

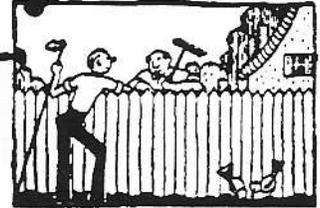


The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Affiliated with The Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

January 1999, Volume 57, Number 1



January Dinner Meeting...

Make sure you attend this one. In addition to the program we will:

- Award the Rookie of the Year and Green Thumbs
- Install Officers and Directors
- Vote on Disaffiliation from TGOA/MGCM

The Program:

Nature's Healing Gifts

By Teresa W. Wolfe, M.S.

The program could also be called **Common Garden Plants and Their Nutritive and Medicinal Properties.**

Come and learn about some of our best known garden plants and their nutritive and medicinal properties. Some of those discussed will be Echinacea, Mint, Yarrow, Feverfew, Marigold and others. Teresa will show how to process your own plants and you will be surprised and inspired by how easy it is.

Teresa is a herbalist, naturalist, and scientist with a BS degree in Life Science plus a MS in Food Science and Nutrition. She has been a research scientist for the University of Minnesota, a food microbiologist at the Peavy Technical Center and the founder of Welcome Harvest, Inc.

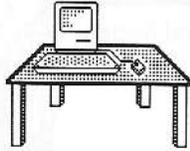
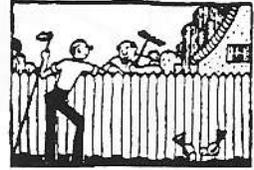
Come for an evening of enlightenment.

Date: Tuesday January 12, 1999
Place: Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Avenue South
Dinner: 6:30 PM
Business: 7:00 PM
Program: 7:30 PM
Cost: \$7.50 if reserved in advance
\$8.50 at the door if extra meals are available



Important Note about Reservations

The 1998 permanent reservation list will remain in effect for this meeting. Check your mailing label. If it has a "p" or "pp" (one or two reservations) you are on the permanent list. If there is no "p" on your label, you are not on the permanent reservation list and must notify Kay Wolfe by Friday, January 8, to be assured a place at dinner. If you are on the permanent list and will not attend, you must notify Kay by the same deadline or risk being responsible for the cost of your dinner. Kay can be reached at 922-0762. Leave a message on her voice mail if you can't reach her in person or send her an e-mail at opperwolfe@worldnet.att.net. If you have reserved a dinner and on Monday or Tuesday you have an emergency where you find you can't attend, call Howard Berg. If the reservation can be sold to latecomers or drop-ins, you will not be billed.



The Editor's Desk

Chuck Carlson
Managing Editor

I was happy that we received enough opinions on the disaffiliation vote that it was necessary to create a special edition of the *Spray*. I was disappointed that both sides were not more equally represented. You can draw your own conclusions about this as all opinions received were printed.

We will have a busy meeting on January 12. After that my hope is that we can get back to learning about, promoting and having fun with gardening. I don't mean to belittle the politics of MGCM, but I feel most of us are part of the club because it is a *Garden* club.

I found this statement: "Life begins the day you start a garden". Though most of us in MGCM are more exuberant about gardening than the average person, it is not when life begins but it sure helps. But I think gardening has brought together a group of people in this club who enjoy being together and working together. I have learned more about gardening since I joined the club, and part of the reason is by working on various committees. I recommend that everyone participate as much as you can in all the functions of the club.

I hope that MGCM has a good year in 1999, and that each of you have a great New Year, gardens that grow without weeds, and plants that flourish beyond your expectations.

Coming Attractions

Tuesday, January 5, 7:30 p.m.

Board of Directors meeting
Eldon Hugelen's house

Tuesday, January 12, 6:30 p.m.

MSCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th & Chowen Avenue South

Tuesday, February 2, 7:30 p.m.

Board of Directors meeting
Ritchie Miller's house

Tuesday, February 9, 6:30 p.m.

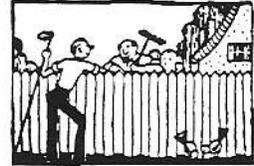
MSCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th & Chowen Avenue South

Tuesday, February 2, 7:30 p.m.

Board of Directors meeting

The Garden Spray is published monthly by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc., for its members and friends. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity organization.

