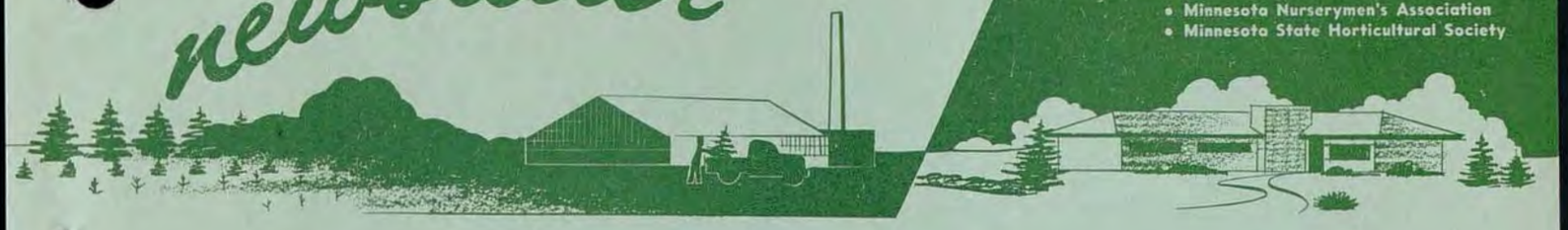
Minnesota Nurserymen's newsletter

Prepared by
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Institute of Agriculture
• Agricultural Extension Service
• Horticulture Department
In Cooperation with
• Minnesota Nurserymen's Association
• Minnesota State Horticultural Society



Vol. 12, No. 1 and 2 January and February, 1965

GARDEN STORE OPERATORS' SHORT COURSE

March 2, 1965
North Star Ballroom--Student Center
St. Paul Campus

Orrin C. Turnquist, presiding
Professor, Extension Horticulturist

A. M.

8:30 Registration. Fee: $5.00

9:00 Welcome. . . . . LaVern A. Freeh
Head, Department of
Agricultural Short Courses

9:10 Operating a successful garden store business. . . . . .John H. Millican
Lexington Gardens, Inc.,
Lexington, Massachusetts

10:15 Coffee break

10:30 Salesmanship. . . . Paul H. Cashman
Professor, Department of Rhetoric

10:50 Insurance for the garden store business . . . . . .John Lund
Federated Mutual, Inc., Minneapolis

11:15 Question period

11:45 Lunch

Richard F. Widmer, presiding
Professor, Horticultural Science

P. M

1:15 The value of trade organization. . . . . .Vincent Bailey, Leader
Bailey Nurseries, St. Paul

1:45 Fungicides and their safe use. . . . .
Herbert G. Johnson
Professor, Extension Plant Pathologist

2:15 Pricing. . . . . .John H. Millican

3:00 Coffee and move to discussion groups

Group I -- Store layout -- Leon Budzynski, R. L. Gould Company, St. Paul
Group II -- Merchandizing -- William C. Davenport, Elling's Birch Lake Nursery
Group III -- Handling living plants -- D. B. White, Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Horticultural Science
Group IV -- What is overhead? -- Larry Bachman, Bachman's, Inc., Minneapolis

P. M.

3:40 Assemble for discussion reports

4:15 Questions and wrap-up

NOTES TO THE NURSERYMEN

Walter P. Trampe

Dormant Sprays

Dormant sprays of various types have been recommended repeatedly from this corner. Included in this group are the dinitro compounds, which are helpful mainly to control overwintering stages of insect and mite pests but are also effective when used on plants and surrounding area for the control of Alpine Currant Leaf Spot, a disease which has been troublesome in Minnesota in recent years.

Dinitro compounds can be used on evergreen and deciduous stock alike without undue danger of plant damage. The material is not especially corrosive. It has several undesirable characteristics, however, including the hazard to the spray operat tor during the spraying operation, and the green discoloration that occurs when the material strikes something other then the plants. This feature should not be a problem in the field. The original color can usually be restored by washing with water.

We were concerned over the availability of the dinitro materials because one manufacturer had discontinued production and the only remain-

ing source was limited in supply. It is a chemical that is not widely used except in the nursery and orchard fields, and that market is rather small in this area. As a consequence, no Minnesota supplies have been available for the past months, but we have now been informed that it is available from a local distributor. Liquid lime sulfur is also available. Nurserymen who require these chemicals for spring use should arrange for supplies early because it may take some time to fill the orders.

Foliar Nematode of Chrysanthemum

This disease is widespread in Minnesota and a problem to control because of the danger to the spray operator using phosphate compounds, which up to now have been the most effective. However, there is a new material, Cygon, also a phosphate, which is effective and relatively safe to handle when used with ordinary care.

