

Minnesota Nurserymen's newsletter



Prepared by
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Institute of Agriculture
• Agricultural Extension Service
• Horticulture Department

In Cooperation with
• Minnesota Nurserymen's Association
• Minnesota State Horticultural Society

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January and February 1964

GARDEN STORE OPERATORS' SHORT COURSE
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 1964
ST. PAUL CAMPUS

P. M.

A. M.

Presiding.Frank Smith, Jr.

8:30 Registration. . .Student Center, St. Paul
Campus

9:00 WelcomeSherwood O. Berg,
Dean, Institute of
Agriculture, Uni-
versity of Minnesota

9:10 Plant Materials -
Selling and
Handling . . .Harold J. Parnham,
Robinson and Parn-
ham Garden Center,
Des Moines, Iowa

10:15 Coffee

10:30 Ten Common Ques-
tions on Turf .Donald B. White, As-
sistant Professor,
Ornamental Horti-
culture, Department
of Horticultural
Science, University
of Minnesota

10:50 Roses - Customer
Care.Carl Holst, Minneapolis
Park Board

11:15 Question Period

11:45 Lunch - Courtesy
of Minnesota
Wholesale Nur-
serymen

* * * * *

P. M.

Presiding.Robert Mullin, Assis-
tant Professor, Or-
namental Horticul-
ture, Department
of Horticultural
Science, University
of Minnesota

1:15 Topic Discussions:

Off-Season Busi-
ness Builders .Edward Reed, Park
Nurseries, Inc.

Building Traffic in
the Garden
Center.Jane McKinnon, Elling
Birch Lake Nursery

Coping With the
Antagonistic
AttitudeBob Berkey, Homedale
Nursery, Inc.

Selling Bedding
Plants.Richard E. Widmer,
Associate Profes-
sor, Ornamental
Horticulture, De-
partment of Horti-
cultural Science,
University of Min-
nesota

3:15 Questions and
Wrap-up

NOTES TO THE NURSERYMEN

OUTLOOK FOR 1964
Walter P. Trampe,
Division of Plant Industry

DEALERS

Making use of trends observed in the 1963 selling season plus any added indicators from wholesalers and retailers which are apparent at this time, I would say that more nursery stock will probably be sold in 1964 than ever before. Establishments of landscapers, nurserymen and garden lot operators will become larger. Some small marginal operators will fall by the wayside. The total number of dealers will be up, but increases in sales will come mainly from added volume of successful, established operators. There will be pressure from the market-type operator to establish himself through the use of packages which make it possible to maintain the viability of growing plants

under the adverse growing atmosphere afforded by such a place.

The increase in stock sold through landscapers and nurserymen will come primarily from customers who want quality and advice at a fair price. The market purchasers will include impulse buyers, those buying strictly on price, and some who recognize quality but must conserve their resources, and shop around in order to accomplish a desired purpose.

GROWERS - Diseases

Tip Blight of pines, (probably Diplodia pinea) and Juniper Blight (Phomopsis juniper-overa) will probably be two troublesome diseases of evergreens. Space does not permit discussion of controls, but the writer will work with anyone requesting specific information on such controls.

Insects

Scale insects and mites will no doubt be causing trouble as usual, and we suggest that you start the spring season with a dormant spray which should help to control many of these pests. Bronze birch borer (Agrilus anxius) is a persistent problem wherever birch trees are sold. Nurserymen and dealers should keep a sharp watch on all birch trees sold and avoid distributing any which have any irregular swellings on the trunk, typical of borer infestation.

Weeds

Keep ahead of them! Machinery adapted to specialized use for nursery stock is somewhat lacking but can often be improvised or purchased. An effective layout of the nursery is also an aid in keeping your nursery free of weeds. Chemicals have been used with varying results in many nurseries for weed control. Careful application has paid dividends with the use of pre-emergence treatment. Simazine has had wide usage, and good results have been obtained in many cases. Dacthal, less widely used, has shown some spectacular results. Amino triazole and 2, 4-D have found a place in the weed control program of many nurseries as postemergence chemicals.

The use of chemicals is a practical necessity for the successful nurseryman. They are here to stay, whether they are used as insecticides, fungicides or herbicides. The nurseryman who knows what he is doing will be the one that obtains the greatest good from the use of these materials. To use them without a true objective in mind is just as dangerous as it is to contend that all chemicals are bad and to avoid using them entirely. Know what you are using, why and how to use it. Read the label!

NEW APPLE, CHRYSANTHEMUMS INTRODUCED BY U

A new bright red apple and two high-mound types of garden chrysanthemums have been developed for northern climates by University of Minnesota horticulturists and will be available to home gardeners for spring planting.

