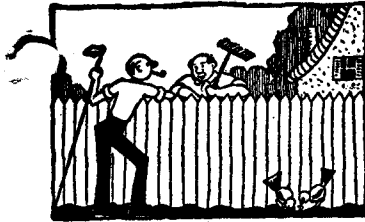


THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



MEMBER—MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA
MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

August, 1953
Volume 11, Number 8
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors:
Don Methven
William Hull

AUGUST DOUBLE FEATURE!

(1)

DINNER AND GARDEN TOUR

Tuesday, August 11th, 5:30 P.M., Sharp

(2)

PICNIC AT NORTHRUP KING'S TRIAL GARDENS

Saturday, August 29th, 1 P.M.

Officers

R. J. Dufourd	President
A. H. Flack	Vice President
C. G. Harkins	Secretary
T. P. Hughes	Treasurer
G. "Vic" Lowrie	Past President

Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn will be our dinner host and hostess on the 11th at their home at 5015 Wooddale Lane, Edina. The program committee has another tour of unusual gardens arranged for us to visit - by all means get your reservation card mailed this very day - you won't want to miss out on this August tour!

Then on Saturday, August 29th, we have been invited to picnic on Northrup King's famous trial grounds and Larry Corbett is arranging to have experts attending to take us over the grounds. So get the adult members of your family together, have mama pack a picnic lunch and let's get together at 1 o'clock for an afternoon of real gardening fun. The Trial Gardens are located on Highway 169-212 just before you reach the Shakopee hill and this side of Flying Cloud Airport.

OVER THE FENCE



"Say Mike, did you enjoy the plant guessing contest at Cerne the other night?"

"Sure Al, but I never knew there were so many varieties of 'Damifinos'."

THE JULY GARDEN TOUR

Thank you, Bob Adams and the Program Committee, for selecting such an enjoyable and interesting group of gardens to visit - with a delicious dinner to boot! To Mr. and Mrs. Chet Harkins, our most obliging dinner hosts, we extend our appreciation for making us so comfortable and for the refreshments you so generously provided. Am sure we learned something from every garden visited - they all had their highlights and provided ideas aplenty.

Chet Harkins' pink callas, peppermint stick zinnias and pink yarrow attracted a lot of attention, not to mention the peat moss edging which added much to the attractiveness of his whole garden.

At Al Nelson's we naturally expected to see some fine roses and that we did, together with some unusually fine pansies and a vegetable garden that could compete with the best of them.

Of course the Erickson's gem of a garden is simply out of this world - attractive, colorful, ornate, manicured to perfection - just beautiful. Everything blended together so well it was difficult to single out any one thing, although his trumpet vine was talked about by the experts and admired by all. After visiting Otto's garden a couple of years ago, as we were leaving someone overheard Len Bies remark "I feel like going home and throwing rocks at mine now."

Al Coxe had a nice garden and we were particularly interested in his fern leaf peony, which is probably *P. Tennifolia*. On the front lawn growing in all its splendor was a cut leaf maple - a handsome tree - not nearly as heavily foliated as the Red Scarlet or hard maple.

Someone should figure out a way to stretch the daylight hours - the sun was just taking a nose dive in the west as we reached Glen Cerney's garden. With about 150 different genera and numerous varieties to look at it was impossible to do more than hit the high spots in this most interesting garden. Glen's plants are all healthy specimens which have learned to live through Minnesota's winters without protection. The weaklings die and the hardy ones survive and become permanent residents. This is one garden that should have a "guided tour" as there are so many strange faces peering at you from the foliage. You leave with the feeling that you have just been through an horticultural zoo.

FUNCTIONS OF PLANT NUTRIENTS - CALCIUM

Though the functions of calcium are most commonly associated with the control of soil acidity and alkalinity, this element is an actual plant nutrient, as well. Calcium serves as one of the "building block" elements, in that it actually becomes a part of the cell walls and is a constituent of the "cement" between the cells. An additional function is the neutralization of potentially harmful organic acids formed in the plant's metabolism. The calcium in plants seems to exist in a fine balance with magnesium, potassium and boron, and any upset in this balance due to excess or deficiency of calcium results in abnormal performance of plant functions.

