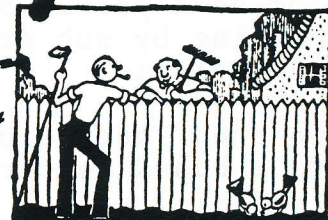




# The Garden Spray

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

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



September 1988, Volume 46, Number 9

The hot summer is over. (We hope.) Labor Day has gone by. The State Fair is over for another year. It is time to go indoors again; to put our feet under a table; to enjoy hot food while we exchange experiences and gardening successes or disappointments. It seems ages since we last met at Lake Harriet Church. Now, once again, we must send in reservation cards for meals. If you didn't get one with this SPRAY you are on the permanent reservation list and must call in if you aren't coming.

## OPENING FALL MGCM MEETING

TUESDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 13, 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:

DOROTHY JOHNSON on PLANTS and POTS FOR THE HOUSE

Dorothy has been Executive Director of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society for the past eight months. She has been a long time volunteer in non-profit organizations. It is her kind of involvement that made the Japanese garden at Normandale College in Bloomington a reality.

She will demonstrate repotting garden plants for the house. Many of us have wondered which plants from our summer gardens can be saved. Come with your questions.

BONUS: A mini-session with our own Robert E. Smith speaking on THE BENEFITS of LEAF COMPOST in the VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Bob has been organic gardening for thirty years. He has surprising results from his efforts, e.g. Forty pounds of tomatoes from one plant. Come and hear him talk about natural processes.

Bulletins from other clubs are reporting at greater length on the national convention than is customary. We are complimented.



## YOUR HELP IS REQUESTED

Our garden meetings generally have followed a format of a main speaker and mini-sessions. Some of you have expressed satisfaction with these programs.

At our August Board Meeting it was suggested that we try other approaches for next year. Suggested were: sick plant clinic; seed ordering night; meeting by sub groups according to your gardening interests in annuals or perennials.

We need your help in providing for your needs in gardening. Please talk to a Board member or give me a call.

--Duane Johnson, program chairman (824-0295)

### FRAGRANCE GARDEN

It is early August as we write this. Fall is fast approaching and the time for preparing the Fragrance Garden for winter will soon be upon us. PLEASE KEEP SATURDAY MORNING OCTOBER 8 OPEN FOR A FALL CLEAN UP DAY.

It has been a big year for FIGS. We have built the Memorial Walk Path; also a new rock garden section. We have displayed the garden at our national MGCA convention. It was also on our August MGCM tour. We are very happy with the results of this year's garden. We thank the people who worked on weekly maintenance; also the following individuals who spent at least an extra day working on planting or projects: V. Bouslough, D. Durst, G. Rothen, L. Brenny, D. Johnson, N. ter Steeg, M. Pulley, A. Marlow, B. Olson, J. Moon, G. Smith, G. Bartsch, B. Druke, L. Cattron, N. Siegel, H. Berg, S. Crist, J. Mondati, S. Nystrom, R. Smith, R. Weisberg, J. Stenger, L. Wittstock, D. Reynolds, B. Hanson, L. Nerburn, H. Halvorson, and P. Peterson.

We have made many new plantings this year including flowering crabapples, PGM rhododendron, shrub Japanese lilac, delphiniums, achillea aubrieta, stachys lavata, calla lily and others. We hope to add more new perennials to the beds nearest the new Memorial Path. IF ANYONE HAS BULBS OR PLANTS THAT COULD BE PLANTED THIS FALL PLEASE CALL KENT PETTERSON.

Special thanks are due the following individuals for cash donations: D. Johnson, D. Stone, K. Petterson, H. Berg and J. Stenger. Specially singled out is Norm ter Steeg, for his cash donation of \$150.00 and his very significant help with the garden design, materials and installation.

Obviously it has been a total effort by the club and the Fragrance Garden is proof of that. One more work day remains this year; so PLEASE KEEP OCTOBER 8 open.

--Kent Petterson, for the FIGS

This year I trial tested a planting of Hero Gold marigolds--and it is the best dwarf marigold I have grown in a long time. It wasn't available in any of the greenhouses so I ordered the seeds and grew them myself. The plants have attractive foliage, large bright flowers and it will be on my bedding plant list for 1989. I grew Hero Red but was disappointed with the color and won't grow it again. Impatiens and fibrous begonias have really struggled with the dry, hot growing conditions. Unless they were provided with large volumes of water, they just didn't grow much. Normally the annuals are at full flowering by July 4th, but that sure wasn't the case this year.

--Richard Poffenbaugh in THE GREENHORN, Mansfield Ohio MGC.



