of our group, which was served excellently, with dispatch and with care. The ten people at my table ranked the food 8 or 9 on a scale of 1 to 10. The food consisted of a salad of superbly fresh ingredients, an ample serving of roast beef (maybe pot roast) with mushroom sauce, new little potatoes, al dente carrots, another vegetable I forget, apple strudel with sauce and lots of coffee. Those who asked for iced tea or milk were served that drink almost instantly. I have no idea of the price, but the staff handled two of the three groups with great efficiency, as I later learned.

This particular group I attended had sold 57 commercial exhibits so needed the Exhibit Hall. They also were served the luncheon in one end of that hall - which had terrible acoustics or perhaps a bad address system. Someone said they had not nailed down space sufficiently early and the bigger ballrooms were already booked. We would not want to be served in the Exhibit Hall.

Also, I talked with people running the two larger groups. Both were delighted with the way the hotel staff handled all problems. Registration booths were installed on time; there were no problems over checking in; whenever something was needed, it was quickly forthcoming. All of these things speak of a well-run hotel.

There are currently several good restaurants in the building. Of course the Willows and Pronto are two of the cities' best; The Terrace is very satisfactory and there is a fourth place in the upper level (The Greenway Mall). Plus several top-notch places nearby. The Mall also contains a 24-hour cleaners, very lovely gift and clothing shops and an "electric beach".

The Terrace has been redecorated and new carpeting appears nearby in the lobby. Obviously the Hyatt-Regency is working to keep its position as a leading Twin Cities hotel.

Bill Hull, 1988 Convention Chairman.

### MGCA CONVENTIONS AHEAD--PLAN TO ATTEND

Albany, New York July 19, 20, 21, 22, 1986  
Rockford, Illinois June 13, 14, 15, 16, 1987



## BIG BOB'S CORNER

Summer is upon us so let's sit back and enjoy it. Yes, we know there are those pesky weeds that must be hoed or pulled from the garden. Our plants from seed must be thinned or transplanted and we must keep a watchful eye for slugs, rabbits and birds who would like to make them disappear.

The rabbits can be fenced out until your plants reach a height of six or more inches. As for the birds, I find that the grackles are the most annoying while the wrens and robins are enjoyable. The insects that are out there are goodies and baddies; so one should get acquainted with the different insects. A strong stream of soapy water will deter aphids so a harsh insecticide is not needed. Most insects have an insect predator. Give them a chance to do their job. Encourage robins, wrens, and toads to help hold down the insects. One may be forced to deal with a severe infestation of insects; so, be aware that certain sprays will also kill beneficial insects. Thus the timing of your spray program is all-important. A late in the day application will avoid the killing of beneficial insects. Do not wait till later in the season to act, because by then many of the insects will be in webs and you will not be able to destroy them.

With plant diseases an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This means that you should cooperate with nature by providing adequate sunshine and air circulation. Aim to keep your foliage dry, especially toward evening, because if you don't spores of rusts, mildew, blackspot or what have you will go quickly to work on wet foliage and cause disfiguring and dangerous fungal leaf diseases.

One half of the year has gone by and with all the activities we have had it is time for a relaxing garden tour. Bob Olson, our Tour Chairman and his committee have been out inspecting gardens for the July tour. The tour is going to be in the northern section and our Chairman has arranged for us to meet at Webber Park on July 8th. So don't forget to get your reservation sent to George McCullough--for more detail on the tour read page 1 of this issue.