The chemistry of soil calcium is complex, as witness the fact, that many soils formed from limestone in humid regions require regular liming to control acidity. This is because, in the weathering processes, the calcium-containing materials were leached away, leaving only the insoluble clay behind as soil.

Actual calcium deficiency symptoms are rare on home grounds since both lime and complete plant foods contain quantities of this element. Only on widely scattered, very acid and infertile soils are typical hunger signs found. Southern Illinois and some areas of the southern coastal plain have extremely calcium-deficient soils.

AUGUST HINTS

Between the thunderous, torrential rains we've been having you might find the ground dry enough to divide such plants as iris, oriental poppies, bleeding heart, lily-of-the-valley, and late in the month, peonies.

Be sure to cut back delphineums when they have finished blooming; give them a good feeding by working a complete fertilizer around the base of the plants, and you'll be rewarded with a good second bloom.

Chrysanthemums can stand a lot of food. Fertilize them well by scattering three to four tablespoonsful around each plant. Work well into the soil, directly away from surface feeders and water plentifully.

By this time your roses should have had their last feeding for the season. They should be allowed to harden now which means going slow with watering too. In a normal year one would suggest mulching, but with the rains we've been having that hardly seems necessary.

In cutting gladiolas, leave as many leaves on the plant as possible. Cut the glads when the first florets open. Pull out and destroy any plants that have turned yellow.

Cuttings of coleus, geranium, wax bego or any other garden plant you particul want to pot for indoor growing during winter months, may be made during Augu Cut the shoot with a sharp knife. Tri the base is 1/4" below a leaf or nod. move just a few of the leaves, dip bas cutting in a root promoting substance as Rootone, insert cutting into a root medium such as vermiculite or sand, th water and keep shaded. Geranium cutti should be dried for a few days before planting - store in a cool place until callous forms over the cut end.

August is a good time to sow your favo bi-ennial and perennial seeds for wint in your cold frame. Include delphineu columbine, hollyhock, fox glove, carna forget-me-not, coral bells, sweet will pansy, viola, and primula.

The time to prune raspberries is just soon as the last berries have been pic Cut out all canes that bore fruit. Yo should also cut out the surplus new ca the weak ones, leaving about six or ei strong canes to the hill, or three to strong canes per foot of row.

I DON'T LIKE THE TERM....."DIRT GARDENER"

If you want to compliment me don't call me a DIRT GARDENER. Maybe that term means the adjectives you would apply to a good gardener, anyone of which would sound better my ears. Let us think of them - avid, eager, fervent, industrious, sincere, keen, an to lean a little further over, flaming, feverish and rabid. But - "dirt gardener" - it complimentary? Is a "Dirt Gardener" supposed to be a good grower but a little bit messy? Is there a weed in his garden?

Dirt has always meant to me any useless material causing undesirable grime - unwan refuse - unpleasant filth. Dirt, to me, means something to be distrusted and destroy

Soil, the medium that will support and grow plants is not dirt. Soil is one of Go finest creations, requiring a million years in the making, and when used, cared for a tended by a true gardener, becomes a thing of beauty, a vital force teeming with life and micro-organisms in an elaborate factory. Soil is not dirt to a gardener in any s of the word. It has a nice feeling to his fingers, it has the pleasing odor of the g earth and in it his plants thrive.

There is no smear to soil. The garden lover may stain his clothing with soil but is no defilement or uncleanness. "Close to the soil" - a term which has always mea being humble and honest, has always been true. People who are "close to the soil" ca trusted, they are hopeful and enterprising - good folk to know.