## President's Message

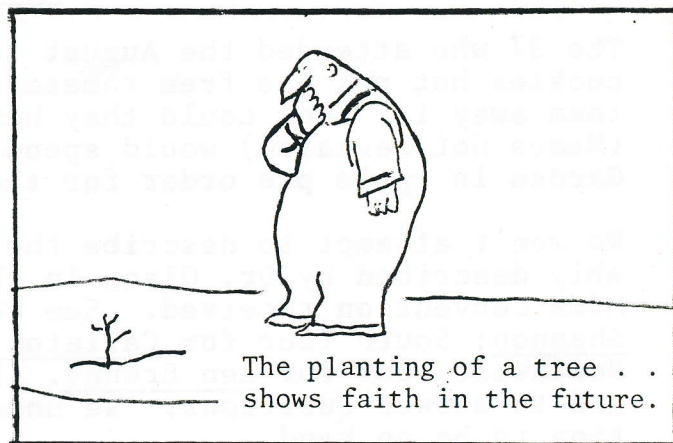
Now that I have returned from Oslo, Norway, it seems appropriate to reflect on the benefits of travel.

Travel should result in an increase of knowledge and, maybe, as a side benefit, time for relaxation and renewal.

The trip to Oslo was work related. I was attending the 35th International Congress on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Attendees came from all over the world to present papers and share their viewpoints on subjects ranging from pre-school prevention programs to the identification of Neuro-chemical identifiers of addiction. Beyond the meetings, we had a chance to visit informally and indepth with other health care professionals. These connections provided me with insights I could get from books or papers. After the congress, we had a chance to visit the Fjords and mountains, examine the countryside, and look for signs of Norwegian Horticulture.

The Norwegian Botanical garden had an extensive Rock Garden and Alpine plant display. A few roses, lilies, no dahlias, but the Norwegians can sure make use of their natural building materials "Rocks". I did take slides and while the horticulture was not spectacular, the use of land was extremely creative. For now, if you want to see a Norwegian Garden- go to Russ Smith's house and look at how he carved a garden into the hillside- a good example of a Norwegian Garden.

Don't forget the Fall meetings are at the church, and if you have been telling your new member candidates to wait to join so their dues cover 1989- Now is the time to join.



Happy Gardening,

Duane

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

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## THE AUGUST TOUR

The 37 who attended the August tour probably expected the lemonade and cookies but not the free tomatoes, free cucumbers and paper sacks to carry them away in. Nor could they have suspected that 5 garden club members (Names not revealed) would spend the previous day getting the Fragrance Garden in apple pie order for their viewing.

We won't attempt to describe the member's gardens visited for they were ably described by Dr. Olson in the Garden Tours booklet everyone at the MGCA convention received. See Northeast and St. Paul Tour for Jerry Shannon; South Tour for Carleton Nelson; Central Tour for Phil Smith; and Northwest Tour for Len Brenny. Each man and wife was on hand to greet us and to answer questions. We understand that Phil even cut short his vacation to be on hand.

### IS THERE ANY ALTERNATIVE? AN EDITORIAL

I suppose it was inevitable. Strictly male organizations are taboo. Strictly female--well, that's another story. It began 15 or more years ago with the J.C.'s, a former JC tells me. At that time the JC's by court order were forced to admit women. Two female organizations already existed, the JayCettes and the Mrs. JC's. All three groups merged under the JC banner. That meant there were fewer leadership positions for women. Likewise, in the joint organization some of the women's favorite projects didn't swing. Dissatisfied they organized new female groups (some chartered as JC's) leaving the JC's mostly males with a few females.

Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis clubs have gone to court because their charters were revoked for admitting women. Courts in California (Rotary case), Oregon (Lion's case) and New Jersey (Kiwanis case) have ruled against the internationals. In the Kiwanis case on December 3, 1986 the U. S. Court of Appeals reversed the lower courts decision. However, in June 1987 Kiwanis International eliminated the gender requirement. (The national officers had been urging this action for several years because of the costs involved in fighting the cases but the delegates to the annual conventions saw and and voted otherwise until 1987.) The informal women's groups, Kiwaniannes, recognized in 1984 disbanded; some to seek charters as regular Kiwanis groups, others to join existing male groups.

The Green Bay women knew MGCA never has been able to quite make ends meet so, lacking a Curtis Carlson, couldn't come up with money to fight in court. What the claimed potential loss of tax exemption means I wasn't able to find out. No person I thought ought to know had any answers for MGCM or MGCA. One thing for sure it means nothing much to the individual in MGCM for the magazine/membership deduction if available is piddling and the IRS took away convention expense deductions in 1987.

