

Crownvetch - The Miracle Cover

Anyone traveling through Pennsylvania this time of year cannot help noticing the masses of dark green plants covered with small pink and lavender flowers that grow along many of the state's highways.

And although this plant, known as Penngift Crownvetch and widely used by Penn DOT landscapers is quite attractive, it is its unseen virtues that have made it a landscaping and environmental miracle.

Crownvetch has proved to

be the near perfect natural control for erosion, weeds, poor soil and even litter. It has even been named the "roadside conservation plant."

A cousin to the pea and clover, this plant not only thrives in the poorest soil but actually enriches it as it grows. Established crownvetch, therefore, requires no fertilizing.

Because of its amazing ability to smother weeds, it eliminates the need for chemical herbicides. And the

plant practically "eats" litter, keeping waste paper and other trash out of sight until it decomposes naturally.

Crownvetch is the ideal erosion control plant because it will grow on the steepest slopes and its dense foliage and its dense foliage and intricate roots break up the rain and hold back soil.

Another plus is that it is easy to control and never needs cutting, thereby saving valuable tax dollars. In fact, once established, crownvetch completely takes care of itself.

Crownvetch is a dense dark green mass of foliage about two feet high during its growing season which lasts from May to November. In midsummer, the plants are covered with small fragrant pink, white and lavender flowers. From December to March the plant is dormant and takes on the color of the surrounding landscape.

This amazing plant, known to scientists as *Cornillia varia*, is a native of Europe. But it wasn't until years after it found its way to Pennsylvania as an adulterant in alfalfa seed that its potential became known.

Dr. Fred Grau, a professor at Penn State University, was traveling near Virginville, Berks County, in June of 1935 when he noticed a purple flowered plant clinging to a shale hillside where nothing else would grow.

At first, no one knew what the plant was, not even the scientist at Penn State. Robert Gift, on whose farm it grew, only knew it as "that weed." Later, botanical clues identified it as a member of the legume family which includes peas and clover.

Dr. Grau took seeds and cuttings and started growing

crownvetch on two small farms near State College. The plant was named Penngift for the state and farm on which it was found. All crownvetch in Pennsylvania is descended from that which Dr. Grau first found.

By 1948 crownvetch cultivation and production was sufficiently advanced that a trial planting was made on a highway cut near Port Matilda, Centre County. The experiment was so successful that others were made and by 1955, crownvetch became a standard plant for erosion control along Pennsylvania highways, replacing honeysuckle and other hard to control vines.

Currently there are over 35,000 acres of crownvetch planted along Pennsylvania highways and the plant is also coming into wide use in other states. It has also been used to cover earthen dams, levees and strip mines. It can be used for forage, and is nutritious for cattle. And some crownvetch enthusiasts say the blossoms make a good dessert wine.

7th Straight 100-lb. Fat Record for Frey Cow

Fultonway Ivanhoe Rae 4977152-EX-90-GMD, a Registered Holstein owned by J. Mowery Frey & Son, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, has recently completed her seventh consecutive record over 1,000 pounds of butterfat. She joins a select circle of six Registered Holsteins ever to complete as many as seven records over 1,000 pounds of butterfat and is the only one currently alive.

Sired by Osborn Dale Ivanhoe 1189870, her seven 1,000 pound fat records, including her latest completed lactation, are: 4-03, 2x, 365d, 28,530M, 4.5, 1,290F; 5-06, 2x, 365d, 30,863M, 4.5, 1,388F; 7-02, 2x, 365d, 33,693M, 4.8, 1,615F; 8-10, 2x, 365d, 23,271M, 4.9, 1,143F; 10-05, 2x, 365d, 22,386M, 4.8, 1,078F; 12-04, 2x, 362d, 23,870M, 4.5, 1,084F; 13-06, 2x, 365d, 22,462M, 4.6, 1,032F.

"Rae's" lifetime totals now show 244,515 pounds of milk and 11,332 pounds of butterfat in 3,846 days of life. Her butterfat total puts her fifth on the all-time list for butterfat production in a lifetime.

House Vote Backs Aid to Cattlemen

The House on Tuesday passed by a six-vote margin a bill to provide a \$2-billion emergency program of government guarantees for private loans to livestock producers.

Urban opposition to the bill appeared to dissolve after the passage of amendments that cut individual loan limits from \$350,000 to \$250,000 and restricted eligibility to bona fide farmers and ranchers and farmer-dominated corporations.

The final vote was 210 to 204.

"This is not a give-away program," declared Rep. Spark Matsunaga, D-Hawaii, in wrapping up the final debate.

He stressed the supporters' position that the measure would only guarantee loans. It would not make them, he said.

MEAT SUPPLY

Consumers would benefit by keeping the small livestock producers in business to provide a stable meat supply, he said.

Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz said the loan bill as passed by the House was something "we can live with" and indicated that a more liberal version approved by the Senate 82 to 9 last month would have his recommendation for a presidential veto.

The two amendments successfully offered by Rep. Wiley Mayne, R-Iowa, cut eligibility to "bona fide farmers and ranchers" but allows approval of guarantees for loans to partnerships and corporations in which a majority of the stock is held by persons primarily engaged in livestock production.

GUARANTEES

The House version authorizes guarantees of up to 80 per cent of the loan, including the interest, while the Senate requires a 90 per cent guarantee.

The Senate bill has no limit on the total amount of guarantees allowable during the one-year application period, while the House set a \$2-billion ceiling.



FOR SALE
SMIDLEY
HOG FEEDERS



HOLLINGER'S
FARM & HOME SUPPLY
35 N CEDAR ST. LITITZ
PHONE 626-2330

WANT GOOD SILAGE?

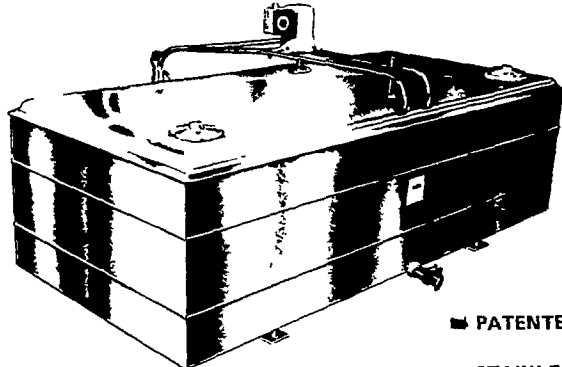
USE FEED-RITE

Feed-Rite is a Kelp meal
Feed-Rite prevents juice "Run-off"
Feed-Rite keeps your silage fresh
Feed-Rite increases the nutrient value of your silage
Feed-Rite treated silage tastes better to cattle
Feed-Rite eliminates that certain odor from silage

Also available now! Perma guard!
Insect control for grain storage and general farm use.
Call 442-4171 to place your order now.

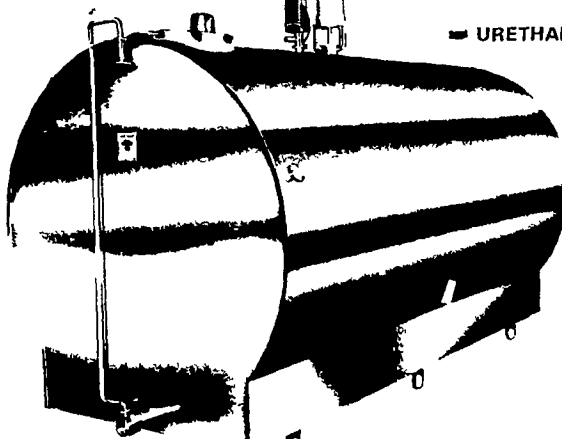
Zook & Ranck, Inc.
RD1 - Gap, Pa. 17527

The Proven Performers!




DIPLOMAT —
Proven on thousands of dairy farms the world over.
200 to 1500 gallon sizes

- PATENTED, FULLY-FLOODED GIRTON COLD PLATE
- STAINLESS STEEL CONSTRUCTION
- LOW PRESSURE FREON 12, THE SAFE REFRIGERANT
- URETHANE (FOAMED IN PLACE) INSULATION



AMBASSADOR —
The ultimate tank for the large, quality conscious dairy farmer 500 to 3000 gallon sizes



CLARK ELECTRIC, INC.
RD. 1, Box 82 Kinzer, Pa. 17535 PH: 768-8228


ERTH-RITE

Soil Conditioner
MAXICROP
LIQUID PLANT
FEEDING

Vitamin & Mineral for livestock and poultry
Need for less protein, increase butterfat, cut mastitis, increase egg production

Zook & Ranck, Inc.
RD1, Gap, Pa. 17527
Phone 717-442-4171

NEW



VOCO FARM WHITE

VOCO II IS THE PROVEN WHITENASH THAT IS NATURALLY ADHESIVE
Voco II is NOT A LIME whitewash
Voco II will not flake or scale off
Voco II dries white

APPLIED BY
RICHARD R. FORRY & SON

Spraying

2020 Horseshoe Road, Lancaster, Pa.
Phone 717-397-0035
We are also equipped to serve you with modern equipment in all your areas of crop spraying

THANK YOU . . .

For Making Our Grand Opening
a Tremendous Success.

Watch For List of Winners
in Next Week's Paper!



Lancaster Ford Tractor, Inc.

The Home of The Friendly People
1655 ROHRERSTOWN ROAD
LANCASTER, PA. PHONE (717) 569-7063