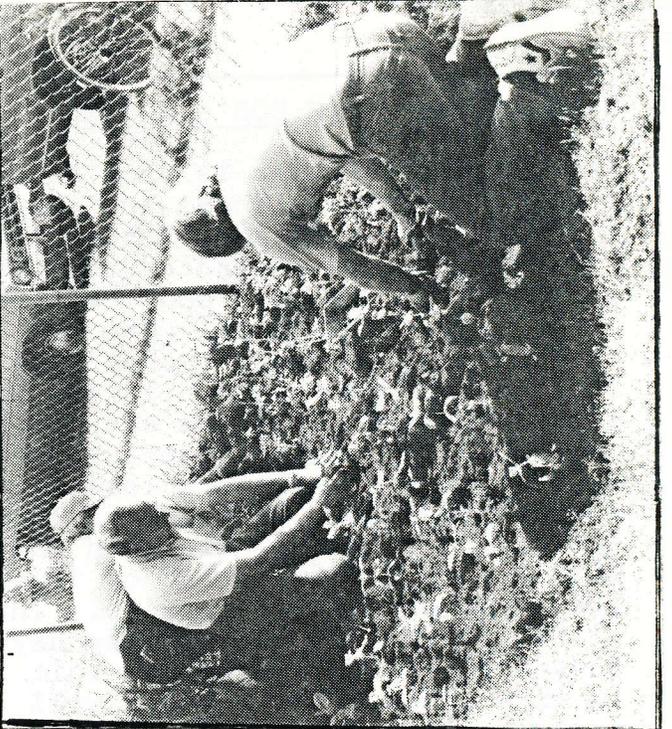
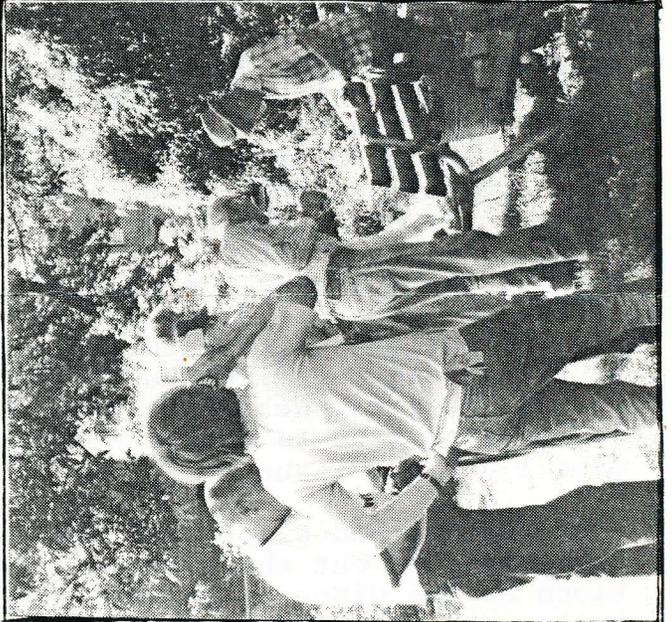
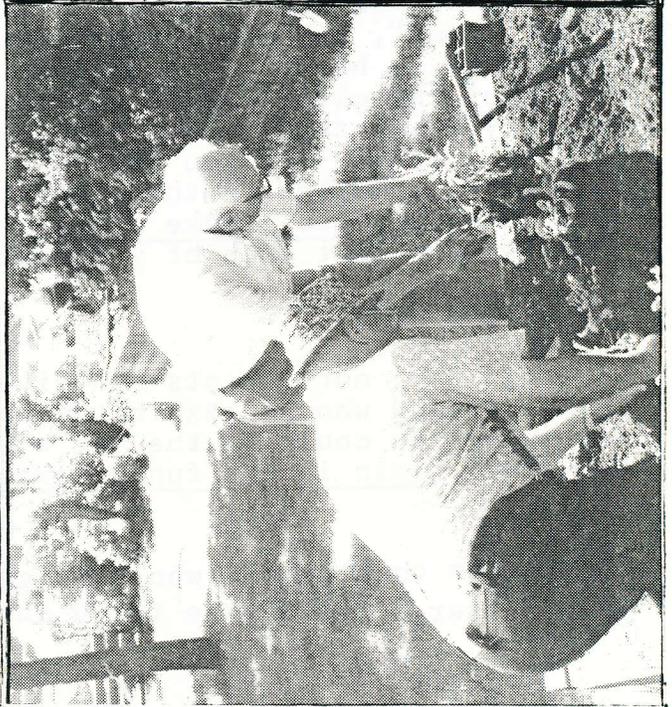
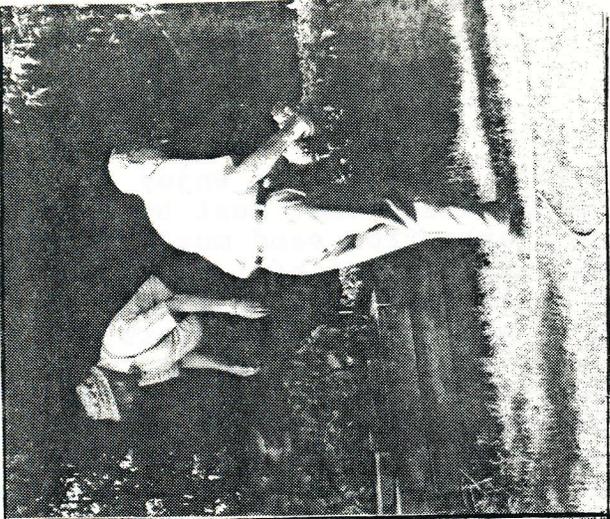
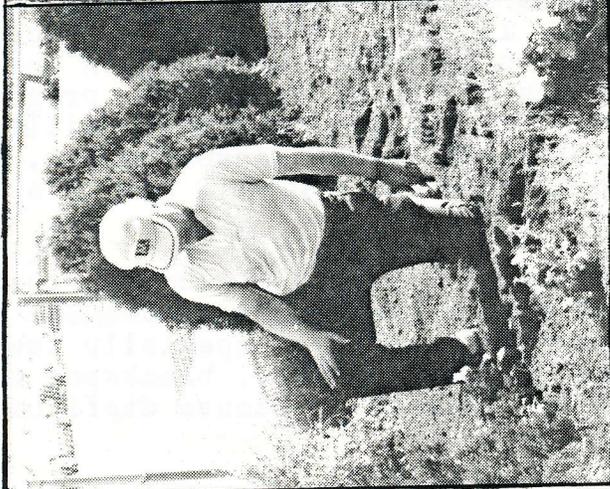
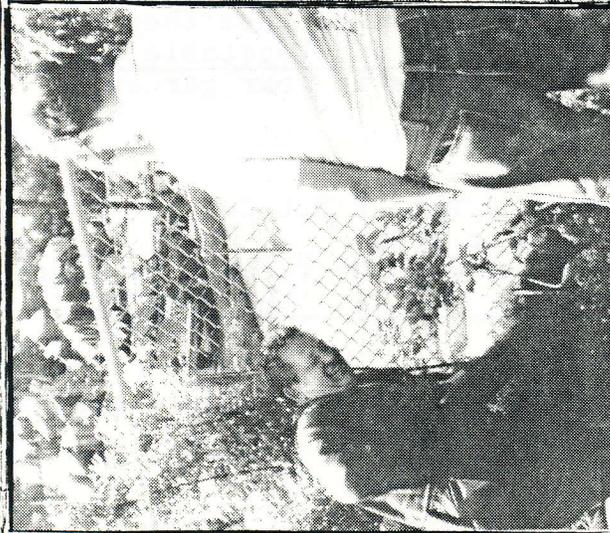
Last year we had a Spring Flower Show at one of our meetings. After the judges picked out the winners we had them explain why they picked that bloom as the winner. In the background one could hear voices. "I have a better specimen than that in my garden. I guess I should have cut a few of my blooms", and many other comments. These are the comments that we don't like to hear. I would like to see at least two entries from each member of the club. As in the past this year again there will be drop off places you can take your flowers and vegetables to. We understand that it is a long drive. If you are not sure on how to pick a flower for showing call me or a member of the committee and I am sure that they will help you out. Remember Let's Make This Year's Flower and Vegetable Show A Big Hit. I do believe that each of you have two entries in your garden.

