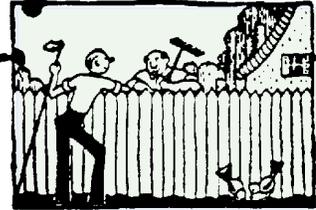




The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
2004, Volume 62, Number 5



MGCM Schedule

The Year-2004

This Month-May

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

Plant Sale & Auctions
Location Westwood Luthern
at 9001 Cedar Lake Road

(Just east of Highway 169)

Date	Location	Event
May 4**	WLC	Plant Auction
June 13	Tour	McCauley's Peony garden + Public Tour
July 10 & 11		
Aug. ?		Club Tour
Aug. 21-22	ARB.	FFF Show
Sept. 14	LHC	Henry & Purcell Orna. Grasses
October 12	LHC	S. Nordstrom Monrovia Plants
Nov. 9	LHC	Lorrie Stromme Trees and The Law
Nov. 26	KGC	Wreath Making
Dec. 7	LHC	Holiday Party
Jan. 11, 2005	LHC	Nelson's talk on Liliums

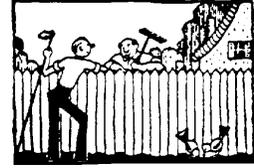
- 4:15 PM Country Store Volunteers who work the sale can buy in the Country Store.
- 4:30 PM Silent Auction begins.
- 4:45 PM Country Store opens to everyone.
- 5:45 PM Dinner is served.
- 6:30 PM Dinner tables cleared and stowed, chairs set up for Live Auction.
- 6:45 PM Live Auction Begin.

Five Hour Sale



A Scene from Lasts year's Auction

LHC= Lake Harriet Church
WLC= Westwood Lutheran Church
KGC= Klier's Garden Center
FFF= Food Flower & Foto Show
* early start time 5:30 pm
** early start time other details in the May newsletter



Utterances From The Prez

By Ellyn Hosch



It is mid-April and I have just returned from a trip to Kansas City, Kansas. Heading south this time of year freshens my memory for what is soon to come. The Redbuds and Pear trees were in bloom. The crab apple buds were just breaking. The tulips were almost done with their blooms. I even saw someone mowing his lawn!

Thinking of upcoming events

Just around the corner is our own Plant Auction on Tuesday, May 4th. I hope everyone has this date on the calendar and have sent Doug Whitney your plant orders. This is the major fund-raiser for the club and **ALWAYS** a fun occasion. Bring some plants for the Country Store and a friend to bid at the auction. If you have any questions, there was a great article in the April Spray on the logistics for the evening.

The weather should be gorgeous on June 8th as we tour the McCauley's Peony Garden. I enjoy every chance to tour members' gardens because I get the best ideas for my own garden.

The second event in June is entitled "A Wirth - While Weekend" and is sponsored by the Minneapolis Parks Legacy Society. The dates are June 18th, 19th, and 20th. There are many individual events planned for this weekend, some free and some, such as the Friday night banquet, requiring the purchase of tickets. Wirth Family members will be present for what will be a great weekend of activities. Bob Voigt announced at the April meeting that there are opportunities to volunteer. I will bring the information to the May Plant Auction or you can make contact

with the Minneapolis Parks Legacy Society at Twirth@peoplepc.com.

On July 10th and 11th we will once again hold our Public Tour to raise money for scholarships. I know the tour committee is working diligently to get some of you to put your garden on tour. Answer the call

if you are able. (My own garden is scheduled to be under construction and not one you would want on tour....)

The FFF Show is not only an educational experience but also great fun. If you have the time, volunteer to help the judges. I volunteered my first year and learned a lot! Of course, you've already ordered your zinnias to be picked up on May 4th. You never know if you will bring home a trophy.

The great thing about our club is the many opportunities to participate, enjoy, and learn new things from a variety of events. I hope you take advantage of these opportunities and support the club.

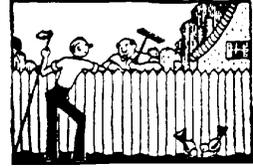
Photo Contest

By Chuck Carlson

It is getting that time to get out that camera. There has already been opportunities with some of those spring flowers. The pussy willows and some of the early spring flowers have shown their spring beauty but there are many more coming. The photo contest is to be held again and we will be needing some of your good photos.

