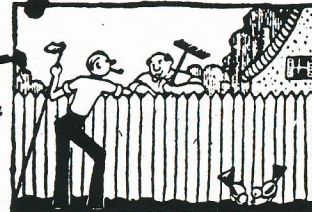




The Garden Spray

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

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

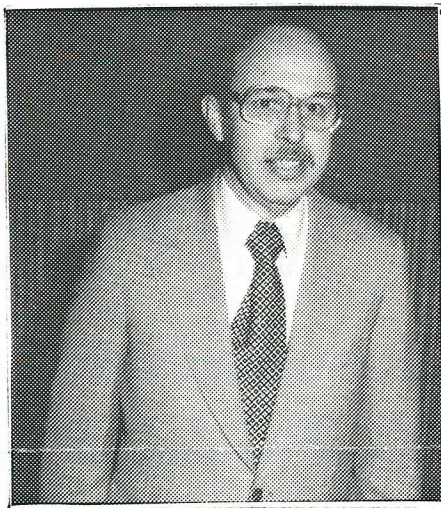


June 1981, Volume 39, Number 6

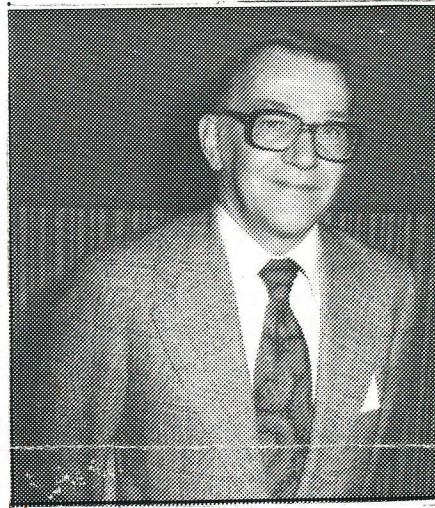
HAVE YOU MET THESE MEN WHO JOINED MGCM THIS YEAR?



Leo J. Grebner

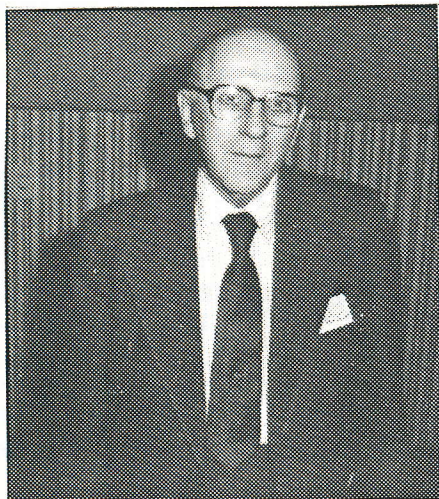


Theodore L. Johnson



Richard L. Leming

THIS MAN JOINED MGCM
IN NOVEMBER 1980



Stanley F. Van Vorst

Next Meeting

Tuesday Evening, June 9, 1981
Richfield Legion Club
6501 Portland Avenue South 6:00 P.M.

Our program this evening will feature one of our own members, Glenn Ray, Executive Secretary of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society whose topic will be "Landscaping the Home".

Dinner will cost \$5.00 this month.
Bring an interested friend or neighbor.

GET YOUR RESERVATION CARD BACK AT ONCE!

Once again we are indebted to Vinton and Ellen Bouslough for getting the SPRAY printed, addressed and mailed out while the editor was out of town.



ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING CEREMONY

On Arbor Day, April 24, 1981, the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis donated and planted a tree in memory of the Vietnam Veterans, the Iranian Hostages and those who gave their lives in an attempt to rescue them. The tree, a fine pin oak, was planted during a ceremony at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery attended by a good number of club members and their wives.

Ev Haedecke, chairman of the Arbor Day Committee, acted as spokesman for the Club and his remarks are

reprinted below. The Legion volunteer firing squad at the Cemetery fired a salute and sounded taps and each club member took his turn on a shovel to finish planting the tree.

If you are at the National Cemetery, you will find the tree in the north-west segment of the traffic circle at the end of the right hand boulevard as you enter the Cemetery. Drive straight ahead and you will find a newly planted pin oak which will stand and grow as an emblem of our Club.

--Chet Groger

REMARKS BY EV HAEDECKE AT THE PLANTING OF THE FREEDOM TREE

"Friends, we of the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club have planted many ornamental trees in our public areas and parks, and, over the years have supported the Minnesota Arboretum; but this is the first time we have planted a memorial tree at this National Cemetery. In this endeavor we appreciate the co-operation of the Fort Snelling National Cemetery administration and, especially, the help from the Richfield American Legion Post #435.

"I understand Governor Quie has designated Sunday, April 26th, as Vietnam Veteran's Day, and, although he regrets that because of Legislative duties he cannot be here, he asks that we express his heart-felt concern towards all Vietnam veterans.

"We of the Men's Garden Club feel that the men of valor have not obtained the recognition they rightfully deserve--so today we plant this large sturdy oak as a freedom symbol to honor you veterans who have helped keep this country free. And, let us not forget those valiant men that wanted to set our hostages free. Our public heart is with you all--today and always.