Let us find a complimentary term that gardeners everywhere will be proud to bear. us not call such good people "DIRT GARDENERS" any longer.

July 8, 1953

Mr. Rene Dufourd
President, Men's Garden Club

Dear President:

I wish to express, through you, to the Members of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis my sincere thanks and appreciation for their donation of a trophy and for the excellent cooperation given me in staging the American Rose Society show held at the Northwestern Bank.

Not only do I want to express my thanks to those who assisted in the work, but also to those who found it possible to bring roses for display. I saw many of our members placing roses on exhibition which was a gratifying sight to see. I know that without the fine support given by the members of the Men's Garden Club this event would not have been a success.

I am indebted to the Men's Garden Club for their fine efforts and I hope that in our future association I may in some small way repay them.

The enthusiasm and cooperation shown by the members was outstanding and once again proves what an able club we have.

Thanking all of you.

Yours truly,

Greg Lucking
Chairman, Rose Show.

HARVESTING FOR QUALITY

To get the most out of your garden, harvest your vegetables at the proper stage of maturity. Then use them promptly. Sweet corn, beans, peas, broccoli and cauliflower all deteriorate rapidly after picking. They tend to dry out, and the sugars change to the less desirable starches.

Sweet corn has the best flavor when kernels are fully filled out and in the milk stage. The silks are mostly dry and brown at this stage.

Potatoes can be harvested for immediate use any time after they have reached a fair size. If they are to be stored, the tubers should be mature and the vines dead.

Onions can be used from the time they have reached the green onion stage. However, for storage, they should be fully matured, that is, the tops should topple over just above the bulbs while the leaves are still green.

Leave tomatoes and melons on the vines till ripe. Tomatoes should be picked when they have reached a uniform red color. Muskmelons are ready to eat when the fruits can be separated easily from the vine. Pick watermelons when the underside of the fruit turns yellow.

Root crops, like carrots and beets, should be pulled when they are of moderate size. When too large they become woody and lose flavor.

Cucumbers for pickles may be harvested any time, according to the kind of pickles desired. For slicing they should be picked before the seeds begin to get hard.

Winter squash and pumpkins should also mature fully on the vine. They are mature when it's hard to puncture the skin near the stem end with a thumb nail.

University Farms News - U of Minn.

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. SNYDER!

Our congratulations to our fellow member Dr. Leon C. Snyder who has been promoted to succeed Professor W. H. Alderman as Head of the Department of Horticulture at the University of Minnesota, effective July 1.

Dr. Snyder received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Washington in 1935; has taught botany at the University of Wyoming; and was assistant professor in horticulture at South Dakota State College before coming to Minnesota. He has been extension horticulturist at University of Minnesota since 1945.

Dr. Snyder has authored many scientific papers and is well known on account of his numerous appearances at meetings of farmers and gardeners and also through the press, radio and television. He is a member of the American Society for Horticultural Science, The Minnesota State Horticultural Society, the Men's Garden Clubs of America, the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, and such honorary societies as Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi and Phi Sigma.

He has been an invaluable asset to MGCM not only as a mine of information but through good fellowship and engaging wholeheartedly in the club's activities. We are proud of Leon Snyder and wish him success in his new post. We know that he has what it takes!

Published in the "Almanac" column of the Minneapolis Morning Tribune, Tuesday, July 28, 1953:

He missed his robins when he went into his garden Sunday, so our Prospect Park man called Dr. Leon C. Snyder, associate professor of agricultural extension at University of Minnesota, to get an explanation.

"The robins left this morning," he said, "and I wondered where they've gone."

"I'll tell you where they've gone," Dr. Snyder said. "They're over in my raspberry patch."

We want corn cobs, ground or otherwise - who knows where they are available in volume?

HORT SOCIETY TO HOLD ANNUAL MEET

The 87th Annual Meeting of The Minnesota State Horticultural Society will be held in Faribault on September 18th and 19th. The general convention chairman is Charles Okken of the Farmers Seed & Nursery (who recently joined our club as a professional member). A "fun-nite" banquet will take place Friday night, September 18, and on the following afternoon, Saturday, September 19, a tour will be made of prominent Faribault nurseries.