The apple, called Regent, is characterized not only by its solid red color but by its crisp texture, pleasing flavor and good keeping quality. The flavor of the new apple, which resulted from a cross between Daniels Red Duchess and Delicious, is suggestive of Delicious but more sprightly and very juicy. It retains its fine dessert qualities, with little change, from the time it is picked until the end of its storage period in late winter. In addition to high quality for eating fresh, it is good for pie and sauce.

At Excelsior the Regent is one of the last varieties to ripen and is usually picked in mid-October. For this reason, and because it lacks extreme hardiness, it will probably find greatest acceptance in areas where the growing season is similar to that of Excelsior or longer.

Both of the new garden chrysanthemums are early flowering--Goldstrike, named for its prolific display of bright yellow, fully double 2-inch flowers, and Zonta, an apricot-bronze variety. Both also make good flowering pot plants.

Goldstrike reaches a height of 15 to 18 inches and a spread of 24 inches when grown in full sun. Stems are stiff and foliage is a healthy dark green. Blooming usually begins in late August or early September in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

Zonta is slightly taller than Goldstrike, reaching a height of 18 to 21 inches and a spread of 24 inches when grown in full sun. The attractive apricot-bronze flowers are fully double and measure $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter. Blossoming usually begins by early September in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

Introduction of Goldstrike and Zonta brings to 44 the number of garden chrysanthemums developed by the University of Minnesota Department of Horticultural Science for northern climates.

More information about the new introductions is available in two University publications: Regent Apple, Miscellaneous Report 54, and Zonta and Goldstrike, Miscellaneous Report 53. The publications may be obtained from Bulletin Room, Institute of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

DAY-LENGTH CONTROL OF
WOODY PLANT GROWTH

Active growth of many trees and shrubs is controlled in part by the length of day, the daily number of hours of daylight and darkness. With plants such as the flowering dogwood, as the days get shorter in late summer, active growth stops and the plants become dormant. They retain foliage, but do not produce additional leaf and stem tissue.

With these plants, the day or "photoperiod" can be artificially lengthened with continuous weak incandescent light or flashes of light during the night. When the day is artificially lengthened, vegetative growth of the plant resumes again and continues indefinitely. As a result, plants of larger size can be obtained within a relatively short time period, when under natural short-day conditions of late summer and fall, the plants would not be growing vegetatively at all.

Many woody plants are influenced by photoperiod including flowering dogwood, rhododendrons, azaleas, some species of oak, Japanese maple, Weigela, poplar, Magnolia, Abelia, and some viburnums, to list a few.

This has exciting implications in woody plant production. For example, rhododendrons and azaleas are now being lighted artificially and growth is greatly speeded up. Some growers report two-years' growth in one year under lights. In addition, lighted plants are strong and will set a flower bud earlier because the plants are larger. Branching to form a bushy plant is still a problem, but if the plants are handled correctly, giving them a short dormant period, a well shaped plant can be produced.

Another example is the production of cutting wood on stock plants. In many plant species, especially new and rare plants, cutting wood is limited and can be taken only at a certain time of the year. By lengthening the day under which the stock plants are grown, vegetative growth can be continuous, with a constant source of cuttings year-round.

Only small amounts of light are necessary for this control of growth. One 75-watt incandescent bulb with a reflector per 50 square feet of area will be sufficient to provide 30-foot candle of light intensity. Temperature is very important in that for good photoperiod control, temperatures must be above 65 degrees F.

S. Waxman, University of Connecticut (Presented at the Cornell University Nurserymen's Short Course, August, 1963.)

ARBORETUM NOTES

Leon C. Snyder

Many promising new ornamentals are showing promise at the Arboretum. During the next few issues of the newsletter, a descriptive list of these materials will be presented as well as possible sources.

*Abies lasiocarpa arizonica (Arizona Corkbark Fir). An interesting upright fir with a bluish cast. Color equal to the best of the Colorado Blue spruces. (9)

Acanthopanax sieboldianus. A medium to large shrub, growing to a height of 8 feet. Grown chiefly for its foliage and arching habit. Tolerant of shade and city conditions. Fully hardy. (4, 8)

Aralia elata. (Japanese Aralia). An exotic small tree with large, twice compound leaves that are over 3 feet long. Appears to be fully hardy. (4)

Aronia melanocarpa (Black Chokeberry). An excellent compact shrub about 3 feet tall and about as wide. Attractive white, pear-like blossoms in late May followed by purple to black fruits in September and October. Leaves a glossy green, turning red in October. (4)