"After five days of rain, thank you, Lord, for this bright sunshine as we plant our Freedom Symbol."

THE APRIL PROGRAM

The program started auspiciously with Bob Churilla showing slides: First, of last year's Flower and Vegetable Show; Then, of member's gardens to stimulate plantings likely to produce specimens for the 1981 show.

Fred LeBoutillier followed with a beautifully organized talk on roses admirably suited for note takers. He brought a rosebud for each person

(continued page 3)

APRIL PROGRAM (from page 2)

present. And, he showed slides of roses after the talk--another plus for note takers. Some of the points made in his talk were:

It is essential to a good rose garden that there be,

- No trees or shrubs close to the bed;
- Lots and lots of sunlight--16 hours preferably;
- Good drainage;
- Good soil. He recommended incorporating old manure, peat moss, leaf mold;
- Plants, particularly bare-root, from a reliable source.

Bare root stock must be planted before May 10. Soak for at least 8 hours. Transfer directly from the water to holes dug 16 inches deep, 18 inches wide, 24 inches apart, and having a cone of dirt in the center over which the roots may be draped. After planting, water to settle the soil then mound dirt up around the stems. After 6 to 10 days wash away the dirt a little at a time.

Potted roses may be planted any time during the year. Cut the bottom off the container before positioning in the hole. Cut the side off the container after the plant is in place. Never feed a rose until it is fully leafed out. Ted prefers a soluble fertilizer; is skeptical about foliar feeding. He advises use only a granular 0-10-10 after August 1.

Spray your roses once or twice a week. Mulch after the weather warms up to retain moisture and to fend off the heat. If you have a lot of roses don't wait until the recommended date to start tipping but do treat with lime-sulphur first.

SHOW TIME DRAWS EVER CLOSER

With the plant auction now past history, you must all be loaded with plant material. All it takes now is T.L.C. coupled with fertilizer, water and cultivation to produce those specimens to enter in the annual Flower and Vegetable Show. The date, again, August 22 and 23.

Once again we will have Open and Youth classes. The Youth class is for a youngster up to age 16 sponsored by a member who must also be available to assist the entrant in staging his material for exhibition. The Open class is for a non-member of MGCM who is age 16 or over. Be thinking of possible exhibitors for either class. Start to talk it up with them. In the case of youths they may benefit from a little counsel and assistance from a member. Regular ribbons will be awarded to Youth class or Open class exhibitors but they will not participate in the Court of Honor or the National awards.

Again, I want to stress that we are hoping for maximum participation. At the Arboretum we have a large potential audience to see our handiwork. Let's put on an outstanding exhibition for them. Participation by all of us, even if we have only a few entries apiece, will assure this. And, remember a specimen you pass by as not worthy might if brought get you a ribbon. Review Jerry Shannon's fine article in the April SPRAY for more ideas and suggestions.

--Charles Proctor

There's always an extra weed left to pull at the Fragrance Garden. Visit (and pull) any time.



RAY'S NATURE

June, besides being my birth month, has always been an exciting month. When I was a boy on the farm, I always liked to walk in the fields to see the newly planted corn coming up. The first of the month the corn was barely up or was just ankle deep, and by the end of the month it was up to the waist. Finding a baseball in waist deep corn always was difficult as I remember.

Gardening is my only means of farming now in my urban existence. I take my shovel in hand like a kid with a toy bulldozer. I play with my land and plant my crops. All of my spring labors come to life as the seeds and tiny plants spring to life. What was a dream at the beginning of June is a reality by the end of the month. Now my son tries to find his baseballs; not in the corn but in the canna lily patch or marigold beds. Each fall when we take out the cannas we find a lost baseball or tennis ball just as I found lost baseballs when Dad harvested the corn.

June is a time for preparation. Our club is preparing for the summer by planning the July and August tours. We are working to put together exciting tours but we need your help. Fred Glasoe and his committee are busy planning this year's tours. I am as guilty as the next gardener of saying, "Next year my garden will be better", or "How can my garden compare with last year's trophy winner Jerry Shannon's garden or Roger Koopman's yard or some of the others we have visited in the past." I will have to say that I have never been in a fellow member's garden yet without learning at least one thing about gardening. I've also never had a fellow gardener in my yard who didn't have a good suggestion or two on how to make my yard a little better.

June is a good time to prepare for the flower show. Keep in mind the show in August when you are checking the progress of each plant in your yard in June.

June is a good time for fellowship among members. A little talk over the garden fence is always fun. We have been fortunate to have a lot of new members in the past few years. Let's make an effort to reach out to them and get them more involved in the club. Invite a member who has never seen your yard over to get his ideas or to share a plant or two. I think it would do each member a lot of good to reach out a little.

June is, also, a good time to get a youth involved in gardening. When you catch a kid picking one of your flowers you know he is interested. Get him started. I have a little neighbor boy full of questions following me around when I work. Sometimes he is a pest, but he is learning to ask better questions at least. He has also stopped picking the flowers and tells his friends not to pick.