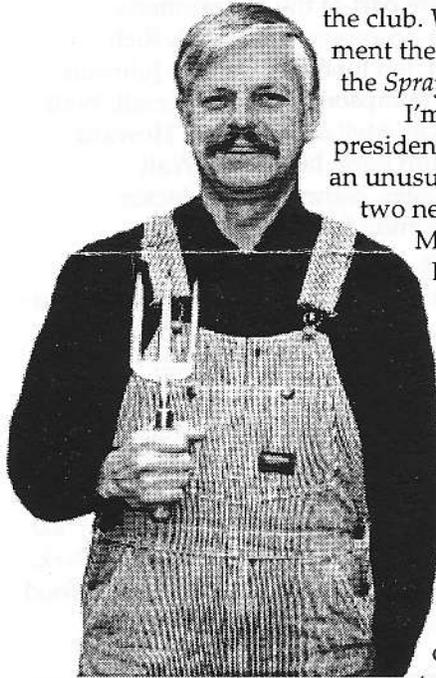
Managing Editor Chuck Carlson
Production Manager ... Andy Marlow
The committee.....H. Berg , R. Olson,
M. Brummer, S. Curry, C. Cutter,
D. Hendel, M. Maynard, and R. Van Sickle



Overall In The Garden

by Eldon Hugelen, President MGCM

A new year, a new garden, a new plant, a new friend, a new president and probably new weather. Normal weather doesn't seem to exist. Our pattern of unusual weather will bring unusual problems to the garden. Your unusual solutions would be interesting to the club. Why don't you document them and send them to the *Spray* editor?



I'm happy to be your new president and look forward to an unusual year. Welcome to two new board members:

Margaret Hibberd and Dave Johnson. We have two Dave Johnsons—this is the Fridley Dave. Thanks to Walter Muehlegger for the past years as secretary and to Maury Lindblom, a busy past president. Maury has compiled guidelines for club officers and committees, and revisions are in

process. Thanks to his persistence we will have a document that will allow you to quickly say yes if you are asked to fill an office or committee slot. I'm particularly glad that our longtime treasurer, Howard Berg, will stay on one more year.

Ten years ago, I attended the national convention of TGOA/MGCM sponsored by MGCM in Minneapolis. I wanted to see what this Men's Garden Club was about. Charles Benson showed

me around and followed through by sending me his *Spray* and inviting me to attend MGCM meetings.

At our November meeting a proposal was made to disaffiliate with the national Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Club of America (TGOA/MGCA). My first thought was isolation. Growing up in Iowa, I learned to be independent but to stay connected.

Yes, we are affiliated with the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and a lot of our members are members of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. We try to strengthen our ties with these organizations each year. But isn't it like apples and oranges? Being affiliated with TGOA/MGCM is more like apples to apples.

Clyde Thompson has been working with the newly reformed Mid America region of TGOA/MGCA. He is the region's new Vice President. This region brings us together with five other clubs from hardiness zones four and five. He has brought back interesting ideas for possible interaction with them.

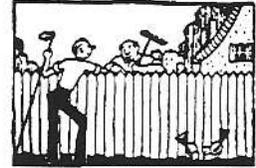
If you have read *The Gardener* of late, you have found articles written by some of our members. Also all of the good pictures in the MGCA calendar seem to come from our club members. And, Henry Orfield was recognized over the years for his quality photographs.

As in most things, the more you can give, the more you receive.

Ours is a good garden club and I am proud to be part of it no matter what its affiliations. Please consider this issue well and vote at the January meeting.

A Tip

When potting or re-potting plants make sure your pot has a hole in the bottom. To keep the soil from running out cover the hole with a coffee filter



Monthly Program Report

By Chuck Carlson

The Party

In December we had MGCM's annual Holiday Party. After gathering for talk and punch during the social hour, the party was kicked off by the Parade of Turkeys—a grand sight to behold with a group of turkeys parading well cooked turkeys to each table. The parade was accompanied by music played by our club's piano virtuoso, Henry Halvorson. Where else could you see a sight like that? After a great dinner we were entertained by the South High Singers—just a great group. It was sure nice to see and hear the good in our younger generation rather than being pelted by news of the bad of a few on TV and in the newspapers.

Awards

The three scholarship winners were announced and we heard from two. All indications were that they were good choices.