Last year we got very few slides and though we have not had a committee meeting it looks like we will be having only prints as part of the contest. These can be taken by the normal film camera or digital cameras. Some think that digital cameras are good only with computers but now you can take the camera with its memory card to most of the retail photo developers and make your selections for around 30 cents a print.

More details will come after the committee meeting.



What Am I



For those of you getting the newsletter in black & white, the picture is in shades of green. Go to page 10 for the answer

June Tour Preview

By Kay Wolfe

The June program will be a Sunday afternoon Peony Tour. The highlight of this drive-yourself tour will be the garden of MGCM member Tim McCauley and his famous Peony Collection. Tim's wife Karen has offered to create for us a lunch of special gourmet treats. Other stops on this tour will be a tour of the private gardens of Jay & Dory Venero—their garden has been featured on many tours of other plant societies. Another garden on this tour will be the renowned Peony Collection of Ben Gowen at Gowen's gardens. All these locations are within minutes of McCauley's home, which is located near the Minnesota Arboretum. Mark your calendar for Sunday afternoon, the 13th of June, starting about 1:00 PM More details to come in the June newsletter.

Were going to the "Drive Yourself JuneTour".

May

By Chuck Carlson

May is the time in the upper midwest,
We start seeing those flowers in all their best.
Tulips, bloodroot, crocus and trillium,
Please us all, after a winters "monotium".

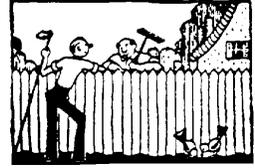
It is also the month that we can dig,
And set out those transplants we made so big.
But be sure to let them harmonize,
With the environment they will realize.

There is also a Sunday, we call Mother's Day.
The day which we honor them all the way,
With flowers, gifts and our our graditude.
Plus it is spread with love and a gracious attitude.

The end of the month we honor those who
have died,
In the Service for all of us, who have decried.
We plead for peace on earth, so fervently,
That we can live together, for an eternity.

**It is all right to spade
in the shade
But it must change to sun ,
When your work is done.
If not ferns & hostas will be your lot
And vegetables will be a blot**





Scenes from the Flower Show

The Garden of Make Believe

Photos by Chuch Carlson



The Entrance Hall



The Scarecrow Room



The Pink Splash



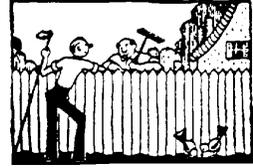
Bromeliad



The White Horse



Going Down



Board Meeting In Memoriam Summary

Sumarized from Mary Oelke's Secretarial Report

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Board Members Present: Nancy Bjerke, Ellyn Hosch, Dave Johnson, Dave McKeen, Mary Oelke, Don Trocke.
Absent: Rudy Allebach, Leroy Cech, Don Stuewe

The meeting was called to order by President Ellyn Hosch. She distributed a revised schedule of Board Meeting locations.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Johnson gave the treasurer's report which included a Minnesota Tax Refund in the amount of \$848.16. He will file a nonprofit tax form in June. The treasurer's report was approved.

Committee Reports:

The Public Garden Tour will take place the weekend of July 10-11 in spite of the difficulty in getting gardens for the tour. If the committee has overlooked someone with a garden that could be toured, he/she is asked to contact Kent Petterson.

Old Business:

The vote for or against a name change for the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis will occur at the September meeting.

New Business

There was no new business.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 27 at 7 PM at the home of Dave McKeen, 2834 Vernon Ave. South.

Walter C Gustafson died of a heart attack on March 31, 2004. His service was held on April 5, 2004 at the Edina Community Lutheran Church.

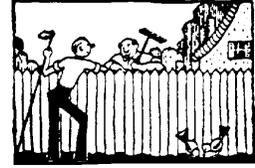
We in The Mens Garden Club of Minneapolis, remember Walt as a gracious host of a number of outings at his home. Of course his wife Melba was always there as his right hand. For a number of years they were also known as the Holiday party organizers. Walt joined our club in 1984 and served us well as he did for many individuals and organizations.