### TIP OF THE MONTH

Pick out 2 or more plants and give them a lot of T.L.C.  
Call a friend who has exhibited before for help.  
Who knows you could be the big winner. I was the first time I entered.  
Remember: Join in the fun of exhibiting. IT IS A LOT OF FUN.

They claim that people who talk gently and kindly to plants make them grow better. Has anyone tried shouting at weeds?

PLANTING THE GARDEN



## COMMUNITY FRAGRANCE GARDEN IN WORD AND PICTURE

Clean up and planting, Saturday, May 31, 1986

Shovels, rakes, hoes and Roto-Tillers. A dozen or so members\* showed up at the garden for our project. That is a Bakers dozen, not twelve. Our work day was beautiful with lots of sunshine. On arriving at the garden we found trash, debris and brush which we had to dispose of: Charlie Proctor and Henry Halvorson supplied us with Roto-Tiller service. Charlie's was a small unit, so it wasn't used very much. However, the other tiller was big and it did an excellent job. Thanks, Charlie and Henry. Then our members went to work with rakes, shovels and hoes.

Once again the Park Board supplied us with 1400 very nice plants. For this, our thanks goes to Mary Lerman who was so cooperative. However, we had fewer plants than last year so we spaced them a little further apart. Since Saturday isn't a Parks department workday, Archie Caple, Phil Peterson, Russ Smith and Joe Stenger picked up the plants and delivered them to the garden on Friday.

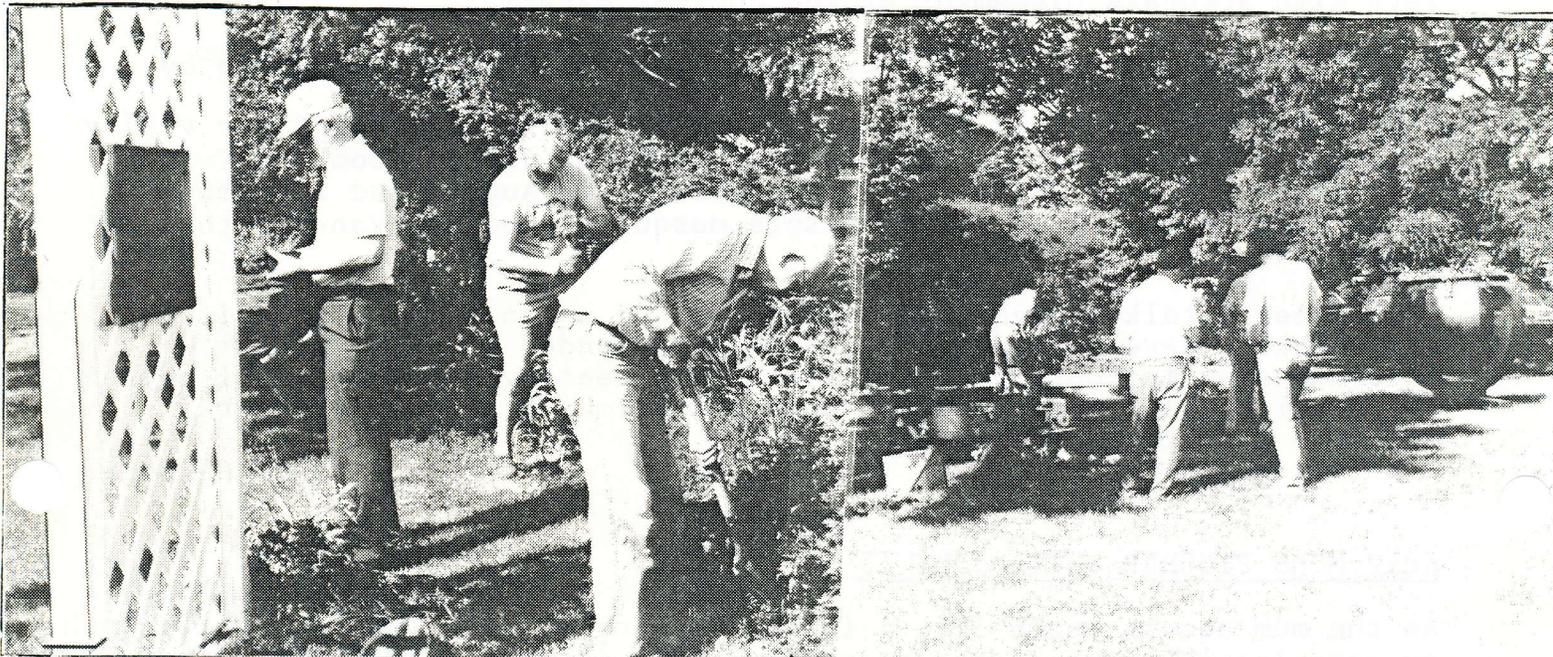
In our garden, one big job was the clean up of the Shrub Roses in front. It was a mess. Phil Peterson turned Bob Churilla and another member on it. They really cleaned it up. Phil also was in charge of setting up the plants for Sun or Shady areas. He did an excellent job on this.