Of course we honored all MGCM's award winners for their outstanding achievements throughout the year. Those that were not previously given recognition in the *Spray* are: Methodist Hospital for the Industrial Beautification Award, Len Brenny for Best Garden on the member's tour, Barbara Berosik for the Presidents Cup and Duane Johnson for the Bronze Medal. Congratulations to all of the award winners. Keep those traveling trophies safe and bring them back next year.

Prizes

The evening was topped off with each lady receiving the table poinsettias,

plus lucky drawing winners receiving wreaths and the large poinsettias, which were part of the excellent decorations we all enjoyed for the evening.

The Committee

Duane Johnson, the Holiday Party Committee co-chair, wrote me a little note to put in the *Spray*. Duane said, "Things come together when people do their job and have fun doing it. I thought our committee exemplified those traits. Thank You."

Duane also provided a list of those who were part of the preparations. Marilyn Brummer, Jim Evans, Rich Coldren, Jan Johnson, Delores Johnson, Clyde Thompson, Lynnette Uzzell, Walt Gustafson, Melba Gustafson, Howard Berg, Ruth Berg, Jack Kolb, Walt Muehlegger, Nancy Jepson, Jackie Overom and Mel Anderson.

Thanks

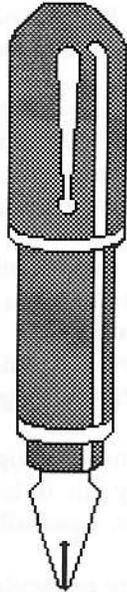
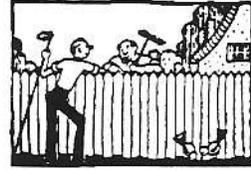
I thank each member of the committee and ask each of you to give them a pat on the back when you see them.

Final Note

The canned goods you good folks brought to the Holiday Party went to a good cause. They were part of Operation Rainbow, a Christmas party for about 500 homeless and needy people at Elliot Park. All were served a hot meal and given food and clothing to take home.

'99 Directory

New directories are in progress and will be available at the January dinner meeting.



Board Meeting Summary

Walt Muehlegger, Secretary

December 1, 1998

Present: Howard Berg, Chuck Carlson, Eldon Hugelen, Maury Lindblom, Mary Maynard, Tim McCauley, Ritchie Miller, and Walt Muehlegger.

Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were presented and approved

Vice President Eldon Hugelen reported January speaker will be Teresa Wolfe speaking about herbs.

Committee Reports

- Calendars—Dave Johnson has everything under control. Still have some available.
- Holiday Party—Mary Maynard reports everything is on time.
- Awards—Everything has been taken care of.
- *Spray*—At every board meeting a summary of major items will be given to assure all announcements get in. If anyone wants announcements, thanks, or whatever, it is necessary that they yell at the editor.

Old Business

- Maury Lindblom has completed a second draft of committee and officers duties. Handouts were provided to the board.
- Howard Berg reports 14 members haven't renewed, 6 will not renew.

New Business

- Rookie of the Year was selected and will be awarded at the January
- We will continue to be involved in the Arboretum Fair scheduled for April 17, 1999.
- New members Bette J. Tobin and Trudy L. Thompson were approved.
- A Minnesota State Horticulture Society representative is needed. A few names were discussed. They will be contacted. Decision held over for the January Board meeting

The meeting was adjourned. The next Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 5, 1999, at 7:30 p.m. at Eldon Hugelen's home.

News from TGOA/MGCA

MGCM has received new Club Officers Guides, a Photo Contest Manual and the Responsibilities of a TGOA/MGCA Director. They are available for your perusal.

The photo manual has been revised, so before sending any slides be sure to read it. The deadline for slide submittal to the TGOA/MGCM contest is Monday, March 16, 1999.

Nutrients

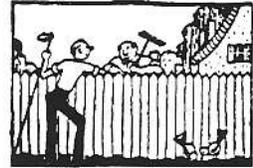
(continued from page 10)

Calcium (Ca)

Its role: Plant structure and strength, New cell growth, Disease resistance. Effects of too much: Interference with other nutrients.

Iron (Fe)

Its role: Green leaf color. Effects of too much: Plant toxicity
Source: GOC, Garden News



Confessions of a Lazy Gardener

By Mary Maynard

It's true. I admit it. I lied before the grand jury. No, wait, that's somebody else's confession! Let's try it again. It's true. I admit it. I'm a lazy gardener. I love being outside.

