



# The Garden Spray

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

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

March 1985, Volume 43, Number 3

MARCH MEETING DATE CHANGED

NEW DATE IS THURSDAY MARCH 28th

SEND RESERVATIONS NOW

The eagerly awaited Dayton-Bachman Flower Show is here. Again the Men's Garden Club has planned a dinner meeting with a speaker and a tour of the flower show to follow. As usual wives and other guests are invited to attend.

The topic for the show is "An English Country Garden". The show will feature, among other things, a rock garden. We have secured as our SPEAKER for the evening MARY LERMAN of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Department. She will be speaking on the newly redeveloped Lake Harriet Rock Garden. (Across Rose Way from the Rose Garden.) Plants from the Dayton-Bachman Show rock garden will ultimately go to the Lake Harriet Rock Garden.



THE DATE: Thursday, March 28th      THE TIME: 6 PM  
THE PLACE: The Skyroom on the 12th floor of Dayton's downtown store, 8th Street and Nicollet Mall.      THE PRICE: \$10.00 per person.

Reservations with checks should be mailed to George McCullough, 8812 Tretbaugh Drive, Bloomington, MN 55431 by Friday, March 22. Reservations made later than that will not be accepted. Use the form at the bottom of this page. This is a big event. We hope to see you there.

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YOU DON'T NEED TO RUB IT IN, GLENN

--by Chet Groger

Our February speaker, Glenn Ray, only too truthfully reminded us that our winter is the longest season in Minnesota. Because of this, Glenn takes exception to the work of landscape designers in this area who seem to design only with summer in mind.

"Winter Landscaping" was the topic of the fine lecture and slide program given at our February meeting by Glenn Ray, one of our members and Executive Secretary of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. He can also be heard most Saturday mornings on KSTP talk radio dispensing horticultural knowledge to the continuous flow of callers with questions. Glenn can talk on many subjects but we were privileged to hear the reasonings behind his drive to get landscape designers to include the winter scene in their designs.

Our ancestors here in Minnesota didn't need to be told that conifers should be planted for winter protection and visual enhancement of their homesteads. But, with the advent of the housing or industrial developer, the winter environment was completely forgotten. Trees, including beautiful old oaks and evergreens, are bulldozed away and later replaced with so-called shade trees. Now, when you leave the oasis of your home, you drive almost continuously through miles of streets and neighborhoods with nothing but bare trees during over half of the year.

Winter color can be obtained with trees and shrubs other than pine, fir and spruce trees. Some species of oaks retain their leaves into winter. Birches in front of a darker background are picturesque in winter. A weeping willow is more attractive in winter than the usual shade tree. Many shrubs have the ability to hold and display snow on their branches. A good example is the winged euonymus. Well-trimmed hedges are spectacular with snow cover.

Some trees and shrubs hold their seeds or berries over winter. Some ash and maple trees hold their seeds. Trees such as the Red Splendor crab-apple hold their fruit. Even a wooden fence adds to the attractiveness of the landscape and can be designed to blend with the tree and shrub material. The color of the house and other structures should blend with the natural environment created. Together, all of these factors should be considered when planning the landscaping of a home, office or industrial area. But Glenn Ray is hoping to influence landscape designers,

## FROM THE WEED PATCH....

by Andy Marlow

The back of winter has finally been broken with a few days of above freezing temperatures. Some of the first seedlings are emerging from the soil mixture under lights in the basement. My African Violets have a few blossoms and many more buds. My ambition has returned. By the time you read this, some of the snow may even be gone. I think the beginning stage of spring has arrived. **HURRAH!**

As spring gets further along, the club should be able to finish up some business left over from last year. In 1984 we lost a number of old and valuable members of MGCM. Contributions toward memorials for three of those departed men were given to the Club by other members and by the families of the deceased. Those contributions were put aside in three special funds and the Board of Directors took upon itself the task of designating specific memorials for each. We have developed our plan and should see the memorials in place during this growing season. I'm going to take the next few paragraphs to report on them to those of you who weren't able to make the February meeting, where I gave a similar reports.