So--We are back to where we were during Fred Glasoe's MGCM presidency: Do we need MGCA? Shall we withdraw? Or, considering the national director's action of July 3, 1988, is there a Men's Garden Club of America from which to withdraw?

--Edwin C. Culbert

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Row covers are the answer to a successful start with melons and cukes. It's the only way to completely exclude the pesky cucumber beetle from feeding on the plants and infecting them with bacterial wilt.

--Richard Mansfield in THE GREENHORN, Mansfield Onio MGC



### HOW TO HANDLE BEE AND WASP STINGS

(This article held over from our August issue is adapted from an article by Bill Lyon, OSU Dept. of Entomology.)

When a bee or wasp stings it injects venom under the skin. Honeybees have a barbed stinger that with the venom sac is pulled from the abdomen after the bee stings. The bee then dies. Only female bees and wasps sting. Drones have no sting, but female wasps have a lance-like stinger without barbs and can sting repeatedly.

If stung by a honeybee, immediately remove the stinger and venom sac by gently scraping or flicking the stinger with a fingernail or knife in a sideways movement. Never use tweezers or squeeze out the stinger because this forces more venom from the sac down into the wound.

Wash wounds with soap and water. Apply ice to reduce pain and swelling. Apply a poultice of MEAT TENDERIZER to break down the components of sting fluid and to reduce the pain and damage if the sting is not deep. Anti-histamine ointments and tablets taken orally can help reduce sting reactions.

Insects that chew, e.g. deer flies, or that sting repeatedly, e.g. wasps and hornets, may cause infections. Use Campho-Pheniquegel 3 to 4 times each day. Trousers tucked into boots or tied at the ankles help prevent multiple stings.

Eight of every 1,000 Americans suffer allergic reactions to insect venom. The reactions may either be delayed or immediate. A delayed reaction includes fever, hives, swelling, headache, pain in the joints and tender lymph glands. An immediate reaction is more serious, often starting with itching around the eyes, a warm feeling or coughing. Hives may break out. Sometimes there is constriction of the throat and chest. Vomiting and swelling follow. In extreme cases, hoarse speech, difficult swallowing and darkened skin follow. Reactions may occur in only a few minutes. Most deaths happen within a half hour.

Persons who know they are allergic to stings can get preventative help. A desensitization program uses increasing doses of insect-extract to build up resistance. Regular maintenance doses can reduce risk. Wearing a medical warning bracelet or tag helps as it alerts others in an emergency.

Those allergic to stings should carry "Ana-Kit", an insect sting kit available through a physician's prescription. The kit contains a needle and syringe of epinephrine (adrenalin) to inject under the skin as soon as the first sting symptoms appear.

THE EDITOR ADDS: Meat tenderizer really works according to my old friend Dr. Louis Fried who told me it was about the only medication he used while volunteering at a summer camp.

Lyon didn't mention the ½% or 1% hydrocortisone creams recommended for itching. I've tried them to little avail. A couple years ago a small town druggist recommended Rhuli Cream to relieve the itching from flea bites I blamed on my daughter's German Shepherd dog. It worked like a charm. It also worked for my wife this year when she was stung by a hornet.

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George Washington was not only the first president--he was also this country's first rose breeder. Franklin D. Roosevelt's will stipulated that he be buried in his mother's rose garden in Hyde Park, NY.



## TREE PEONIES

Tree peonies can't be grown successfully in this climate we are told. MGCM member Henry Halvorson disagrees and has a row along his driveway in Golden Valley to prove he is right. The following is culled from an extensive article on peonies prepared by James L. Caldwell of Ohio State University.

The peony is a hardy perennial. Once it becomes established it will flower for many years with little care. There are basically two forms of peonies: 1. Herbaceous - Paeonia officinalis; 2. Bush or Tree - Paeonia suffruticosa. The herbaceous type grows to a height of two to four feet and the tree form reaches a height of four to six feet. Most gardeners seem to have much greater success with growing the herbaceous forms. However, there is nothing more spectacular than a mature tree peony in full bloom.

Tree peonies produce many flowers on single, shrub-like plants. The centers of the flowers are yellow, pink, or red with the petals mottled at the base. Contrary to the herbaceous peonies which die down in the fall when freezing weather arrives, the stems of the tree peony remain alive all winter.

Peonies are relatively easy to grow. The one prime prerequisite for good growth and flowering is a well drained soil. A good soil mixture would be three shovels of soil, one shovel of organic matter, and one shovel of perlite. Light is another very important factor on which the successful growing of peonies depends. The plants will grow and produce good foliage in shady locations, but the flowering will be sparse or non-existent.