I stroll around the back yard and think of what it could become with a little time and effort. I start mapping out a project plan of the tasks that I'd need to complete. Then the first mosquito of the evening shows up, and I have to go inside to pop dinner (courtesy of Orville Redenbacher).

I studied at the School of Good Enough. My gardens are not showcases like we see on our club tours. The landscape "design" is not superior in any way. The lawns are a study in heterogeneous vegetation. But they're Good Enough. Not so disgusting that you'd spray it with Roundup and start over (well, maybe you would, but I'm not going to), but not so great that *Better Homes and Gardens* will be knocking at the door any time soon. Or even the MGCM Tour Committee.

But I've learned a few things in my career as a Lazy Gardener. For instance:

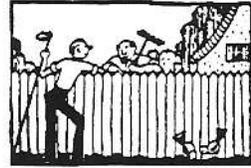
- You can plant tomatoes and peppers in the same location year after year, even though nobody recommends doing it.
- You can get quite a few roses with a surprisingly small amount of fertilizer. And you can often get away without doing a lot of spraying for blackspot and mildew. But you can't avoid spraying

completely. Not if you want leaves on your rosebushes, which most people do.

- You can also get away with not burying your hybrid tea roses.
- There are house plants that can survive truly appalling indoor conditions.
- Indoor seed germination is not that hard, especially if you don't try to do anything exotic.
- It is not necessary to dig out all stumps from old hedges, dead trees, etc.
- You do not need to dig all your cannas every fall. In fact, it's a bad idea to try to, especially after two or three years.
- Iris borers are particularly disgusting, and it's worth a little effort to prevent them.
- Not weeding too early can yield a bonus in volunteer plants. *Verbena bonariensis* comes to mind.
- Staking can be optional. Just avoid planting anything tall.
- Slugs do not like dry conditions, so if you're lazy about watering, you're less likely to have holes in your hosta leaves. Hailstones are more difficult to control.
- Compost happens, with or without your active participation. Do not run kitchen scraps through your shredder.

If Chuck can stand it, I'll write a little more about Lazy Gardening in future issues. Happy New Year!

(Editors note: I am happy to get all articles—even yours, Mary! Unless there is a big backlash against your wise tongue-in-cheek approach to gardening, they will be printed. By the way Mary does get enough specimens for flower and vegetable show blue ribbons.)



Scholarships

By Kent Petterson

In 1998, the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis awarded three \$1,000 academic scholarships to students of Horticulture. The winners were chosen in August by a club committee consisting of Kent Petterson, Dave Johnson, Andy Marlow and Merle Pulley. These scholarships are the latest in a total of nineteen awards over the past seven years totaling \$19,000.00. Congratulations are extended to the entire club membership for their ongoing support of this program. The success of this years biennial tour has assured funding for the awards for two more years.

The three recipients were: Christopher J. Perl of Minneapolis, a student at Dakota County Technical College; David Harris of Minneapolis and Susan Rupert of St. Anthony, both students at the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus. Each was invited, along with a guest, to join us at the Holiday Party in December.

The following is a short description of each student and their involvement with horticulture.

Christopher Perl is a second career student. Over the years we seem to be providing a number of scholarships to this type of student. Although we don't wish to delve into or make need a criteria for award, we are always pleased when it works out that students are chosen at points of transition in their lives when financial assistance is most needed. Christopher, originally from Chicago, is a student of Landscape Horticulture expect-

ing to graduate in the Spring of 1999. As a former mental health counselor, Christopher is interested in horticultural therapy. He plans on seeking employment in landscape installation as well as greenhouse and nursery propagation. This year he spent an internship working with Margi MacMurdo's Earth Kind Designs of Minneapolis.

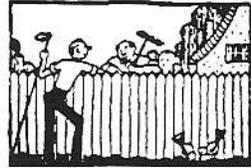
David Harris is a sophomore in Environmental Horticultural with a specialty in Floriculture. A familiar story, David was influenced by his grandmother at an early age and is continuing with his passion. He is especially interested in propagation and large scale production of ornamental plants.

Having worked at Wagner's Greenhouses, we know he is already well on his way in his career. In his spare

time, David has assisted in growing plants to donate to St. Andrew's Church and the Southwest High School biology program.

