



GARDENING & BEAUTIFICATION

January 11, 1979

MGC PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES NEW CLUB PROJECT

Action taken following two special board meetings in recent weeks should result in improving the future beauty of Spartanburg. A special promotion will be undertaken this spring to plant white and pink dogwoods for spring blooming combined with crape myrtle for fall bloom. Arrangements have been made with Dailey's Nursery, the developer of the popular deep red crape myrtle CAROLINA BEAUTY, to acquire a quantity of this outstanding variety. Three foot trees of both dogwoods and crape myrtles individually packaged with planting instructions included will be offered at special quantity discount prices for spring planting.

Individual plantings in yards and group plantings in neighborhoods of these improved varieties can have dramatic effects. The concentrated plantings of dogwoods in sections of Converse Heights show what can be achieved. Study your neighborhood and visualize what similar group plantings could look like in a few years. Trees can have the longest lasting effect of any planting which we can undertake.

Our street flower bed plantings need to be continued. Each group seemed to work very well this past year. You should consider being a part of a group if you missed out last year. The flower beds were attractive during most of the spring and summer.

Some additional attention needs to be given to the North Pine Street tree planting. Fertilizing and pruning should assure a growing season.

I hope you will attend our January meeting next Monday evening to help plan how these and other projects can be most effectively implemented.

The colors and descriptions in the 1979 seed catalogs are tempting, particularly on a dull winter day. I try to plant at least one new variety each year to expand my gardening experience. Later in the year we can exchange experiences with our new — and old — varieties.

— Bob Reynolds

SHARE YOUR CLUB WITH A FRIEND

Men's Garden Clubbers are noted for sharing — sharing plants, sharing vegetables and horticultural know-how, and why not . . . club membership?

Did someone ask you to a meeting without expecting anything in return? That someone did not exactly expect you to return the favor, but he secretly hoped you would keep the ball rolling and ask another man to join later on.

To share your club with another is a real compliment, and the time is now, at the outset of a brand new year. Who will it be? Don't *ask* him, *tell* him you plan to drive by and pick him up before 7:30 p.m. Monday January 15, and share *your club* with a friend.

— George Drummond

PRUNING ADVICE THAT IS CONCISE

Nearly every yard in Spartanburg would benefit by some pruning this very month. The only exception is *heavy* or *severe* pruning on plants that bloom in early spring — which should be pruned immediately after blooming. The following tips are quoted from horticulturists Emory V. Jones and J. P. Fulmer of Clemson University:

Reasons for Pruning:

1. Reduce the size of trees or shrubs
2. Restore the natural form which is needed in particular situations
3. Remove dead, diseased or injured branches
4. Stimulate larger and more abundant flowers and fruit
5. Rejuvenate old trees and shrubs by stimulating new growth
6. Remove crossed branches to allow uninjured development of other branches
7. Restore shape to topiary and espaliered plants
8. Remove low branches to reveal outstanding characteristics of certain plants such as the trunks of birch, crape myrtle and wax myrtle
9. Create a better balance between top and root system on newly planted plants

How to Prune:

To reduce plant size and maintain natural shape, cuts should be made inside the shrub with the cut being *just above a side branch*. If pruned correctly, pruning cuts will not be visible.

Severely pruned plants which are cut back to within 12" to 18" of the ground should have uneven branches with lower branches near the outside and taller branches in the center of the plant. When new growth begins the plant will have a rounded natural appearance.

To prune berrying plants such as nandina and pyracantha remove a portion such as 1/3 of the growth each year.

Narrow leaf evergreens such as junipers and arborvitae require a special rule. A branch must be cut so that at least one side branch remains on it after pruning.

In pruning hedges and other plants that require shearing, trim so that the base of the plant is broader than the top to permit light to strike all surfaces.

To prune bush roses such as hybrid teas, floribundas and grandifloras, first remove all dead and diseased branches, and then remove thin and spindly canes and those that are very old. The vigorous canes remaining should be topped at 15-24 inches depending on the vigor of the plant. Vigorous plants can be left at 24 inches.

All pruning cuts over 3/4" in diameter should be treated with a wound dressing or tree paint.

MEETING YOUR PLANTS' ACIDITY NEEDS

The plants you grow differ widely in their pH preferences. Intense acidity (pH 4.0 to 5.0) suits certain plants including azaleas, camellias, laurel, rhododendron, blueberries, ferns and magnolias. At the other extreme are most lawn grasses and vegetables, plus many flowers, shrubs and trees which prefer a neutral soil (pH 6.0-7.5). In between these two groups are the many plants which prefer the slightly acid soils most common in the Spartanburg area.

Charles H. Hudson, Jr. in his book *Southern Gardening* (page 27) lists the following pH values on specified materials you can use to raise or lower the soil acidity for your favorite plants:

Lime (hydrated or ground)	pH 12.0	Cottonseed meal	4.5
Bone Meal	10.0	Peat moss	4.0
Ashes	9.0 to 10.0	Aluminum sulphate	3.2
Most city water	8.0 to 9.5	Superphosphate	2.0
Nitrate of soda	9.0	Sulphate of potash	2.0
Most animal manures	9.0	Magnesium sulphate	2.0
Rain water	6.5 to 7.0	Manganese sulphate	2.0
Tea leaves & coffee grounds	5.0	Sulphur	1.2

Ground limestone is probably the preferred material for neutralizing or sweetening local soils, while powdered sulphur or aluminum sulphate are most effective for increasing acidity.

A WORD TO THE WISE...

Don't overlook that unpaid bill on your desk from the SPARTANBURG MEN'S GARDEN CLUB.

*GARDENING
&
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SOME FAVORITE QUOTES, from "W.O.'s" Notes

Men rust out faster than they wear out.

Pray for a good harvest and keep on hoeing.

He profits most who serves best.

Fear knocked at the door. Faith answered "No one lives here."

Success comes from hanging on after everyone else has let go.

When fate hands you a lemon, squeeze it and start a lemonade stand.

When you are through changing you are through.

Of all our troubles, great or small, the greatest are those that don't happen at all.

Success comes from knowledge of your plans.

It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

As a rule, a man is a fool - When its hot he wants it cool - When its cool he wants it hot - Always wanting what is not.

When men speak ill of thee, live so that nobody may believe them.

No man ever got lost on a straight road. - Lincoln

He who knows little soon repeats it. - Spanish Proverb

A wise man is like a straight pin: His head keeps him from going too far.

Better a pat on the back while living than a bucket of tears on the face when dead.

Go outdoors and get rid of nerves.

I will find a way - or make one.

A thing of beauty is a joy forever. It will never pass into nothingness.