Have a good June.

--Ray Marshall

PLANT PROPAGATION FROM CUTTINGS, Installment 5-

D. Cameron Smith, Minneapolis MGC

Rooting Medium Characteristics

Plants' need for gas exchange has been discussed as a factor in cutting storage. Attempting to root cuttings in water alone produces long rather unbranched, crisp, breakable roots. Hard to root species tend to rot when in water because they do not get sufficient oxygen.

The requirements for a rooting medium are similar to those for an ideal garden soil. Let's compare the two:

<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Ideal rooting medium</u>	<u>Ideal growing medium</u>
air Volume	40%	25%
water Volume (at FC)	10%	25%
solid Volume	50%	50%
pH	4.0 - 6.8 (strongly to mildly acid)	4.0 - 8.3 (acid to alkaline)
CEC	low to moderate	moderate to high
soluable salts	low	moderate
nutrients	low	moderate to high
organic Matter	varies	moderate to high

In both cases half of the volume of our ideal medium is open space and half is solid. The rooting medium retains only 10% water at field capacity (FC). Field capacity is the amount of water a medium will retain after all the water which can drain away has but before evaporation and plant consumption losses have started. 10% water retention at FC results from large pore spaces in the rooting medium. After drainage, a film of water will be left on the surfaces of individual particles but the larger cavities will be mostly empty. These cavities provide room for air. Simply stated a good rooting medium is coarse and very well drained.

pH is a measure of acidity in water retained in the medium. Numbers less than 7 represent acid conditions while numbers of greater than 7 indicate alkaline (non-acid) reaction. With 7 bearing neutral the entire pH range goes from 0 to 14. Plant life cannot be sustained outside of the range of pH 4.0 to 8.3 with few exceptions. Most plants root best in a slightly acid medium, perhaps pH 6.0 to 6.5. Both the characteristics of the medium and the water added to that medium affect medium water acidity. pH readings are part of a standard soil test; aproximate ones can be done at home with the aid of simple test papers which indicate pH by their color. These test papers are not very accurate or stable over time.

Cation, pronounced "cat-I-on", exchange capacity (CEC) is an indication of a medium's ability to store plant nutrients. Generally media high in organic matter and clay have high CECs. Because rooting is usually a fairly short process CEC is not a major consideration for rooting media but when high CECs indicate poorly drained media aeration problems may result. Similarly, low nutrient levels available in the media are not an important factor. If plants are going to be held in their rooting media after rooting supplementary feeding may be needed.

(over)

Soluble salts include both nutrients and non-nutrient materials dissolved in the medium water. Some come with the water, others are leached from the mineral part of the media while minor contributions come from decay and leaching of organic matter. Added plant food can substantially raise soluble salts. It is important that total soluble salts levels be held low to avoid chemical burns of unrooted cuttings and newly formed roots. Any use of plant foods may cause local, temporary, high soluble salts.

Organic matter (OM) in rooting media can be both a blessing and a curse. On the positive side it can increase medium porosity, CEC, water holding capacity and lower or maintain pH. It can also support the growth of beneficial fungi called mycorrhizae. The disadvantages are that it may provide good growing conditions for rot causing fungi and bacteria, retain too much water and cause continuous changes in medium texture as it naturally breaks down. Sphagnum moss and a few other types of organic matter do seem to suppress the growth of rot causing fungi.

Selection of a practical rooting medium starts with drainage and porosity followed by proper pH. Coarse river (round grained) sand, horticultural perlite and horticultural vermiculite are common choices for the mineral part of rooting media. The word horticultural in front of perlite and vermiculite is important. Other grades of these materials, used for insulation and concrete additives, have toxic levels of fluorides or dangerously high pH. Finely milled sphagnum moss, sphagnum peat, rice hulls and very well composted sawdust or bark are among organic additives used. Fresh OM which rots easily should be avoided. Sandy well drained garden soil may be used as a medium for easily rooted species. As noted earlier natural layering and rooting of hardwood stem cuttings take place outdoors in unamended soil.

Return to
THE GARDEN SPRAY of MGCM, INC.
Edwin C. Culbert, Editor
5315 Portland Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417
* * * * *



MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: RAYMOND D. MARSHALL
6809 Balsam Lane N., Maple Grove, 55369
Vice President: DONAL O'DONNELL
5605 Melody Lake Dr., Edina, 55436
Secretary: JEROLD R. SHANNON
1847 Eleanor Ave., St. Paul, 55116
Treasurer: GEORGE H. MCCOLLOUGH
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Past President: ARCHIE CAPLE
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Director: GARY J. MAGRUM
9532 Oakland Ave. S., Bloomington, 55420
Director: PHILIP M. PETERSON
6529 Knox Ave. S., Richfield 55423

You are urged to invite prospective members to our meetings, hopefully with their applications filled out, but bring them anyway!



FIRST CLASS



To

William H. Hull
6833 Creston Road
Edina, MN 55435