



EDITOR'S CORNER

BRAD KLEIN, CGCS

Spring time is here, the grass is greening, the crocuses have popped through the last bit of snow and we are faced with yet another season of pleasing memberships, nature and government.

Memberships are easily pleased with a little luck and an adequate budget. Mother Nature and governments aren't so easily swayed. Governments require forms, affidavits licenses, petitions, studies and other assorted nuisances. Mother Nature may sometimes be cruel, but don't forget it's April and she's taking off the parka and putting on the bikini. All she asks is a little love and consideration.

We can complain about how our government has complicated our lives with regulations and such but that won't make it go away. Only our willingness and professionalism will show our good intent. There is good reason for most of our pesticide regulations and only we

can defend ourselves with education and proper usage.

Mother Nature has many rewards for us, shown to us daily, with only an occasional reprimand to remind us of our own inadequacies. We should never think that we can change things in nature, maybe compliment, but never change. Our dependence on man-made conveniences are probably the most cost effective. But nonetheless, sound cultural practices could accomplish the same end.

Every year our attendance at the Mini Seminar has increased and this year was no different. Don Lindblad and his clubhouse staff did a wonderful job and should be commended. The list of speakers was excellent and the arrangements committee did another fine job.

The April meeting at Faribault should be a good kick off to another growing season so hope you all can attend.

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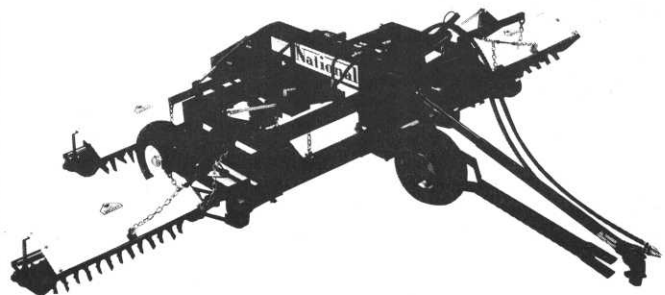
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shaded areas, and is also very effective when planted in mass.

- **Hemerocallis**, or Daylilies, are highly adaptable, low-maintenance perennials. Colors range from palest yellow through gold and orange to near-red, with many bicolors; flowers may be single or double; individual cultivars flower over several weeks between late June and late August; height varies from 1-4'. Daylilies are excellent for erosion control on banks, and are often used as a large-scale groundcover. This is truly a multi-purpose perennial, equally effective in a naturalized garden or as a specimen clump.

- **Hosta** is a large genus of perennials with great variety, ranging in size from less than 1' to over 3' height and greater spread. Leaf color ranges from pale yellow-green to distinctive blue-green, many cultivars have variegated color. Flowers, generally held above the foliage, are white, lavender or blue, and often fragrant, flowering a 2-3 week period from mid-to late-summer. This shade-requiring perennial is useful for many purposes due to its diversity of form. Larger types are useful as specimens, and mid-size types as groundcovers.

- Bulbs belong in every landscape. They brighten up a bare bed used later for annuals and add color to an evergreen planting. Remember these pointers when planning for bulbs.

- Daffodils are best planted in large irregular patches in light shade, where they are naturalize into a permanent planting.

- When planning a bed of daffodils and tulips, use "single early tulips," which flower at the same time as daffodils.

- Leave bulb foliage undisturbed for six weeks after flower-

ing before cutting back, to allow for replenishment of the bulb.

- Planting in clumps or broad swaths is more effective than planting in straight lines.

- Tulips are excellent when interplanted among daylilies. The tulip gives early season color, and their drying foliage is covered by the daylilies.

- Annuals are generally planted in beds or borders where they can supply a splash of color. However, they are also effective when planted in smaller numbers among trees and shrubs. Try planting a few individual plants of impatiens in a shrub border. You will be quite surprised at how large a 'Blitz' or 'Novette' impatiens can grow in one season! For a very low-maintenance small edging plant around a flower bed or shrub border, try **Sanvitalia procumbens**, the Creeping Zinnia. It is 6" tall and very spreading with masses of small daisy-like yellow flowers. A orange-flowered cultivar, 'Mandarin Orange', is among the 1987 All-American Selections. Creeping Zinnia has no insect or disease problems and the plants bloom until frost, despite heat and drought. Another annual to try in small clumps is **Salvia farinacea** 'Victoria'. This cultivar of the Mealycup Sage has a high flower-to-foliage ratio, giving maximum blue color and excellent quality foliage. Sometimes old ideas are best; **Canna x generalis** is still one of the best large annuals. Older cultivars grow to 5' in height and are hard to use in landscape, but newer types are only 24" tall, with less coarse foliage. Try a few among shrubs.

Two last suggestions; break any rule you don't like, and be creative. Some of the best flower combinations happen through experimentation. Try a few new flowers each year, and keep notes for future reference.

Credit: The Grass Roots, December '86

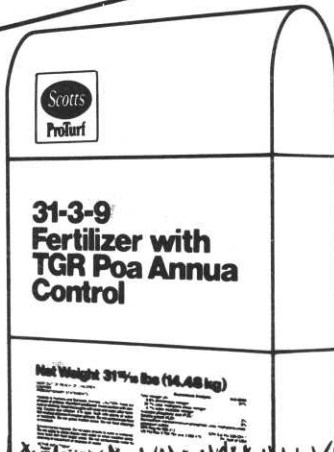
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