**SHERM PINKHAM**, most of you know, served long and well as North Star Regional Director for the Men's Garden Club of America. In his honor a suitable tree will be planted on the grounds of MGCA's national headquarters just outside of Des Moines. If the tree (the variety of which MGCA has not yet determined) is as hardy and energetic as Sherm, it will be there to admire for many years to come.

After **CARL HOLST** retired, a bed of one of his favorite roses was removed at the Lake Harriet Rose Garden. This spring a new bed of "Nearly Wild" will be planted there in Carl's memory. There will also be a small, removable plaque to remind people of his contribution to the rose garden.

Finally, the same local artisan that designed and built the large planting urn in the center of the fragrance garden is designing an indestructible park bench to be placed in the fragrance garden in honor of **EWALD JOHNSON**. It should be in place sometime this summer.

A number of MGCM members have contributed to these memorials; some to all three, some to only one. If you'd like to join them in making a contribution, it's not too late. Each one could use a few more dollars. Send a check to Treasurer George McCollough when you send in your reservation for the Dayton-Bachman Flower Show. Just enclose a note to let him know which fund it is for.

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

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER  
by Ed. Culbert

A few months ago I wrote about the queer results I got when I planted the rutabaga seeds Michael Denesuk gave me. Neither Dr. Snyder nor Clint Turnquist believed I had rutabagas at all. But as I said they smelled and tasted like rutabagas. Michael after reading my article telephoned to say he had had similar results from the seed he planted but had kept quiet lest he be accused of planting or growing errors. He plans to contact the friend who sent him the seed.

1984 must have been the year of the queeries. In the Houston TX MGC bulletin, THE YARDNER, editor F. C. "Cotton" Lynch referring to an article on perennial peas called Pigeon Peas in GARDENS FOR ALL NEWS reports, "I thought I would like to try them, so I sent for a dollar's worth of seed and received one hundred seeds. This past spring I planted all of them and sixty seven germinated. As summer passed they grew very slowly. During this time one after another plant would die. By August there were thirteen plants that survived. The surviving plants then grew very fast.

"The article said to plant the seeds six inches apart and it would not be necessary to thin; however it should have read to plant six feet apart as six feet was about the width of each plant. The article also said that the plants grew three to ten feet tall in the tropics but only two or three feet tall in the United States. So Houston should be considered as being in the tropics as my plants were around ten feet tall.

"By October 1st I gave up and cut them down. I'm glad I did not wait longer as it was like digging out a tree stump; the trunk was about four inches in diameter with a terrific root system. The plants had started to produce about the time I cut them down but I didn't get enough for a meal. I didn't want to wait longer as the "trees" were detrimental to my nearby fall garden plants. So if you want to try pigeon peas, pick out a spot with lots of room for these 6 x 6 x 10 (feet) plants."

The 1985 MGCA Convention is scheduled to be held in Chicago July 16-19. Chicago is easy for us to reach since we have a choice--driving or traveling by air, bus, or Amtrak. Furthermore, it offers us an opportunity to mingle with other gardeners there and to promote the convention here in 1988. Plan to attend. Let's have a big delegation there. The January-February issue of The GARDENER (supposedly) mailed out February 10th contains registration forms. Watch for it.

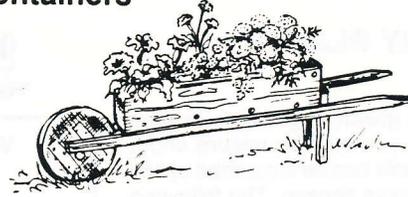
An MGCA advertising brochure will be included in late February shipments from Park Seed Company. It invites men in areas sans Men's Garden Clubs to join MGCA as members-at-large. If any of you receive one of these "invitations" for M-A-L membership, don't let it be wasted. Please mail it to a gardener friend somewhere, enclosing your own personal invitation, welcoming him to be a member-at-large in M.G.C.A.