The organizations he volunteered at, included Big Brothers, Opportunity Workshop, Habitat for Humanity, and The American Swedish Institute. He was a prosecutor for the city of Edina but it was known he did pro bono work as a lawyer.

We in the club send our condolences to the family and we wish Melba peace and many good thoughts. Walt, though we can't see or shake your hand, you will be in our thoughts forever.



Walt & Melba Gustafson having a conversation with Roger Koopmans at last years Plant Sale and Auction.



Some Seeding Thoughts ©

By Phil Smith

Growing plants from seed can be a rewarding hobby. With a fluorescent light setup or a hot bed (heated cold frame), it is possible to grow plants well from seed and achieve an early start on the season.

Some gardeners save quite a bit of money by growing from seed if they do it well. That is, with the high cost of seed for the newer hybrids, it is desirable to use techniques which result in good germination and production of a high percentage of quality seedlings. Besides costs, another advantage of seeding is the ability to grow unusual or newer varieties which may not be available or are in short supply at garden centers.

Many varieties need only warmth and moisture to germinate, while others have further needs. Some may need darkness and others good light, some need cool temps, and others may need to escape dormancy or have their hard coats broken. Sowing seeds successfully can require exactness and patience. Perhaps these hints may be helpful, particularly for beginners.

Medium

Purchase a good seed starting mix or make your own. You may use two parts good garden loam, one part clean sand, and one part peat moss or perhaps vermiculite. If the materials are dry, a wetting agent may be required.

Fungus Problems

For most growers, fungus diseases are the main problem in getting good germination. There are kinds which attack the seeds and prevent germination, and others referred to as damp off fungus which attack the seedlings after germination and cause them to wilt, rot and die. To reduce or prevent these

problems, the medium may be sterilized by placing in shallow pan, adding water if needed to retain some moisture in the medium, and baking in oven for 45 minutes at 180 degree. F. One of the best techniques for avoiding damp off is to always use about a half inch of milled sphagnum moss (which is sterile) on top of the medium to control damp off fungus. Seeds may also be coated with a small amount of fungicide powder by shaking in a small bottle or plastic baggy. Some people always use distilled water for the medium and when watering the small seedlings, since tap water may likely carry some of the funguses.

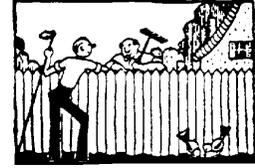
Containers

Almost any container may be used for starting seedlings. Examples are flats, pots, plastic food trays, milk cartons or jugs, egg cartons, etc. I prefer to use 4 to 6 inch plastic pots since they are easy to sterilize and also cover to retain moisture before germination. You can also write the variety names on the side with a grease pencil or fine point permanent marker. To sterilize containers, most types may be washed in a solution of 2 tablespoons of household bleach per quart of water.

Paper Towels

Pre-sprouting seeds in damp paper towels is an effective technique and particularly desirable for expensive seeds or those obtained from a rare source such as plant societies. The writer has had difficulty doing so with very tiny seeds such as begonias, but found the procedure effective for seeds requiring a longer germination period or more susceptible to damp off. The specifics are to moisten two sheets of paper towels, lay one out flat on a surface and place the seeds in a pattern so that they are not touching. Place the other towel on top, roll up the towels and place in a clean plastic bag. If warmth is helpful for germination, which it is for many varieties, you can place the bag on top of the

(Continued on page 7)



Seeding Thoughts Cont.

(Continue from page 6)

refrigerator or water heater. After a few days, check the bag daily for germination, and then promptly transplant the seeds into little pots or in rows in flats. They will be fragile so a delicate hand is required, especially for the tinier sprouts.

Temperature

Seeds of most genera desire warmth for germination, such as around 75 degrees F. Gardeners who do a lot of seeding often use a germination chamber for those desiring warmth. A wood box may be used, with a 60 watt light bulb placed in the bottom in a safe manner to not get wet or cause a fire, and a middle shelf upon which the containers are placed. A lid is desired for seeds requiring darkness. Damp sphagnum moss may be placed around the pots in the box to prevent drying out.