Susan Rupert is a senior in Plant and Animal Systems with an emphasis in Floriculture. She also has worked at Wagner Greenhouses, as well as Koehler & Dramm, Lyndale Garden Center and Bealle's Roses of Seattle. Already well qualified with industry experience, she will be a tremendous asset to all gardeners wherever her career leads. According to Andy Kroll of Wagner's "her easygoing professional demeanor has made it possible to choose Susan to represent Wagner Greenhouses at special occasions."





Ideas From the Garden

Two Annuals

Celosia 'Flamingo Feather Wheat'. Whatley blooms of pink. Looks great in big clumps. Can be a little hard to start from seed and seems susceptible to damping off, so water from below. It often reseeds in the garden. Flower show judges seem to like this one!

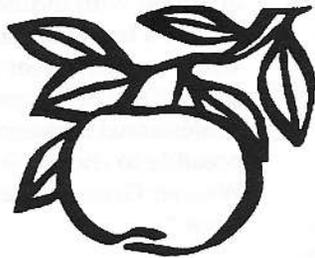
Marigold 'First Lady'. Misnamed—should be called 'Last Lady'! Started seeds in April, planted out in late May, and have the first blossom on September 1. Too late even for the State Fair Flower Show.

Mary Maynard

A Tree Hole

My apple tree received a very bad pruning of a large limb which developed into a hole in the side of the trunk. After a couple of years I decided something had to be done since it was a water trap. I purchased a can of expanding foam, cleaned the hole of anything which was rotted and sprayed the foam until the hole was filled. After a short period of time the foam hardened but it had expanded out and beyond the trunk. The excess was sawed off. It seems to be the solution and I hope it will keep the tree growing for a few more years. It also taught me to be sure pruning is done correctly.

Chuck Carlson

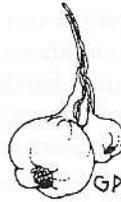


Scandinavian White

By Chuck Carlson

You probably believe that Scandinavian food is bland and white and that Mexican food is hot and spicy. This is somewhat true. The reason is the climate or, more accurately, the effect of climate

on food spoilage. For many years people didn't have refrigeration. People in the hotter climates tend to use more spices. I always thought it was to mask the taste of spoilage, but an article I read in *Popular*



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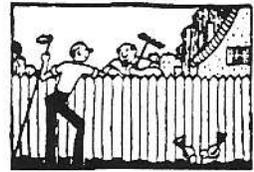
Science enlightened me. It is because spices offer a bit of protection against food-spoiling bacteria. So, hotter regions do use spices more frequently than those of the cooler north. In the USA, for instance, chili is a hit in San Antonio and clam chowder the favorite in New England. This has been passed on over many generations. One might say it is now an "inherited taste".

This brings us to the point of the *Popular Science* article. What are the spices that have the properties that inhibit food spoilage? They listed the following ten with the greatest effectiveness.

- #1 Garlic
- #2 Onion
- #3 Allspice
- #4 Oregano
- #5 Thyme
- #6 Cinnamon
- #7 Tarragon
- #8 Cumin
- #9 Cloves
- #10 Lemongrass



November Speaker Todd Bachman shows off his subject



Duane Johnson, Bronze Medal Winner



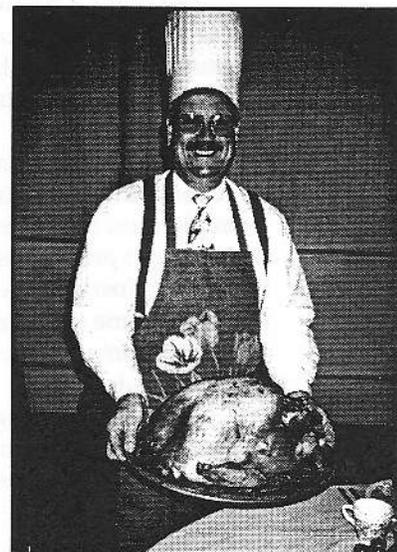
Tour Committee Co-chair Carol Ann Brekke presents the Lehman Trophy to Len Brenny.

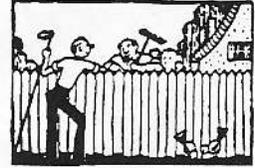


Todd Bachman chats with Jerry Olson about his book *Growing Roses in Cold Climates*.



