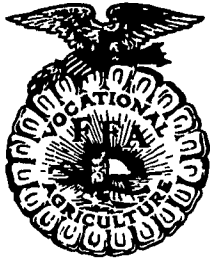


**From Local Ag Teachers:**



# Thoughts in Passing



By Dick Wood,  
Floriculture Instructor  
Brownstown Vo-Tech  
Sixth in Series

Spring is just around the corner and, as you thumb through the mailorder catalogues for seeds and plants to put out this spring, think of what you can do with what you've got on hand.

Now is the time to make those last cuttings of your favorite geranium to increase your plant numbers. A nice plant may be acquired by cutting what are

called stem tip cuttings from your large specimens.

The cutting should be from four to six inches in length, free of any disease and of good vigorous growth. Take leaves and their petiole off, leaving two or three at the very tip.

Insert the cutting into a very coarse soil in a three inch clay pot with more sand than soil, and water it.

During the two or three week rooting time, keep the soil moist but not soaking wet.

After the roots are well under way, fertilize with a soluble,

balanced fertilizer. This way you can have as many plants as you desire.

Another item worth mentioning as the days get longer and light intensity increases is the care of house plants. Thoughtful care during this change of season is appreciated by plants.

As light length and intensity increases, so does growth. The plant should be supplied with more room and newer soil for good root growth.

To give your favorite plant more room, an increase in size of pot is necessary. This is the



Dick Wood  
Floriculture Instructor

safest and easiest way to get more room. One word of caution: do not increase size of pot too much for overwatering can cause trouble. A good way to get your plant out without injury is to turn it upside down and knock the rim

of the pot gently on the edge of the table holding your hand over the top of the ball to catch it.

In the new pot, with small stones or a piece of broken pot covering the drainage hole, put in new unused soil mix.

An inexpensive mix and one with good drainage is one of equal parts of soil, peatmoss and coarse sand. Put the ball on top of the layer and fill in around with new soil mixture, leaving from 1/4" to 1/2" from the rim of the pot. Water thoroughly, allow to drain and water again.

These steps will allow your house plant plenty of room for growth during the spring and summer.

Tip of the week: Too much Tender Loving Care (TLC) for your house plants can do more harm than good.

## Farm Calendar

(Continued From Page 1)

Young Farmers Leadership Training Conference, Cedar Crest Middle School

7 p.m. — Solanco Young Farmer Parent-Son banquet, Middle Octorora Presbyterian Church.

7:30 p.m. — Central 4-H Tractor Club meeting, Landis Brothers, Inc., Manheim Pike, Lancaster.

7:30 p.m. — Ephrata Young Farmers milk marketing course, "State and Federal Regulations and Controls," ag department, Ephrata Area High school.

7:30 p.m. — Penn Manor Young Farmers monthly meeting, "Calibrating a Corn Planter," vo-ag room, Penn Manor High School.

Garden Spot Young Farmer concrete course, vo-ag room, Garden Spot High School

Lancaster County Farmers Association board meeting, Farm and Home Center

Pennsylvania Feed Industries conference, Penn State University, March 7 - 8.

4:30 p.m. — Lancaster County Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association meeting, Pequea Valley High School; 6:15 p.m., dinner with Pennfield Corporation representatives, Bird-in-Hand Motor Inn.

Thursday, March 9

7:30 p.m. — Poultry Educational meeting, Farm and Home Center.

Chester County Extension Service Clothing Construction course, Paoli United Methodist Church.

Friday, March 10

1 p.m. — Pennsylvania Egg Industry Phase II meeting, Agriculture Building, Harrisburg.

7 p.m. — Manheim Young Farmers annual banquet, Manheim Central High School.

7 p.m. — Grassland FFA Annual Parent-Son Banquet, Garden Spot High School.

7 p.m. — Twin Valley FFA Banquet, Twin Valley High School cafeteria, Elverson RD2.

7 p.m. — Pennsylvania Egg Marketing Association meeting, Sheraton-Conestoga Inn, Lancaster.

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