Of course, any work job should have a break. And we had one, Coffee, Pop, and Doughnuts. It gave us a chance to look at the memorial plaque and stand for our deceased member Ewald Johnson which is now in place at the garden.

Our Clean-up and Planting ended about 11:00 A.M. that morning. For this excellent job, I sincerely thank all members who worked on it. Since planting at the Garden, I have stopped there daily. It does Dry out and I have been watering it daily. So let's all of us do our part on watering and weeding it this summer.

HAPPY GARDENING Members. -- Joseph L. Stenger (822-5305) Committee Chairman

\*Brenny, Churilla, Culbert, Halvorson, Duane Johnson, Miller, Moehnke, Nerburn, O'Donnell, Peterson, Roberg, Stenger and Wittstock.



## THE JUNE MEETING

Our speaker on June 10 was Ross Green, Public Information Officer for the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District. Luckily for me he passed out fact sheets covering his topic before the lights were dimmed. Without one I'd have been hard put to make meaning later out of the notes I took during his slide showing.

He eased into his topic by reminding us that the mosquito control district covers the 7 county (Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington and part of Carver) metropolitan area and that it was organized in 1958.

Green then grew technical and showed us slides covering the life cycle of the mosquito. First, eggs which immersed in water develop into segmented worm-like "wigglers" (larvae); then, still under water into "tumblers" (pupae). Another slide showed the next stage--the pupae at the water's surface splitting open with the adult mosquito emerging ready to restart the cycle. Only the female mosquitoes bite. They need blood to develop their eggs. The male, a true gentleman, subsists on plant juices. Both sexes have a potential life span of 3 to 5 months.

Mosquito eggs must be in water 7 to 10 days to hatch. Lacking water the eggs remain viable for up to 5 years. Only one kind of mosquito which develops under water breathing through cat-tail roots develops in lakes. The best breeding place is shallow water 6 to 12 inches deep; but a water filled footprint depression can breed up to 1000 mosquitos.

Most mosquitos have a flying range of about 25 miles though they can be blown in 50 to 70 miles by surface winds. Their normal flying height is 4 to 6 feet above the ground but they have been seen in the jet stream at 5000 feet.

Temperature is a factor bearing upon the presence of mosquitos. When the temperature is below 50° Fahrenheit few will be found.

The best time for homeowners to spray an area for mosquitos is from sun-down to midnight. The district helicopter flying early in the morning is not fogging. It is spreading pellets which release control materials against mosquito larvae. The higher winds later in the day would interfere with accurate placement of the control materials.

Mosquito born diseases most prevalent in low lying areas as shown by Green's map slides are:

- Western encephalitis...Minnesota River valley and the Red River valley
- LaCrosse encephalitis...The Mississippi River valley from the Twin Cities south. It affects children usually in August and September.
- Dog heartworm...13 of our Minnesota mosquito species transmit this parasite.

Ross Green's talk brought many questions and an animated discussion. The speaker, never at loss for answers, responded in rapid fire and in some cases in considerable detail. The meeting continued well beyond our usual closing time despite program chairman Dr. Olson's several attempts to cut off questions.

--E. C. Culbert

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## KEEP MUMS PINCHED UNTIL JULY 15

As the mum shoots reach 3 to 4 inches in length, give them a "soft" pinch by removing 1/2 inch of the stem tip. This increases buds for fall bloom.