Minnesota Insect Conditions in 1964

The Division of Plant Industry has just released its summary of insect conditions for 1964. Excerpts of direct interest to nurserymen are listed as follows:

(1) Eriophyid mite build-up and damage to some species of shade trees.

(2) Localized build-up of Cottony Maple Scale, Pine Needle Scale and Pine Tortoise Scale.

(3) A continuing general problem with Bronze Birch Borer.

(4) Strawberry Root Weevil abundance in many areas.

(5) A smaller increase than expected in the total number of cases of Dutch Elm Disease found in 1964.

Locations of infected trees remain substantially the same as in 1963. This is in the St. Paul-Minneapolis area and another location at Monticello. The principal vector, the Smaller European Elm Bark Beetle, is now found in almost all of the counties in the S. E. quarter of Minnesota.

Among many other items of interest to general farmers, the report states that the Western Corn Rootworm is moving into the state from the southwest. This species is more difficult to control than the Northern Corn Rootworm, which has been a pest here for some years. The grasshoppers were increasing in numbers during the past two years because weather conditions favored their development. Some armyworm damage was reported in the northwest district, as well as in an isolated infestation in Freeborn county.

PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Max Sargent, President
Minnesota Association of Nurserymen

(Comments of the Landscape Design Workshop for Nurserymen)

In an effort of the sort we've just experienced, one element which seems to contribute toward its success for any particular individual is the degree of participation and opportunity for self-expression offered, in areas where he may feel that he has something to say. This is a dead give-away that I'm egotistical.

Just philosophically now, I think we (people) do like to feel that we are contributors; and, if one can develop a certain sensitivity in as creative concern as ours, part of his contribution is in giving expression to his feelings to others who may be receptive and appreciative. I think the program made accommodation for this sort of feeling, and I believe that this sort of thing ought to be considered as important in looking forward to other years.

The speakers were very good--every one of them.

Mr. John O. Simonds, Los Angeles, to whom Harold Hunziker referred, might be a leader to consider for next year. I have his book, Landscape Architecture, and through that introduction I feel a real appreciation for his sensitivity.

Our group embraces a very wide range and degree of capabilities and skills, and it is not easy (if possible) to tailor a program so that all are learning. I don't know whether a breakdown into groups would be feasible or even desirable. At least this is one area which could be considered. Possibly a first day for one's feeling the need for particular drawing help, for instance, as you suggested.

The large area which perhaps needs the most attention (or at least in comparison, other concerns become peripheral) in my mind, is the area of fundamental reasons for doing things; and how, in practice, do we use them in our work to make that work something other than just installing plants--that is, to make the work significant. And to be that it must be done by people who know why they do things.

What are the fundamentals--what is balance, why is it important, and how do we implement consideration for it? Scale--and here is a fundamental concern that alone we could spend days on. Why is scale important, what it is, and how do we show in our work that it is of concern and that we do grasp its significance, and how do we translate it into the landscape problem. Line, harmony, interest, ac-

cent, and others--these are the elements we must be conversant with if our work is to be other than perfunctory and without real significance, and perhaps really of no service to a discerning friend and customer.

Harold Huniziker talked most interestingly--with a feeling for real human interest and concern; and I just know that he feels he is making a contribution to his customers through providing skilled and sensitive answers, and I, too, feel that he must be doing just that. The point I want to make is that even with all the talking he did--and it all pertained with no waste at all--he didn't have time to touch even once on these fundamentals I've written about here.

Basically a designer cannot possibly produce a good design unless and until he is aware of and has something of an appreciation for the importance of the fundamentals plus a working knowledge of just how to employ them in solving everyday design problems--and not as tools but as reasons--basic, fundamental reasons.

NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD

New officers and members of the board of the Minnesota Nurserymen's Association are as follows: Max Sargent, president, Sargent's Red Wing Nursery, Red Wing; Ed Reid, vice president, The Park Nurseries, Inc., 1200 St. Clair Avenue, St. Paul; Keith D. Law, secretary-treasurer, Box 271, Hastings; members of the board--Gordon Bailey, J. V. Bailey Nurseries, 1325 Bailey Road, St. Paul; D. T. Grussendorf, Grussendorf's Nursery, 4022 Midway Road, Duluth 11; Clarence Seefert, Seefert's Hudson Road Nursery, Hiway #12 and White Bear Ave., St. Paul, 55106; James H. Weimelt, Nicollet Nursery, 8600 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis 20; Harry Brostrom, The Jewell Nurseries, Inc., Lake City; C. J. Hawkins, Rose Hill Nursery, 2380 Larpenteur Ave. W., St. Paul 55113.