The CORTLAND SOD BUSTERS reports, "We find a good mix for most house plants is 1 part loam, 1 part sand, 1 part peat mixed and screened so most particles are equal size. This is sterilized then mixed with some perlite. This will be a well drained soil but will retain enough moisture for good growth. If this soil is to be used for cactus or succulents, then add more sand and/or brick chips. It is also advisable to put in your mix about 6 tablespoons of 5-10-10 fertilizer per bushel, then use a good water soluble fertilizer after the 5-10-10 is used up."

**NGB Tip!**

Check information printed on packets and in catalogs for the height of flowers and depth root crops grow when mature as there are many varieties which are compact and therefore more practical for containers. ■

**What To Grow In Containers**



**FLOWERS**

(A) — Annual (B) — Biennial (P) — Perennial Flower	 Hanging Basket	 Tub or 2-5 gal. Container	 Large Container 8-12 inch pot	 Small Container 4-6 inch pot	 Full Sun	 Part Shade	 Full Shade	 High Yield	 Transplant	 Water Sparingly
Achimenes (P)	X			X					X	
Ageratum (A)			X	X	X	X			X	
Alyssum (P)	X		X				X	X	X	
Alyssum, Sweet (A) or (P)	X			X	X	X				
Aster (A)			X		X	X			X	
Balsam (A)			X		X	X			X	
Begonia (A)	X			X		X	X			
Browallia (A)	X			X	X	X			X	
Calceolaria (B)				X			X	X	X	
Calendula (A)			X		X	X			X	
Candytuft (A) or (P)				X	X	X			X	
Carnation (A)			X		X	X			X	
Clarkia (A)				X	X	X			X	X
Coleus (A)	X			X		X	X		X	
Creeping Zinnia (A)	X		X		X					
Daisies (many types) (P)			X		X	X				
Dianthus (A) or (P)				X	X	X			X	
Forget-Me-Not (B)				X	X	X				
<b>Fuchsia</b> (A)	X						X		X	
Gazania (A)			X	X	X	X			X	X
Geranium (P)	X	X	X		X	X			X	X
Impatiens (A)	X		X			X	X		X	
Lantana (P)				X	X	X			X	
Lobelia (A)				X	X	X			X	
Marigold (A)			X	X	X	X			X	
Mignonette (A)			X		X	X				
Morning Glory (A)	X				X	X				X
Nasturtium (A)	X				X	X				X
Nemesia (A)			X		X	X			X	
Nemophila (A)				X	X	X				
Nicotiana (A)			X		X	X			X	
Nierembergia (P)		X	X		X	X			X	
Pansy (A) or (P)	X			X	X	X			X	
Petunia (A)	X			X	X	X			X	
Phlox (A) or (P)			X		X	X				
Portulaca (A)	X			X	X	X				X
Primrose (P)				X		X	X			X
Salvia (A)			X		X	X			X	
Schizanthus (A)		X	X		X	X			X	
Snapdragon (A)			X		X	X			X	
Stock (A)			X		X	X			X	
Sweet Peas (A)	X				X	X				
Thunbergia (A)	X				X	X			X	
Torenia (A)						X	X		X	
Vinca (A)	X				X	X			X	X
Zinnia (A)		X	X		X	X				X

## HOW MANY PLANTS PER POT



If you haven't grown vegetables in containers before, you may be unsure about how mature plants can be supported by the container you have chosen. The following table should help — compiled from information supplied by Dr. John White, a Pennsylvania State floriculturist, and Dr. Peter A. Ferretti, an All-America Selections vegetable judge. It shows how many plants of various vegetable varieties can be supported in a standard 6-inch pot. If you want to grow more than the number indicated, simply step up the size of the pot, or other container.