Peonies are generally planted in the fall, but they may also be available in spring as potted plants. Tree peonies are grown either from seed or grafts with the more desirable way for the home gardener being grafted plants. Herbaceous peonies will generally flower the second year after planting while it will take three years for a grafted tree peony.

Tree peony tubers should be planted so that four or five inches of soil covers the graft. The graft can be determined by the ridging on the stem and the different texture of the bark. By planting deep, the grafted section will establish its own roots in the soil. After planting, the soil around the plants should be thoroughly watered. If the planting is done in the fall, mulch the plants with some organic material such as straw, coarse sphagnum peat moss, shredded bark, wood chips, or something similar. Apply two to three inches of material.

In the spring when the plants start to grow, apply a complete, dry fertilizer with an analysis such as 4-16-16, 5-10-5, 5-10-10, 5-20-20, or 6-10-4 at the rate of 3-4 pounds per 100 square feet of bed area. Water the fertilizer into the soil immediately afterwards. High analysis soluble fertilizers may also be used. Apply them at the rate given on the container. One application of fertilizer per year is generally adequate to maintain good plant growth and flowering.

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Your Board has appointed George Sweezy to be the club's official delegate at MGCA Convention in Minneapolis July 3-6. George probably would never have founded our club if he had not first joined the Minneapolis Garden Club.

--Watching Hills, N.J. club bulletin



YOUR LAWN ISN'T LIKELY TO COME BACK  
says MGCM member John L. Kolb

Following are some facts and some thoughts on how turfgrass is being affected by the extreme drought and high temperatures of this past summer.

For the most part unirrigated turf, and this includes the majority of turf in the Twin Cities, is beyond the severely stressed point. We feel and most experts agree that MUCH OF THE TURF IN THE TWIN CITIES IS DEAD.

There have been many long periods of drought in the past, but this one was phenomenal in its intensity and its accompanying record-breaking temperatures. One Minnesota agronomist recorded soil temperatures of over 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

Although there is an insulating factor with turfgrass and further insulation with dry soil, prolonged temperatures such as those we have been experiencing have a devastating effect on protoplasm both in the plant and in microorganisms of the soil. We know lesser temperatures over prolonged periods will kill certain varieties of plants. The longer the high temperature exposure, the lower the lethal temperature required.

Although various turfgrass species show differing heat and drought resistance capacities, there will definitely be a high mortality rate on cool season turfgrass that was not under partial irrigation or intensive management. We know that "cool season" turf can go into dormancy, but the severity of this summer's drought goes beyond what would normally be expected of a plant.

Certain species of grass are adapted to extreme high temperatures. Zoysias, Bermudas and St. Augustine are the most common hot weather or warm season turfgrasses in the United States. Other hot weather species, unfortunately, are the spectrum of annual grasses that are considered weeds and thrive on heat. This group consists of crabgrass, pigeon grass, Johnson grass, barnyard grass, foxtail and several others. These annual hot weather grasses fortunately will be gone with the first frost.

One short paragraph on recovery. Overseeding will definitely be in order. Good slow release fertilizer applications should be made immediately. And, most important of all, apply a good pre-emergent material next spring.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I asked Jack whether under the circumstances the homeowner should turn over his lawn and rebuild it. He answered that would be an herculean task for a homeowner to tackle alone. Furthermore, the professionals with the know-how and the necessary equipment are already tied up well into the fall. Better to just scatter the grass seed, scarify the soil, keep it moist and hope for the best.

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There is life in the ground  
It goes into seeds,  
But the gardener has hopes  
When they come up,  
They all won't be weeds.

-- THE NITE CRAWLER, Spokane WA MGC



**STAKED TREES HURT RATHER THAN  
IMPROVE LANDSCAPING PROJECTS**

When designers and architects develop planting plans for a landscape job they often specify that trees should be staked. Dr. Richard Harris, University of California horticulturist, believes that this damages many trees.

In a recent discussion of staking in the Arkansas Ornamental Notes, Harris listed several effects of this practice:

- \* The trees grow taller.
- \* They grow less in trunk caliper near the ground but more near the top support tie.
- \* Staked trees produce a trunk with little or no trunk taper.
- \* They develop a smaller root system.

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- \* They have greater wind resistance than trees of equal height that are not staked, because the top cannot bend.
- \* They have more stress per cross-sectional area at the top of the support.
- \* They develop uneven xylem around the top of the support.

Harris reported that all of these responses work against the tree becoming well established in the landscape. Trees should only be staked to protect against mowing, vehicular damage, vandalism or (occasionally) when weak-stemmed container trees are planted. Stakes should be removed as soon as possible.

***Every Member Sponsors A New Member  
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Return to  
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