LIME NOT NEEDED HERE

by Jack Kolb

Articles on liming of soils occur quite frequently in turf and garden publications. The merits of liming where needed are not to be disputed. However, in the Minneapolis area that suggestion should not be considered until one has had a soil test with a pH reading or a Floricultural soil test which determines many of the "sub-major" or "minor" elements such as sulfur, calcium, magnesium, manganese etc.

The writer is more familiar with the problems in turf than in gardening, so my comments will be more turf-oriented.

Large turf areas in the Twin Cities area are irrigated from deep wells in both the Hinckley and Jordan aquifers. The alkalinity of this water is in the range of pH 8.0±. One drop of water on a shiny black Continental will leave a white deposit of calcium-carbonate which can be difficult to remove. In fact when we "used-to-manually" water golf courses the warm light on the scooter used to have such a build up of calcium that the light became ineffective and had to be cleaned with muriatic acid in order to remove the deposit. Irrigation water, then, becomes one source of lime that may be more than adequate to meet the calcium needs of your crop.

How then do we counteract the affect of too much lime where the pH has escalated to a point where certain essential elements are no longer available? In turf we have turned to sulfur. Turf production poses a problem since adding elements has to be done on the surface without extensive cultivation. Thus sulfur added to the surface causes extreme pH interfacing.

One of the factors affecting the effectiveness of any amending supplemental sulfur will be the buffering ability of a soil--let us say that heavier more colloidal, and high organic soils have higher buffering ability. This is a term that describes a soil's ability to resist pH change.

One comment about the so called "sand" that occurs commonly under the seven county area of the Twin Cities. Most "Gravel" type sands found locally are made up of limestone and have pH's above 8.

Sulfur can be bought in several different forms:

1. 99% pure sulfur; usually pelleted and difficult to decompose (acted upon by specific micro-organisms and eventually available in a SO<sub>4</sub> form)
2. 92% pure pelletized or granulated with clay binder the sulfur portion being very finely ground for faster oxidation and breakdown. (objectionable because of the bentonite clay binder)
3. Sulfate forms of fertilizer or fertilizer ingredients
  - a. Sulfate of Potash
  - b. Ammonium Sulfate
  - c. Iron Sulfates
  - d. Zinc Sulfates etc.

The pH requirements of various plants may vary, but turf requires an optimum range of 6.5 to 7.2. Vegetable gardens more than likely hover around the neutral point since this is the area in which most elements major and minor are more readily available.

In conclusion it is felt that local soils contain adequate calcium and that liming is a practice that would rarely occur here. Lime only after extensive soil testing.

OTHER MGCA CL

GREEN TOE

He called his garden "Eden".  
For its pleasure and delight  
To have the first tomato  
He'd try with all his might.

He always knew the last frost,  
And controlled all pests with ease,  
But he could never figure out  
Just when to plant his peas.

WE REPEAT: START GETTING READY

Make a note of what is growing well in your garden now (or at least by July 4th). Plan to have it in your garden next year and at convention time July 3-6, 1988, for cutting and for show.

CALENDARS: Chet Groger wants to remind you again that it is time to order your 1987 MGCA calendars. When a member of the calendar committee telephones you be ready to tell him how many calendars you want. Then send your check to treasurer George McCollough. The money "up front" always helps.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ray Marshall 425-9896  
6809 Balsam Lane N. 546-8294  
Maple Grove, MN. 55369

Kent R. Petterson 332-1821  
908 East River Ter. 489-1303  
Mpls., MN. 55414

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Edwin C. Culbert, Editor  
5315 Portland Avenue  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417  
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**CLUB OFFICERS:**

President: Robert G. Churilla  
3725 Lincoln St. N.E., Columbia Hgts. 55421  
Vice-President: Robert C. Olson  
2840 Glenhurst Ave., St. Louis Park 55416  
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7116 - 39th Ave. N., New Hope 55427  
Treasurer: George H. McCollough  
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10107 Lakeview Drive  
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