Some perennials and woody plants desire coolness for germination. An example is delphiniums which are difficult to germinate above 65 deg. F.

Dark or Light

Some varieties require darkness for germination. Examples are delphiniums, phlox, nemesia, and many vegetables. To provide darkness, cover the pot or flat with plastic wrap and then add a magazine or newspaper. Many varieties require light for germination; if the seeds are small, such as begonias, petunias, and impatiens, do not cover but sow the seeds on top of the medium.

Stratification Seeds of some genera, particularly perennials, desire or may even require stratification for germination. Examples are aquilegia, dicentra, dictamnus and day lilies. Stratification encourages the seeds to escape from dormancy. One procedure is to soak the seeds for a day in warm (110 deg. F.) water, then mix with damp sand, place in a baggy and store in the refrigerator for about a month.

Scarification

Some seeds have such a hard coating that moisture cannot penetrate or the cotyledons cannot break through, and they prefer or must be scarified to germinate. Examples are lupins, pansies, and sweet peas. Impatiens sometimes need the treatment but many seed companies now already do the treatment before marketing. Larger seeds may be scarified by nicking with a knife or rubbing with a file until the coat is removed or broken in one spot along the seam or joint. Small seeds are treated by soaking for 24 hours in hot water (about 150 deg. F.), and then sown without drying out.

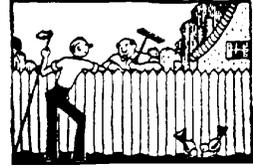
Seeding Techniques

Some seeds will germinate in less than a week and others may require several weeks. Most annuals will germinate in about 10 days. The seed packages or seed catalogs normally state the days required, and when the time is close the containers need to be inspected daily for signs of germination and removed to light for growing on.

To help in sowing fine seeds, they may be placed in a clean and dry salt shaker. Also, to help in distributing the seeds, they may be mixed with clean dry sand. Another idea is to use a piece of folded stiff paper to hold the seeds and they can be tapped with the index finger to distribute. I often use a plastic or glass tube for dispensing the seed, such as a small test tube or a plastic sleeve (like those in which pencil leads or router bits may be packaged). Some people use a wet pencil to sow seeds. The wet end will pick up a seed or a couple and they will usually drop off when the pencil point touches the soil.

As to covering or sowing depth, my experience is that germination is best by not covering the seeds any more than their diameter, despite the info on some seed packets suggesting 2 or 3 times the diameter. For those requiring darkness, use the newspaper method noted above. For sowing vegetables outdoors, more depth may be desired

(Continued on page 8)



Seeding Thoughts Cont.

(Continued from page 7)

if there is a danger of the soil drying before the seedlings are established.

Seedlings are ready to transplant when they have their first true leaves, not the cotyledons or seed parts. Gently remove the seedlings (called "pricking out") so as to not disturb the roots, using something like a table knife or nail file. If the seedlings are close together, it may be better to remove in bunches or even as a pot full if the container is small. Then, dip the bunch of seedlings a short time in a pan of water so that the roots may be gently separated. To make holes in the soil for the seedlings, use the pricking out tool or what is called a dibble, which is a round pointed wood, plastic or metal tool. Keep the seedlings in shade for a few days after transplanting, and then they may be given a weak feeding. If you want to avoid transplanting, seeds may be sown directly in cell packs, doing two seeds per cell and then later removing the weaker plant.

Storage

I have found the best way to store seeds is in pill bottles or to place the seed packets in small baggies and then put them all in a glass jar with a tight lid and keep in the refrigerator, not the freezer. I use old peanut butter jars, and have germinated old delphinium seeds kept for 8 to 10 years.

Some gardeners, even those with very nice gardens, may not have the time or care to get involved with growing from seed. However, it can be very satisfying to have nice plants which have been successfully started from seed and nurtured to full bloom in the garden.

A Note From Stanley Crist.

It is nice to hear from Stan. He is still down South but we should be seeing him soon. I still remember last year we received an inaccurate report he had died. But it is evident he is still alive and still thinking about gardening.

The editor

Stan's Note

In Andy Marlow's excellent article on Peter Olin's talk last month, he mentioned "fuscias".