(left) Lynette Uzzell receives congratulations on winning the Robert L Smith Trophy from Bob Smith's widow. (Right) A carver completes the Parade of Turkeys by arriving at his table.





Flower of the Month

By Chuck Carlson

Monarda

The selection this month was triggered by an article in the newsletter from the Landscape Development Center. Two of the species of Monarda are *M. didyma* and *M. fistulosa*.

The name Monarda was chosen to honor a Spanish doctor, Nicholas Monardes. The common names for *didyma* are Bee Balm, Oswego Tea, Indian Plume, Fragrant Balm, Mountain Mint and Scarlet Bergamot. Wild Bergamot is the common name for *M. fistulosa*. During the Revolutionary War Monarda leaves were used to make tea. The tea was first used in Oswego, New York. Thus the plant's common name Oswego Tea. I wonder if this was a replacement for the tea thrown into Boston harbor. There are also two other species, *M. citriodora* and *M. punctata*, but they not found in most nurseries.

The plant is native to North America and is one of the plants that was sent to England. The English have propagated it extensively and have more varieties than we do.

The blooms are mostly red, but it does come in white, pink and purple. It is from the mint family and that is probably the reason it propagates best by its creeping roots. Most species are hardy to zone four, and some to three, but some varieties will show some crown die out in our colder climate.

Some outstanding performers as determined by an evaluation of the Chicago Botanic Garden are;

- Blue Wreath
- Colrain Red *

- Fall's of Hill Creek
- Gardenview Scarlet
- Marshall's Delight * (pink)
- Ohio Glow
- Raspberry Wine *
- Rose Queen *
- Rosy Purple *
- Violet Queen *

All of these varieties show resistance to mildew but those with an asterisk are the most resistant.

Bees and butterflies love the flower and some connoisseurs love the tea. If you don't have the plant in your garden, try it. You may like it.

NUTRIENTS IN PLANTS

Nitrogen (N)

Its role: vegetative growth

Effects of too much: Fewer flowers, poor root growth, breakable, succulent foliage, susceptible to disease.

Phosphorous (P)

Its role: Seedling development. Flowers, fruit, root and seed formation, Plants maturation, Disease resistance.

Effects of too much: Extensive roots, fewer shoots,

Potassium (K)

Its role: Disease resistance, Stress tolerance, Root and bud growth, Fruit ripening

Effects of too much: Reduced calcium and magnesium uptake.

Sulfur (S)

Its role: Fruit and seed maturity, Green leaves.

Effects of too much: Plant toxicity

Magnesium (Mg)

Its role: Green leaves, Vegetative growth,

Effects of too much: Plant toxicity

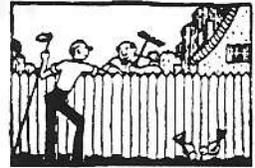
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A Little Gossip

By Flavus Baptisia

Roger and Kak Koopmans were missing from both the wreath making at Klier's and the Holiday Party. They had a car accident which totaled their car and put them in the hospital. We heard they are both at home and recuperating. Good luck with your bodies, both yours and the car's!

If you know any good gossip send it to me, "Flavus", in care of "CJ" the editor. We need to personalize the club. Also, Phil Peterson needs to know for the Sunshine committee to spread a little sun.



My Winter Garden

by Teri Deblick

It is toasty by the fireplace;
I do enjoy the chore
Of going through the piles
Of seed catalogs on the floor.

Though snow outside is drifting;
I've the nicest crop it seems,
As I flip through the catalogs
Visualizing all my dreams.

My winter garden is the best
Of imaginary seed—
sprouting 'tween the perfect rows
There never is a weed.

(Editors note: This poem was found in the North Star Lily News and published with their permission.)

Books for the North

By Eldon Hugelen

I was lucky to get two new garden books: *Growing Roses in Cold Climates*, co-written by Jerry Olson, and *Growing Perennials in Cold Climates*, co-written by Mike Heger.

The rose book is like talking to Jerry. You'll find optimistic and straight forward with honest answers. His easy-to-read rose listings make comparisons and choices easy.

Use Mike Heger's book on perennials to check all those glowing descriptions you will find in catalogs this winter. Here again the large plant families, like astilbe, lilies and phlox, are listed for easy comparison to help you make good choices.



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