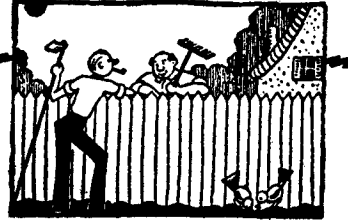




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



July, 1954
Volume 12, Number 7
G. 'Vic' Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors:
Don Methven, Wm. Hull
N. W. Christopherson
Joe Witmer

JULY GARDEN TOUR

Date: Tuesday, July 13, 1954

Time: 5:30 P.M. sharp

Place: Rene Dufourd's garden,
5020 2nd Ave. South

Dinner: Caterer's de luxe

Your program committee has arranged a tour of some extremely interesting gardens. Doc Snyder has consented to have someone from the Farm Extension Service accompany us to aid us in identifying plant trouble should some show up, and outline the treatment.

Rene Dufourd has invited us to be his garden guests, and Bob Adams promises a delicious supper. Although we will have time to visit only three or four gardens (and since we want to sojourn long enough in each to give everyone full benefit), it is essential that we arrive on time for supper to get an

Officers

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417 Essex Building

early start on the tour. Frankly, you should be at Rene's early in the afternoon to enjoy thoroughly his combination fruit, vegetable and flower garden

Take a Bow, Herb!

Once again Herb Kahlert brings honor to the Club -- he is the newly elected First Vice-President of MGCA -- and a well deserved honor he has earned for himself. Few have given so unselfishly of their time and efforts to a constructive cause as has Herb in the organizing of new garden clubs and supporting on a wide front the activities and services of MGCA. Congratulations.

University Experimental Farm

Archie Flack let it be known at a Board meeting recently that we have a treat coming on Saturday, August 28. Mark that date on your calendar as a must. It's to be an adult family picnic with neighboring clubs joining us. In the meantime the program committee under Bob Adams will be working out the details with Leon Snyder -- the doctor says "It's going to be a great day."

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

By Bill Hull

Here's an idea worth remembering: Was talking the other night with Leonard Bies about keeping birds and gophers from eating up seed corn and he suggested a new procedure. Leonard rinsed his seed corn in a home bleach before planting and has not lost a single grain to the predators. What's more, every single grain germinated. He was talking about this with George Luxton too, and friend George agreed it was an idea worth passing on.

Leonard has a big vegetable garden with three tractors and three boys - a good combination. Also he has lots of perennials and annuals on his five acres, one of which is in lawn. Here would be a nice place for a club lawn picnic some time. We could see Leonard's "farm" including a cow!

* * * *

Gordon Ballhorn doesn't have time to coddle plants and shrubs. His theory is based on the survival of the fittest and if a desired plant won't live without too much care, he'll do without it. Gordon says, "I'm a lazy gardener" but we know he always has an attractive garden.

* * * *

Bob Adams is edging into the lily field somewhat. Bob, always fond of roses and delphiniums, was sold on lilies by Wally Rowell some time ago. Wally's enthusiasm for lilies will become a monument to him in the club due to the many members to whom he's imparted that enthusiasm. Bob has a smallish garden lot, but he has 50 roses alone on that plot and they make a very impressive exhibit. He's been a little reluctant to expand too much right now because he has been considering selling his present property and none of us likes to leave newly planted favorites.

* * * *

I wish all the MGC members could have

been with me about 10 days ago through southern Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky. In Danville at a motel I saw some of the most gorgeous roses grown in America. Two very mild winters there had provided this grower with large bushes covered with specimen blossoms. This particular man raises roses simply because his guests get so much enjoyment from them.

* * * *

Sam Abrams wants to second George Luxton's advice about being slow to discard an apparently dead rose. Sam had a Lowell Thomas and a Fred Howard both in their third winter and neither had showed any winter kill until this year, when both seemed dead. Everything else in the same bed came to life appropriately, however. After the others leafed out, Sam dug down and exposed the grafts and in time both roses leafed out. Lowell Thomas is now in bloom. He had a similar experience with barberry and a juniper. Both came out in a few days.

This proves that even a man with forty roses keeps learning, so some of us have a long way to go! We should all be very hesitant about giving up on a slow starter in the spring.

* * * *

Many clubmembers and their wives are active in various shows. I know of a few of them. Mrs. Stan Lund and Mrs. Bob Bryant were among the judges at the Affiliated St. Louis Park show, which we understand was a big success, drawing crowds so large they waited in lines outside the building. Vic & Mrs. Lowrie are judges at the coming show of the Affiliated Edina Clubs, which is always a big event.

* * * *

Listen, my friends, and be sure to take heed,

Don't plant more garden than your wife can weed!