ARBORETUM DEVELOPMENT

L. C. Snyder, Head
Department of Horticultural Science

1964 was another busy year in the arboretum. The following projects were either started or continued during the year:

Trellises -- One of the major projects was completion of the trellises for the vine collection. Designed by Mr. Edwin Lundie and paid for by the Lake Minnetonka Garden Club, these trellises are a work of art and will be enjoyed by all for many years to come. The clematis collection for these trellises will be furnished by Dick Lehman and will be planted in the spring of 1965.

Wellhouse - the wellhouse, located in the center of the juniper collection and near the trellises, was designed by Mr. Lundie and paid for by an anonymous donor. The architecture complements that of the trellises and the shelter. One can enjoy the beauty of this building on a brief walk from the main parking area to the trellises.

Bird Area - Late in the winter of 1964 it was decided to feature an area in the arboretum where trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous plants that furnish food and shelter for song birds could be planted. An area of about 15 acres in the new Winton-Bennett addition was selected. One reaches the area by continuing on the woodland trail up the little stream. Several rustic bridges were constructed and some fruiting plants were started. The flowering crab apple collection was extended to furnish a background for this most interesting area. All bird lovers are urged to support this area through their memberships, memorial gifts, or club donations.

Ornamental Grasses - An ornamental grass area was started on the Bennett addition. Several species and varieties were started in the nursery and will be transplanted to this area next spring. This collection is near the bird area, and it is expected that the seeds will furnish important food for the birds.

Machine Shed and Shop - Work continued on the machine shed and shop building. An office was finished in one corner of the building for housing the field records and labels. The room is finished in Philippine mahogany. Word was received from Plant Services that they had allocated funds to run water to this building and install the necessary plumbing. This service building should be completed early next spring.

Bog Trail - Work continued along the bog trail, a project supported by the Federated Garden Clubs. Corduroy paths were built out from the main trail using four-foot lengths of elm logs.

The bog trail will give access to a large number of new and different plants. Display labels were made for about 150 interesting plants either native or planted along the trail. It can be reached by a short walk around the small lake located near the shelter. This is a most popular area, especially for visiting garden club groups and youth groups who come to the arboretum for nature hikes.

Woodland Garden - The trail through the woodland garden area was resurfaced with wood chips. A wooden bench was built in the Metasequoia area. The trilliums planted the previous fall bloomed nicely and should become a center of interest for early spring visitors to the arboretum. The ladyslipper collection, containing the white, the small and large yellow, and the show ladyslippers gave continuous bloom for over a month. Other wild flowers that were of special interest included the hepaticas, the Dutchman's breeches, the double and single bloodroot, the Virginia bluebells, the campanulas, the columbines, and the cardinal flowered lobelia.

Additional Land Purchases - The arboretum continues to grow in size. The addition of 20 acres purchased by Mrs. John S. Pillsbury, Sr., in memory of her stepfather, Mr. Edmund Pennington, brings the total land area in the arboretum to 322 acres. These 20 acres are beautifully rolling and tree covered. They will be a wonderful addition to the arboretum. Nature trails are planned to give access to this addition.

COMMENTS ON THE PROPAGATION OF DECIDUOUS RHODODENDRONS

(The comments reported here are a summary of discussions with propagators of the Boskoop Experiment Station in Holland.)

C. Gustav Hard
Extension Horticulturist

Success in the rooting of deciduous rhododendrons is related to several factors. These include: age of cutting, type of rooting media, temperature of media, pH of media, and the interaction of varieties. It is apparent that no across-the-board recommendation can be made. Research on these varying factors is in progress.

Another area that was being subjected to study was the optimum time for taking the cuttings and then storing the cuttings under storage conditions until the "sticking" work could be caught up or until enough of one variety could be accumulated. Roughly, the taking of cuttings when the new growth had been developing for approximately three weeks seemed to result in a good percentage of takes. Storage of cuttings under refrigeration 33° Fahrenheit and 80 percent relative humidity provided an acceptable percentage of takes.

Proper dressing of the cuttings is important. Cuttings were 3 to 4 inches long. The cutting was made on a slight angle. To expose more of the cambial tissue, the cutting was scraped on two sides to a height of 1 inch. Propagators commented that they could achieve about a 90 percent take with this method.

Mist propagation was not used. It was felt that better control of humidity could be maintained with window sash over the propagating bench. Sash was preferred over plastic because of the need to ventilate. Bottom heat was also used.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

C. Gustav Hard

The new officers of the Minnesota Nurserymen's Association for 1965 are included in this issue. If you have membership suggestions, you may wish to contact one of the officers.

The Minnesota Association co-sponsored a Landscape Design Workshop on February 2, 3, and 4. There were 48 enrolled for the three days of intensive training. Contact the board members if you are interested for 1966.

Attention is focused on the Garden Store Operators' Short Course to be held March 2. An outstanding speaker has been secured for the short course this year. John H. Millican is a successful garden store operator on a 12-month basis.

Don't miss this program.

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