

## Aug. 15 to 24 Tentative Dates Of 'Pennsylvania Peach Time'

HARRISBURG — The State Horticultural Association today suggested Aug. 15 to 24 as "Pennsylvania Peach Time" when the bulk of fresh home-grown peaches will reach local markets.

According to John E. Linde, Jr., Orefield, Lehigh County, chairman of the association's Fruit Industry Committee, Gov. George M. Leader will be asked to set the dates for state-wide observance.

Horticultural association estimates for the 1957 Pennsylvania peach crop are for two million bushels. However, in Franklin County the crop is expected to

be less than half of normal because of a heavy May freeze. Usually Franklin produces 650,000 bushels. This year's association estimate is 300,000 bushels.

The Pennsylvania peach promotion will be stressed July 11 at Philadelphia when state growers will meet with industry representatives at the annual Northeastern United States Peach Marketing Conference.

Miss Lois Demmy, Ephrata, Lancaster County, 1956-57 Pennsylvania Peach Dessert Baking Champion, will help in the promotion of Pennsylvania Peach Time, Linda said. He reported that Miss Demmy is expected to make numerous personal, radio and television appearances during this period.

A new state peach dessert baking champion will be named by the peach industry on the last day of the promotion. Local and regional contests and bake-offs will be held prior to Pennsylvania Peach Time, Linda said.

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## Air Survey For Oak Wilt In Operation

HARRISBURG — Aircraft surveys of Pennsylvania woodlands threatened by oak wilt fungus were underway Tuesday, the State Department of Agriculture announced.

The surveys, which will continue until early September, will include the entire state. Most of the infection is concentrated in the south-central counties, Dr. Thomas L. Guyton, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry, said.

Control work last year established Pennsylvania as the leading State in the fight to eradicate the disease which attacks most varieties of oak trees. Nearly 400 infection sites were spotted and eradicated in 1956.

Up to six planes will be used by trained observers to spot diseased trees from the air this summer, Dr. Guyton said. Observers will forward their information of the diseased trees and their locations to an experienced ground scouting team which in turn will locate and cut down the tree or trees and all other oaks within a 50 foot radius to prevent any further spread of the infection.

Counties where oak wilt is known to be prevalent will be inspected from the air as many as four times. Past experience shows the survey is 85 per cent effective.

Oak wilt was first found in Pennsylvania in 1950 but has never been found east of the Susquehanna River.

## Spring Vegetable Production Lower

The spring fresh-market vegetable crop is now estimated by the Crop Reporting Board to be 7 per cent below 1955 but 6 per cent above average. Smaller acreage and lower yields due to adverse weather in May are given as the drop from last year.

The reduction is mainly accounted for by lower production of cantaloups, tomatoes, sweet corn, onions, watermelons, honeydew melons, green peppers, and carrots. Sizeable increases are in prospect, however, for lettuce, asparagus, cauliflower, cucumbers, and cabbage.

The prospective 1957 planted acreage of vegetables for commercial processing is also reported to be about 3 per cent below last year and 4 per cent below average.

This report is based on prospective plantings of green lima beans, snap beans, beets, cabbage for kraut, sweet corn, cucumbers for pickles, green peas winter and spring spinach, and tomatoes.

## Pomona Grange Says Statutes Benefit Farms

"The passage of House Bills 1091 and 1092 by the Pennsylvania Legislature will bring benefits to both farmers and consumers of Farm Products," S. Ralph Wanner, Master of Lancaster County Pomona Grange No. 71, said here today.

These bills drafted and supported by the Pennsylvania State Grange will prevent county boards of health, established under the act of 1951, from issuing regulations and ordinances affecting the production, distribution and sale of Agricultural Products, until such regulations have been approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Farmers could be severely handicapped in the production and distribution of their food products and consumers of these products could be very adversely affected by increased costs if unwise or unnecessary regulations are issued. The Department of Agriculture administers the Pure Food laws, the Milk Sanitation Act and the Marketing Acts covering food products and is therefore well qualified to supervise the issuance of such regulations.

"These bills have passed by large majorities in both Houses of the Legislature," Wanner said "and Governor Leader, with his farm experience, is expected to recognize the importance of this legislation to Pennsylvania Farmers when these bills come to his desk for signing."

## Here's How Cut Flowers Are Best Handled at Home

Cut flowers after they've stored up a food supply to last them for awhile. The only food supply for cut flowers is the sugar stored in the stems and leaves. And flowers store sugar only during the daylight. So—cut them after they've had several hours of sunlight. The best time is the late afternoon or early evening—not during the heat of the day.

Plenty of water is important once they've been cut. Use this method to be sure the cut flowers get as much water as possible:

Cut the flowers with a sharp knife so there will be no jagged edges to slow down water absorption. Place the flowers in water about 100 degrees Fahrenheit. The heated water moves up the stem more quickly and easily than cold water.

Cool temperature is also important in cut-flower care. Place the flowers in a refrigerator or cool room. Low air temperature

will reduce the loss of water from the flowers.

Continue the hot water-cool air treatment for two or three hours. Then just before arranging, recut the stems one half inch. Remove the leaves that would otherwise be below the water surface. That helps to prevent rot-producing organisms that cut down on the lasting quality of flowers.

12-EXTRA Cows in hand. Some dairymen may be able to make better uses of their working time, and without extra equipment, by keeping more milk cows, according to a recent survey by the University of Minnesota.

The survey, made during the summer, showed that farmers with 10 cow herds using two single milker units spent 5.03 hours per cow per month for milking.

But with the same number of milker units with 20 and 40 cow herds, the time per month for milking was 4.09 and 3.96 hours respectively.

The Minnesota study also shows that certain changes in dairy equipment can save considerable labor. Farmers who had 30 cow herds, for example, using mechanical gutter cleaners, spent 3.97 hours per week cleaning gutters, compared with 6.62 hours per week for farmers who had the same size herd but used litter carriers.

## Masonic Homes Installs Dryer

(Continued from page 6)

back through the system. This feature greatly reduces the amount of heating fuel required and thereby cuts costs.

Schultz said while this system is fine for such a large operation as the 1,400 acre Masonic Home farm, it is too expensive for the average farm.

While the exact cost of the dryer has not been determined, due to the use of local materials and labor in parts of the construction, it is expensive. Joe McCurdy, Penn State agricultural engineer, said last spring at a meeting that the cost per wagon for a dryer of this type will usually average \$1,500 to \$2,000.

Schultz found in the first day of operation that the use of the new dryer will change the hay making methods now in use considerably.

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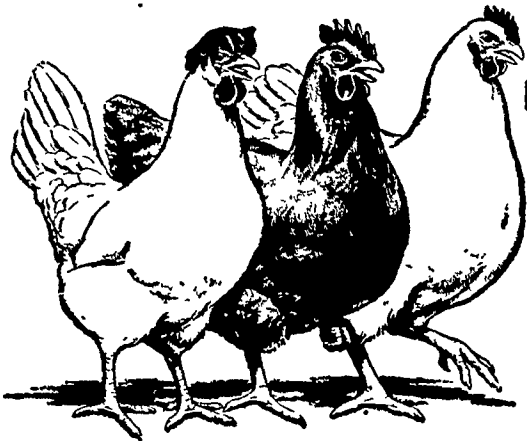
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