I used to grow many of them when I had my own greenhouse so I am especially fond of them. I thought you might be interested in the how the plant was named.

The plant is named after a German botanist by the name of Fuchs so quite naturally the name given to the plant is *fuchsia*—a word Americans find difficult to pronounce and consequently commonly misspell it.

Fuchs in German is pronounced "fooks" and the plant name in German is pronounced "fook see ah". Americans have difficulty with that word and pronounce it "few she ah", therefore commonly misspell it "fuschia".

I don't think we'd ever be successful in getting Americans to pronounce the name "fook see ah" but nevertheless the spelling in English remains "fuchsia".

I wish I could have heard Peter's talk. I have never been to New Zealand but it certainly sounds like a wonderful place to visit.

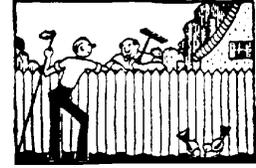


Hot Coals



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An Invitation June 18, 19 & 20

Perennial Garden News

By Bob Voigt

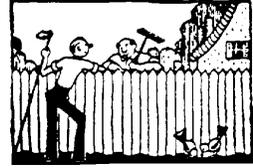
Theodore Wirth was the Superintendent of the Minneapolis Park System from 1906 to 1935. He then served as Superintendent Emeritus from 1935 to 1949. His leadership and legacy has helped create one of the outstanding city park systems in the U.S. today. This year on June 18, 19 and 20 the Minneapolis Park Legacy Society, and 61 Theodore Wirth family descendants from as far away as Europe and New Zealand and throughout the US, will recognize his contribution to our community (and the nation too) with many special events throughout Minneapolis. Some of them include the dedication of a new sculpture and expanded garden in the Theodore Wirth Park, special tours and dedications at various locations throughout the Minneapolis park system, a very special program at the Lake Harriet Rose Garden on Sunday June 20th, and other community events throughout the city. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis and many current and former individual members have participated and worked on specialty garden projects and numerous special events over the years. If you would like to help this year on June 20th or any time during the three days activities, and want more information, please contact Bob Voigt at 612-823-4934. Bob has the schedule. You could also call directly to Joan Berthouine, Director of MPLS, who is in charge of all the activities, at 612-925-4194. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a donor/member of Minneapolis Park Legacy Society.

By Kay Wolfe

The Perennial Trial Garden project that the MGCM Perennial Garden Committee runs had a very successful year in 2003. The garden looked great, and a club event including tours and a talk on the Plant Trials by Neil Anderson, U of M Department of Floriculture, was held in July 2003. (Ask anyone who attended, and they will remember this as the night of the 'Dessert Contest'.) The Minneapolis Park Board is publishing new brochures that will serve as guides for the park, and the participation and efforts of MGCM are detailed in this new publication. A Mixed Perennial Border of shrubs, perennials, and ornamental grasses is being created by the committee members, and is located directly behind the Trial Garden. The club has been donating shrubs to this garden area for a few years, and last year about 40 new perennials and ornamental grasses were planted here. The committee will continue to donate plants and design this garden to display new cultivars of low maintenance, hardy plants that homeowners can dependably plant in their own gardens.

Join the committee for various Spring Workdays. There will be groups working on three Saturdays: May 1, May 15 for Clean-Up, and June 5 for planting of Trial Plants. There are also crews working during the week, so if you want to join and garden with club members, it is always a fun time. And you just can't beat a Saturday morning breakfast of donut holes! Call or email Kay Wolfe for schedules! Many thanks to a great committee that is so dedicated to making this project such a success.





What Am I Disclosed

By Chuck Carlson

Sansevieria trifasciata 'Laurentii' 'snake plant' or 'mother-in-law's tongue'

This plant has been very popular since the early 1930s and perhaps as early as the Victorian era. Because of its great nature of thriving and surviving with pure neglect, many people find this plant wondrous to have in their homes. It needs very little care. Some 60 species make up family and some of the varieties are 'Golden Hahnii, Silver Hahnii, and the Hahnii. Its natural habitat is from dry rocky areas, to the tropics and semi-tropical so one can see how it survives as a house plant.

