

Thousands of Daffodils to Mark 1974 Cancer Crusade

When you plan to order fresh cut flowers you usually think in terms of a bouquet or a dozen, but when the American Cancer Society in Pennsylvania makes out its

flower order they talk in tons! The society's flower order is for daffodils, and for this year's Daffodil Day event the figure is eight and a half tons.

"The daffodil was chosen because as one of the first flowers of spring it brings a sense of hope and renewed life," according to Clement Lichty, Lancaster, chairman of the Society's 1974 Crusade in Pennsylvania. "The Society will accept donations for the daffodils to raise funds for programs of research, education and service against cancer," Lichty explained.

"The First Flower of Spring, The Flower of Hope" is the theme of Daffodil Days, which will be conducted late in March. Thousands of beautiful field grown daffodils will be shipped to the State by commercial airlines from the West Coast and distributed by ACS volunteers on Daffodil Days. The flowers will be available individually or in bouquets of a dozen. They will also be available in quantity for those wanting large orders.

According to Lichty, Pennsylvania's flower order makes for some rather impressive statistics.

For example, more than

650,000 flowers or more than 54,000 dozen are in the shipments. Among the biggest boosters of the program are the florists, who are providing expert assistance to ACS volunteers

in the program. "If the flowers were stretched end to end, they would cover the distance between the State Capitol in Harrisburg and the Capitol building in Washington, D.

C.," Lichty points out. In dollars and cents, Lichty predicts donations for the flowers will add between \$75,000 and \$100,000 to the cancer Crusade total in the State.



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SCS Study Shows New Cropland May Be Erosion Prone

Nearly half of the "new" land going into crop production during 1974 will be subject to excessive soil erosion, according to forecasts from the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture.

An SCS field survey shows that 9.5 million acres of forest, grasslands or set-aside acreage will convert to cropland use this year, and that erosion losses on 5.2 million acres of this will be within the allowable loss limit of four tons per acre per year, or less. Erosion losses may be much higher, however, on the remaining 4.3 million acres, according to SCS.

The 9.5 million acres of new cropland are part of the estimated 16 million additional acres that USDA officials predict will be planted this year. The other 6.5 million acres are cropland that was fallow or for one reason or another was not planted and harvested in 1973.

The SCS survey was primarily designed to pinpoint newly converted cropland where critical soil erosion or related land use problems are expected to occur. The most critical of these areas, say SCS officials, is the high plains of western Texas and Oklahoma and eastern New Mexico, where unprotected land and lack of rainfall could produce soil losses from wind estimated at from 50 to 300 tons per acre per year.

In the Corn Belt, about 1.7 million acres newly converted to crops in 1974 may erode severely, mainly from water action. Soil losses on this new cropland could run from 15 to 30 tons per acre per year.

Many other parts of the country also have new cropland acreages that are prone to erosion. They range from the Palouse, in the northwest, to the piedmont and coastal plains of the Carolinas; and from the northern Great Plains to the Rio Grande Valley.

Commenting on the field survey, SCS Administrator Kenneth E. Grant said: "Local conservation districts and USDA technical people are going to have to redouble efforts

to help farmers and ranchers to get additional cropland acres under a conservation plan and to apply measures to stop excessive soil erosion. These include crop rotation, strip-cropping, terracing, and contour plowing, as well as newer minimum tillage techniques."

Mr. Grant added that "there are also some acres that shouldn't be used for row crops at all. They ought to be left in grass and trees."

He underscored the need for getting soils and conservation information to farmers promptly to enable them to make sound decisions about the land they are returning to crop production in 1974.



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