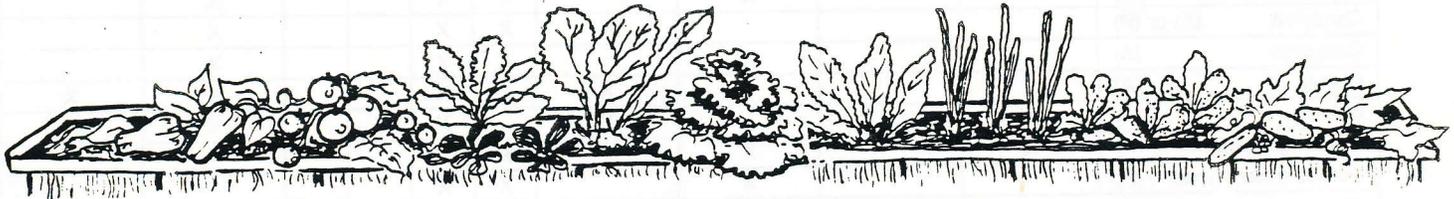
Vegetable Variety	Plants per 6-inch pot
Beet	4-5
Chard	3-4
Eggplant	1
Semi-heading lettuce	4-6
Leaf lettuce	6-10
Parsley	3-5
Pepper	1
Radish	6-8
Cherry Tomato	1

Bush beans, compact cucumbers, and midget watermelons and cantelope also do well, according to White and Ferretti.

Once you know how much space your vegetables will take, you can choose to plant many smaller containers or large "mini-gardens" with a variety of vegetables in them. Either way, you'll discover that the joys of growing, harvesting, and savoring wonderful fresh vegetables at the table aren't confined to gardeners with lots of space.

## WHAT TO GROW IN CONTAINERS

Starting a container garden doesn't mean you'll have to limit the varieties of plants you grow. Listed below are flowers, vegetables and herbs that do well in containers. The species are coded for quick reference to life span, cultural requirements and recommended containers.



### VEGETABLES

(A) — Annual (B) — Biennial (P) — Perennial Vegetable	 Hanging Basket	 Tub or 2-5 gal. Container	 Large Container 8-12 inch pot	 Small Container 4-6 inch pot	 Full Sun	 Part Shade	 Full Shade	 High Yield	 Transplant	 Water Sprinkly
Beans (bush or vine types)	(A)	X	X		X			X		
Beets	(A)		X		X			X		
Carrots	(A)		X		X			X		
Cucumbers (bush or vine type)	(A)	X			X					
Eggplant	(A)		X		X				X	
Lettuce	(A)		X	X	X	X		X		
Onions (especially bunching)	(A)		X		X					
Peas (vining)	(A)	X	X	X	X					
Peppers	(A)		X		X			X	X	
Radishes	(A)		X		X					
Spinach	(A)		X	X	X					
Squash (summer & winter types)	(A)				X					
Swiss chard	(A)		X		X					
Tomato	(A)		X	X	X			X	X	
Tomato (cherry)	(A)	X	X	X	X			X	X	
Turnips	(A)			X	X					

**NGB Tip About Vegetables!** Don't think of vegetable container gardens as "Plain Janes" that are only sources of food — they can be sources of visual pleasure, too! Brightly colored kale, red leaf lettuce, eggplant and peppers are colorful and beautiful.

**NGB Tip About Vegetables!** To get the most out of your limited space, choose high-yielding varieties. These include beans, beets, carrots, lettuce, peppers, radishes and some varieties of summer squash and tomatoes.

**NGB Tip About Vegetables!** Many vegetables can be grown successfully in 3 to 5 gallon containers, including corn, broccoli, cabbage, kale, leeks, melons and the new seed-grown potatoes. More new compact varieties are being developed every year.

INDOOR PLANTS do not have the advantage of the cleaning effect of rainfall to keep their leaf surface clean and free from dust. To keep them looking their best, a careful cleaning occasionally is helpful.

For smooth leafed plants a wet sponge or soft cloth rinsed frequently in clear water is a dependable method. For specimens having many small leaves it may be best to take the plant outside and syringe with plenty of water.

Plants with hairy leaves require special attention. A camel hair brush used carefully to avoid bruising the leaves works well.

If commercial leaf polishes are used, be sure to water the plants thoroughly several hours before application. Oils should be avoided but a mild soap and water solution is good for extremely soiled leaves. Since cold water can cause leave blemishes, be sure that the water you use for cleaning is near room temperature.