A lot of our boys are planning to go down with the adult members of their families, taking picnic lunches, eat together in Faribault, and then taking the tour. All members who are interested in joining the gang are asked to get in touch with your Editor (business phone Fi 2721, residence Lo 7710) who, with the committee, will try to arrange motor accommodations so that everyone need not drive. This ought to be fun!

FLASH!!!

We just learned that an Honorary Life Membership in The Minnesota State Horticultural Society will be awarded to Dr. Leon C. Snyder at the banquet on September 18. Watch for further details. We know that many of you will want to be present when Leon receives this honor.

The West Parkway Garden Club extends a cordial invitation to the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis to attend their flower show to be held at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, West 50th Street, on August 13th from 10 A.M. to 9 P.M.

We have also been invited to visit the Richfield Garden Club's flower show which will be held on August 15th and 16th at the Wood Lake School, 66th Street & 1st Ave., South.

It's not too early to start at least thinking about our own Fall Show to be held on Saturday, September 12th. Make your calendar and start preparing the

DOUBLE-CROP THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

by the Master Gardener

You can keep the vegetable garden productive right into hard freezing weather by planting your fall garden as fast as early planted vegetables are harvested. After all, you're paying taxes on the land, so you might as well get as much of your money back as you can, by using it!

Green beans, radishes, lettuce, beets and peas that were planted early have completed their productive life by this time, so pull out the remains, add them to the compost heap, and replant with cauliflower, broccoli, chard, more beets, endive, turnips and other greens. It's too hot for radishes and lettuce, but you can plant them, as well as fall peas, in late August or early September.

Summer is actually a better time than spring for setting out broccoli and cauliflower. By the time the plants begin to form heads, the peak season for the persistent green cabbage worms will have passed. Cool weather favors both crops in their final growth stages and quality is far superior to that of plants started in the springtime. Cauliflower, which must be tied up in order to form white heads in summer, needs no such attention when planted for October harvest. Late planted broccoli will keep right on growing through several early frosts, producing many small secondary heads after the first large one is cut.

Keep after the crabgrass and other weeds. A few crabgrass seed heads, allowed to mature, will thoroughly inoculate the garden with thousands of seeds. Continue to protect your spring planted vegetables against insects by dusting or spraying every week or 10 days. Squash bugs, bean beetles, cucumber beetles, cabbage worms, and Japanese beetles are in prime form this month.

OTTO ERICKSON INJURED

Looks like Mrs. Otto Erickson is going to have her hands full with her husband in the hospital with a couple of broken limbs and the weatherman playing havoc with the garden.

Otto, the good Samaritan, was helping his neighbor paint his house when the step ladder slipped, throwing him against the wall. In the fall Otto broke his left shoulder and his right leg. We are glad to report that he is resting well at Northwestern Hospital but the days are long there and he would like nothing better than to be able to talk about gardening with his fellow members.

So drop in and pay Otto a visit - if you can't, a few words of cheer goes a long way. And Otto, we are going to miss you like crazy so hurry up, get well, and rejoin us!

ONE MAN'S OPINION

A farmer hauled a load of produce to the local asylum. One of the "so-called" weak minded inmates was assigned to help unload the produce. Pausing for a rest, the farmer asked: "You ever do any farming?"

"Oh, yeh, I've farmed," the helper replied and ~~went back to work.~~ After awhile he said to the farmer: "You ever live in an asylum?"

"No."

"Well," retored the fellow whose mind was supposed to be weak, "I can tell you this much - it beats farmin'!"

The Furrow

The best way to get real enjoyment out of the garden is to put on a wide straw hat, dress in thin loose-fitting clothes. hold a trowel in one hand. a cool drink in the