Artemisia nana (Dwarf Sagebrush). A low-growing, dark green sagebrush that spreads to make a dense ground cover. Plants should be cut to the ground each spring to maintain a neat appearance. Very hardy. (1)

Berberis koreana (Korean Barberry). A vigorous, upright barberry growing to a height of 6 to 8 feet. Fruits borne in a grape-like cluster, bright red. Leaves turn a brilliant red in the fall. (4)

Berberis thunbergi minor (Box Barberry). A dwarf form of the common Japanese barberry with much smaller leaves and compact form. (6)

Betula nigra (River Birch). This native river-bottom birch does equally well in wet or moderately dry sites. The reddish, flaking bark is especially effective during the winter months. Excellent as a clump tree. Apparently highly resistant to the bronze birch borer. (6)

* Source given by numbers at end of description. See list of nurseries at end.

Buxus microphylla koreana (Korean Boxwood). One of the hardiest of the broadleaved evergreens. Excellent for low clipped hedges or for foundation plantings. Selections differ in habit of growth and winter foliage color. Propagates readily from cuttings. (5)

Caragana brevifolia (Shortleaf Peashrub). A compact Caragana that forms a mound about 4 feet high. Leaves are very small and dark green. Holds its foliage much better than most Caraganas. Propagated from seeds. (1)

Carpinus caroliniana (Blue Beech). A small tree or large shrub. Can be grown in clumps. Stems smooth, angular and gray in color. Leaves turn bright yellow in the fall. Fruits look like clusters of hops. (6)

Celastrus loesneri (Chinese Bittersweet). A very vigorous vine that produces an abundance of yellow fruits that open with a red center. Both sexes should be planted for best results. (10)

Clematis tangutica (Golden Clematis). Probably the best of the yellow-flowered Clematis. Very vigorous, producing an abundance of bloom in June and a scattering of bloom in July and August. Flowers are followed by plummy seed heads that are effective into early winter. Makes an excellent ground cover. (12)

Cotinus coggygia 'Royal Purple' (Royal Purple Smokebush). The best of the redleaved smokebushes. Some dieback can be expected each spring but the roots and older stems are fully hardy. A little light pruning each spring will result in an attractive medium height shrub. (3)

Cotoneaster apiculata (Cranberry Cotoneaster). The hardiest of the low spreading cotoneasters. Flowers pink in June, followed by large bright red berries. May show some tip kill in an open winter. (6, 8)

Cotoneaster multiflora (Manyflowered Cotoneaster). A large spreading shrub reaching a height of 6 to 8 feet and a spread of 12 to 15 feet. Flowers white resembling miniature pear blossoms. Fruits bright red and produced in abundance. Fruits cling to the branches until consumed by birds in mid-October. (3)

Crataegus 'Toba' (Toba Hawthorn). A double-flowered form of hybrid origin developed at Morden, Manitoba. Flowers are at first white turning pink, effective for several weeks in late May. Fruits are bright red but sparingly produced. (14)

Deutzia x lemoine (Lemoine Deutzia). The only hardy Deutzia for Minnesota. Plants reach a height of about 6 feet and are covered in

late May with clusters of showy, creamy white flowers. (2, 8)

Dirca palustris (Atlantic Leatherwood). An attractive compact shrub that reaches a height of about 5 feet. The yellow flowers open in April before the leaves. The branches are very flexible with a tough, leathery bark. Plants retain an attractive form for years with no restrictive pruning. Native in northern and eastern Minnesota. (13)

Possible Sources of Plants

1. Arboretum - no commercial source known at present.
2. Bachman's Nursery - Minneapolis
3. J. V. Bailey Nursery - Newport
4. Coles Nursery - Paynesville, Ohio
5. Elmore Nursery - Elmore
6. Flores Nursery - Prairie View, Illinois
7. Green Ridge Nursery - Madison, Ohio
8. Greguson's Nursery - Minneapolis
9. Horton Nursery - Madison, Ohio
10. Interstate Nursery - Hamburg, Iowa
11. Kingsville Nursery - Kingsville, Maryland
12. Littlefield-Wyman Nursery - Abington, Massachusetts
13. Orchard Gardens - Grand Rapids
14. Summit Nursery - Stillwater
15. Wayside Gardens - Mentor, Ohio
16. Willis Nursery - Ottawa, Kansas

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

C. Gustav Hard
Extension Horticulturist

Give special attention to the Garden Store Operators' Short Course program. Reserve March 3 for this annual opportunity to learn more about your business. Please note the special noon luncheon.

More information is available on Dutch Elm Disease. Just released is Extension Folder 211. See your County Agent for this descriptive information on this devastating disease.

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