OUR SPRING GARDEN SHOW (June 19 & 20) AT A GLANCE
(More next issue)

Grand Champions

Specimens: Rene Dufourd, with a magnificent Mrs. McGredy Rose

Arrangements: A. R. Blackburn, with a unique luncheon arrangement - a beautiful blending of colors

Court of Honor

Rene Dufourd	- Mrs. McGredy Rose	Bill Brooks	- Siberian Iris
L. L. Stillman	- Clematis Henryi	O. H. Erickson	- Aquilegia
Charles Reif	- Allium	Thurber Day	- Peace Rose
Maurice Lifson	- Lily Umbellatum	A. R. Blackburn	- Arrangement
O. H. Erickson	- African Violet	O. H. Erickson	- Arrangement

Sweepstakes

Specimens: Maurice Lifson, 28 points; Cortis Rice, Jr., 36 points;
P. W. Young, 26 points

Arrangements: A. R. Blackburn, 22 points (only five members entered arrangements)

My Birch

A birch tree grows beside my door,
It is shapely as a lass,
I feel its beauty as I pass,
Each day I sense it more and more.

I found that birch long years ago,
A supple wand upon a slope
And to myself I said, "I hope
My tender protege will grow."

A queen my birch now is to me,
A lady dressed in white and lace,
Immaculate and full of grace,
Embodiment of chastity.

Though other trees give shade more dense,
To it I go on summer days
And find protection from the blaze
And bless its cool beneficence.

And as summer zephyrs sigh
Among its shimmering leaves o'erhead,
My soul delights in what is said;
We are in love, my queen and I.

For our deep secret would you search?
It always will elusive be.
Until you learn to love a tree
And by your doorstep plant a birch.

Do You Remember . . .

When a man carrying a cane was a common sight?

When practically every family had a cuckoo clock?

When we were told "The Republican party is dead"?

When the minister was always addressed as "Brother"?

When folks screamed at Buster Keaton's deadpan comedy?

When Mother dried corn and apples for winter consumption?

When the New Edison was advertised as "The Phonograph with a Soul"?

When Dad asked the youngsters to do a thing there was no standing and arguing about it? It was performed!

When dressmakers asked the lady if she wanted her hem an inch above or an inch below her high-topped shoes?

WILDFLOWER GARDEN TOUR PROVED BIG ATTRACTION

By Joe Witmer

An unusually large number of members and guests turned out Tuesday, June 8, for a delicious supper on the porch of the Glenwood Shelter and a tour of the wildflower garden.

The tour was preceded by a brief historical sketch of the inception and development of the garden by Clinton M. Odell, president of the "Friends of the Wild Flower Garden," who also acted as host and guide for the tour. His observations and information added greatly to everyone's enjoyment. Our own Gregg Lucking was on hand to lend assistance.

Those who had visited the garden before were unanimous in declaring that the garden was at its best on this occasion. Many ideas were gleaned by those members with wild gardens or shade problems. Among the flowers then in bloom a list follows along with the botanical designation which can be used in placing orders for plants.

Yellow Puccoon (*lithospermum augustifolium*)

Shooting Star (*dedecatheon*)

Blue Phlox (*p. divaricata*)

Rhododendron (*azalea maximum*)

Water Avans (*geum purpurea*)

Cardinal Flower (this flower was incorrectly labeled; its correct name is Fire-Pink or *silene virginica*. The Cardinal Flower is a member of the wildflower group but it grows 3 to 4 feet tall and its botanical name is *lobelia cardinalis*)

Crested Iris (*i. cristata*)

Pink Lady Slipper or Mocassin (*cyripedium acaule*). Contrary to popular belief, neither this nor the yellow lady's slipper (*c. pubescens*) is the Minnesota state flower. The state flower is the showy lady's slipper (*c. spectabile*) which is the large white slipper flecked with crimson.

Mayapple (*podophyllum peltatum*)

Wild Geranium (*g. maculatum*); several cultivated varieties are available, improved in color.

False Solomon's Seal (*smilacina racemosa*)

Wild Lupine (*l. perennis*); a beautiful and showy mass planting.

A large section of the garden devoted to hardy ferns proved interesting; one variety called the interrupted fern bears brown seed pods two-thirds of the way up the stalk.

While the garden held much of interest, and while it is a credit to the city and to its sponsors, it obviously needs more care than it is getting. Mr. Odell pointed to the need of more funds to establish a better program for the care and development of the garden and invited the Men's Garden Club to participate in such a program.

DECORATE YOUR POOL WITH WATER LILIES

If you have a pool at least four feet in diameter and two feet deep, you have room for water lilies. Indeed, when the showy, wax-like lilies take over with their bright pastel colors, then gardeners who have not already yielded to the lure of the water gardens begin making plans to start one next year. Lilies may be planted any time from May through July. The hardy varieties, which are not at all difficult to grow, survive ordinary winters in the north provided their roots are

The three most important factors to remember if you decide to plant water lilies are sunlight, still water and rich soil. Water lilies are heavy feeders, and must have well enriched soil. They must also have water that is not constantly on the move. They will do best if the water is warmed by plenty of sunshine. Each lily should be placed in a box or tub and have no more than one foot of water above it. The roots should be pressed gently into the soil, which should be good top soil to which one pound of Vigoro per bushel is added. The leaves will likely remain submerged the first day, but by the second day they will reach the surface. Water may be added gradually to the pool as the lilies develop, but be sure not to exceed the one to one-and-a-half foot maximum.