--The Dallas GREEN THUMB

FERNS are making a comeback as house plants. There are good selections in garden centers and even in grocery stores. In grandmother's day many homes proudly displayed a huge Boston fern in the parlor. Few ferns can tolerate the hot dry climate in modern homes. For successful growing indoors ferns need: 1) Temperature in the 60° to 70° F. range. Ferns may suffer above 75°. 2) Good indirect light as on an east or north facing windowsill. It is even possible to grow ferns under fluorescent lights if the plants are not too close to the tubes.

The soil should be kept moist at all times and not allowed to dry out. Water more frequently than other indoor plants. Spraying or misting daily is requisite.

TAKING CUTTINGS - from MGC Austin GARDENER

For home rooting of most plants it is best to take cuttings that are recent growth but not currently in a flush or fast growth period. A sharp knife or pruning shears with cuts on about a 45 degree angle are suggested. Cuttings are best taken in the early morning or late evening and prepared and stuck as soon as possible in the rooting media. Two to six inch long cuttings are best usually. All leaves should be removed that are to be buried in the media. If the cutting is very leafy, removal of additional leaves may be helpful. Rooting hormones often speed up the root process. They are not, however, essential for rooting most plants. If rooting hormones are used, it is helpful to punch holes in the media with a small stick then firm the media around the cutting with the fingers. The plastic material covering the cuttings usually makes it unnecessary to water them during the rooting period but it is essential to keep a close check to be certain that sufficient moisture is available.

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Nate Siegel and Dick Lehman will both celebrate 57th wedding anniversaries in June of this year.

Paul R. Young who was the father of the Cleveland, Ohio School Garden Program celebrated his 90th birthday on January 12th. Young also was garden editor of the Cleveland News and the Cleveland Press.

Ed. Culbert used Young's Children's Garden leaflets in the 20's and 30's at Adams elementary school in Minneapolis when running a children's garden program there.

(continued over)

Barbara Flanagan reported (late) on the civic award given at our Christmas party for the Loring Greenway project. She also referred to our hosting the MGCM convention in 1986. Who gave her that date?

Bob Churilla made an inner page paragraph because of a talk he gave on roses.

Bob Mugas of the Hennepin County Extension Service in a recent newsletter writes that in a research project one tree or shrub was planted in the long accepted manner, and right next to it, another was planted, returning the soil to the hole, just as it was taken out, with nothing added to it. The plants where "improved" soil was used showed no benefit from the "improvement", in some cases, they did not grow as well as the plants where nothing was added to the soil. The answer seems to be that when "improved" soil was used, the roots of the plants grew only inside the original hole, and the roots did not penetrate into the original soil. Where the original soil (without any additions) was returned to the planting hole, the roots of the plants penetrated beyond the original hole.

MGCM members who start plants under lights might want to try this suggestion from GREEN SPROUTS, the bulletin of the MGC of Watchung Hills, N.J. (The club was organized by George Sweezy formerly a member of MGCM).

"If you grow tomatoes from seed this year...try...this claim: Seedlings 1 to 1-1/2 inches tall when the first true leaves appear should be chilled for two weeks in a cool, lighted place at 50° to 55° F. They then should be returned to 70° during the day and 65° at night. The plants should become more stocky, better survive transplanting, bear earlier, and have heavier yields. ... To verify this technique set plants with and without the cooling treatment side-by-side in the garden, and note the results."

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## ANYBODY REMEMBER ARMISTICE DAY STORM?

This is an invitation to participate in a new book I'm writing. You may have heard of it. It's been publicized in outstate papers, in Barbara Flanagan's column, in the Skyway News and on WCCO-TV.

It's tentatively titled THE GREAT ARMISTICE DAY BLIZZARD, referring, of course, to the storm of November 11, 1940. I've done my research and written introductory paragraphs and the public is invited to submit their most interesting experiences on that day. All you do is to write me of your experience (even a letter will do and don't worry about editing - that's my job). There's no guarantee anyone's story will be used, and there's no payment but, if your story is used, you will be notified and your name displayed with the story/article. If I happen to be gone when you're ready to send it, just mail it; it'll reach me.

Although I've had tremendous response, the door is still open. I don't have a publisher yet but I do have over 200 people wanting to buy the book.

Bill Hull, 6833 Creston Rd., Edina, MN 55435