It is mainly grown for its stiff and fleshy stems but often it will bloom in a very pot bound situation or with age. One can let it become very dry in between waterings, but keep the plant in bright light but not full sun. It is a survivor.

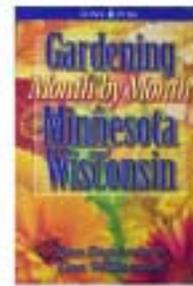
Propagation is by root division and by stem cuttings sliced and put in perlite. Sometimes plants that are variegated may lose variegation with leaf cuttings as is the case with many plants. On occasion, growth of the plant will stop if the leaf tip is damaged. No big deal, trim the whole stem off and wait for new growth.

In South Africa it has more than a decorative landscape or houseplant use, since it is still being used for raw fiber (not the eating fiber).

Book Review

By Chuck Carlson

I received three books by Don Engelbretson and Don Williamson for review. I have given two of them to a couple of our members and kept one for myself. A review of these books will appear in the clubs newsletter.. Below is the first review.



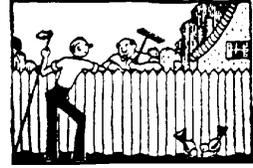
"Gardening Month By Month In Minnesota & Wisconsin" By Don Engelbretson & Don Williamson

My first impression is —Great Pictures!

The introduction extols the gardeners and gardening in Minnesota and Wisconsin and gives a summary of the climatic conditions in the two states. Also included is a very detailed map of the hardiness zones of the two states. Also wonderful pictures!

The rest of the book is divided into twelve sections, a section of each month. Each month starts off with a saying to give a taste of what the month is all about. This is followed by a daily calendar where one can keep a log of happenings or plans. There is also embedded task suggestions keyed to specific days. There is an adjoining page which provides tips and tasks for the month. Did I mention there is some beautiful pictures!

All in all a good book for those who log or journal plus there are some good suggestions for gardeners of Minnesota & Wisconsin. I hope I mentioned the pictures included are outstanding!



**Reservations Required for Dinner at the Auction
Permanent reservations are not in effect.**

Send reservation form & Check to
Carole Ann Brekke
709 Rushmore Drive,
Burnsville MN 55306-5161

Sale one day only May 4th
Last Sale of the Year
If you don't come for dinner, come anyway
and buy some Plants, Flowers, Vegetables.
You can also participate in the Silent Auction
the Country Store and the Auction.

Reservation for Dinner at the Auction

**Please reserve a place for my guests and me
for Dinner on May 4 2004**

Members Name: _____

Guest Name(s): _____

Enclosed is my check for _____ dinners @ \$9.00 each for a total of \$ _____

Reservation and payment must be received no later than April 29.

Send to Carole Ann Brekke,
709 Rushmore Drive, Burnsville MN 55306-5161



MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Ellyn Hosch
 436 Sheridan Ave So, Minneapolis, MN55405-1913
 Vice-President: David McKeen
 2834 Vernon Ave So, St Louis Park, MN 55416-1840
 Recording Secretary: Mary Oelke
 5745 Duncan Lane, Edina, MN 55346-1603
 Membership Secretary: Don Stuewe
 3624 Robbinwood Terr, Minnetonka MN 55305
 Treasurer: Dave Johnson
 5291 Matterhorn Dr., Fridley, MN 55421-1324
 Past President: Nancy Bjerke
 1035 Heritage Lane, Orono, MN 55391-9342

DIRECTORS:

Rudy Allebach
 3414 The Mall, Minnetonka MN 55345-1239
 Leroy Cech
 212 Interlachen Road, Burnsville MN55306-6427
 Donald Trocke
 10625 Bush Lake Road, Bloomington, MN55438-1677

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THE SPRAY

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

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The Garden Spray

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 Charles J. Carlson, Editor
 1001 Hackman Circle
 Fridley, MN 55432-0463

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May 2004

Perennial Garden Clean-up May 1
 Plant Sale & Auction May 4
 Mother's Day May 9
 Perennial Garden Clean-up May 15
 Fishing Opener May 15
 Average Last Day of Frost May 15
 Memorial Day May 31