The hardy lilies are rapid growers and they need to be divided every two or three years. Don't attempt to feed the lilies by scattering plant food directly into the water. This will do the lilies no particular good but will tremendously increase the algae content of the water causing it to become green and cloudy.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO GET AFTER CRABGRASS

You can't laugh at crabgrass, but nowadays you can free your lawn of crabgrass and chickweed and smile while you do it. Gone are the days of laborious and grubbing work; instead you now can spray away crabgrass with many available crabgrass killers as easily as you finish off dandelions and plantain with 2,4-D. You just dissolve the specified amount in water, and apply it evenly with a pressure sprayer or gallon jug spray attachment to 100 square feet of lawn area.

For best results with the nonpoisonous, noncorrosive potassium cyanate type of crabgrass killer, it is best to apply it to your lawn both early and late in the season. Nationally conducted trials have shown that this type of product, while often effective if applied only once, will really clean out the crabgrass if applications are made during both June and August. The first application should be made in June when the seedlings are less than an inch high. If these applications do not control all the seedlings (and there are literally millions of them on an average sized lawn), repeat treatments on older crabgrass and chickweed a month or six weeks later, but before the grass has matured to the point of setting seed.

Some temporary discoloration of the desirable grasses is to be expected and this is aggravated by hot, dry weather. Don't spray your lawn unless there is plenty of soil moisture and air temperatures are high. Effectiveness is increased and recovery of lawn grass is more rapid. If lawn grasses are well fed, they come back quickly and will do their share by shading out the weakened crabgrass early in the summer. Late season applications require twice the concentration, since, by this time, the weeds become old and tough. If yours is a bentgrass lawn, never use the double strength rate since bent is less tolerant than other desirable grasses. Then, too, if your lawn was newly seeded this spring, wait until you have mowed it several times before attempting crabgrass control.

Complete eradication of crabgrass in one year is nice to dream of but not probable. The seeds may remain in the soil for several years before germinating. Therefore, if you have a badly infested lawn you may have to keep after the pest for several seasons.

FEATHERBEDS AND THISTLEDOWN

The farmer who is struggling to get rid of the thistles in his fields can thank the kindness of a Scotch minister's congregation for his weeds. The law of cause and effect, in this instance, begins with the bed that the minister brought

letter written by the farmer-botanist, John Bartram, to Philip Miller, one of his correspondents in London, the Scotch thistle by that time (June 16, 1758) had become a "very troublesome weed along our seacoast."

The good Scotch minister, believing that he was coming to a barbarous country, apparently was determined to sleep comfortably after the troublesome days that he anticipated, for he brought with him his own bed filled with thistledown. We do not know, but it seems likely that a loving mother may have had a hand in sending her son off to a new world with the best bed that the homeland could supply.

However, the good women of his new parish were slightly offended that their new minister should bring his own bed, thereby insinuating that he expected their beds to be inferior. They were in the habit of using the softest and finest of feathers, of which they had a great abundance. Bartram's letters say, "The inhabitants soon turned out the thistledown and filled the bed with feathers." But, he tells us, in turning out the down, they also turned out the seeds that were contained in the down. "The seeds coming up filled that part of the country with thistles."

Whether the minister appreciated the solicitude of the good women or not, we have no way of knowing. Perhaps a bed stuffed with thistledown is far superior to one stuffed with feathers. Probably no one in this country can tell, for unlike the thrifty Scotch, Americans apparently never have found any use for thistles. They have been pests from the time of their introduction. How much better for every farmer of the past 200 years if those meddling parishioners had permitted the minister to repose every night on his thistledown bed brought from his homeland.

Lenore E. Thompson, Ann Arbor

MONTANA ANTELOPE TRANSPLANTED TO NORTH DAKOTA

The Department of Interior recently announced that 134 wild antelope were transplanted from Montana to North Dakota under a wildlife restoration program administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The animals were transplanted by truck from an antelope range near Helena to release points north of Bismarck. Covering more than 700 miles, the trip is said to have broken all distance records for transplanting large numbers of this species.

All the animals completed the trip without injury. Closed-in trucks were used so that the animals were kept in darkness, remaining quiet during the transfer.

The operation was a Pittman-Robertson Act project, financed through the Fish and Wildlife Service's Federal Aid Program and carried out jointly by the two states involved. Wildlife authorities point to the program as a good example of co-operation between states for a better distribution of game.

The American antelope claims the attention of sportsmen and nature lovers alike. A vestige of pioneer days, it has staged a remarkable comeback in recent years through the Federal and state conservation efforts.