

Preserve Christmas Flowers

Christmas gifts of cut flowers such as roses and carnations will last longer if kept in liquid preservatives instead of plain water, experiments at The Penn-

Flowers

sylvania State University show.

Such preservatives will increase the keeping life of cut roses two to four days longer than water, reported Dr. Peter B. Pfahl, professor of floriculture. The freshness of carnations can be extended three to five days with preservatives, he said.

The best preservatives on roses were Floralife, Smithers-Oasis, and Sprite. Burpee's Everbloom and Smithers-Oasis gave the best results on carnations.

Tested at Penn State were White Sim carnations and Forever Yours red roses. The experiments studied these cut flowers in five different liquid preservatives. Twelve flowers were used in each treatment

and the treatments were repeated three times. The flowers were freshly cut daily from University greenhouses and were put directly into warm water in a 35 degree F refrigerator for hardening.

The flowers were kept at temperatures of 68 degrees F to 72 degrees F, similar to conditions in a retail florist shop and at home. Lights were used on the flowers from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dr. Pfahl and associates suggest the following concentrations be used: Floralife, 1 tablespoon per quart of water. Burpee's Everbloom, 3 tablespoons per quart of water. Smithers-Oasis, 2 tablespoons per quart of water. Sprite, 50 percent Sprite and 50 percent water. These four are listed, he indicated, since they are readily available.

Saving Energy on the Farm

There's as much potential for energy conservation on farms as there is in factories or other similar large operations with a variety of machinery, according to Roy W. Uelner, vice president, Agricultural Equipments Divisions, Allis-Chalmers Corp.

He said that "wherever engines are involved, there's real possibility for saving fossil fuels." Part of such saving lies in reduction in idling time, where it's economical to shut off an engine if it's certain to idle for many minutes.

Uelner said a very big part of fuel saving lies in methodical equipment maintenance.

"Too many farmers and too many users of lawn and garden equipment have been casual about keeping track of their operating hours. They must keep track as a guide to planned maintenance, which keeps

equipment running smoothly, and definitely avoids excessive fuel consumption," the executive said.

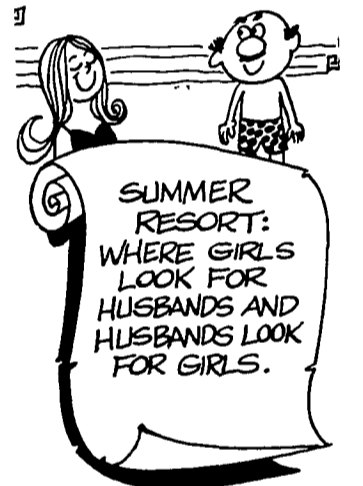
He pointed out that maintenance management in factories keeps track of machines, noting on records the results of planned checks on wearing parts, hoses and many other components. Farmers, too, must make maintenance a formal thing, using checklists to help them track what needs to be done next.

"People are surprised when makers of lawn and garden equipment urge them to be equally methodical," Uelner said. "Yet care of the busy machines that cut grass and haul rubbish can, over a year, trim back fuel costs."

"Finally, selection of equipment sized for each job makes an important contribution. A farm tractor that is undersized for its task simply burns off fuel, struggling through soil or crops. Similarly, a tractor that is too big for the demand wastes conspicuously," he said.

"Equipment selection and equipment maintenance are the keys to stretching fuel supplies and saving on the fuel dollar."

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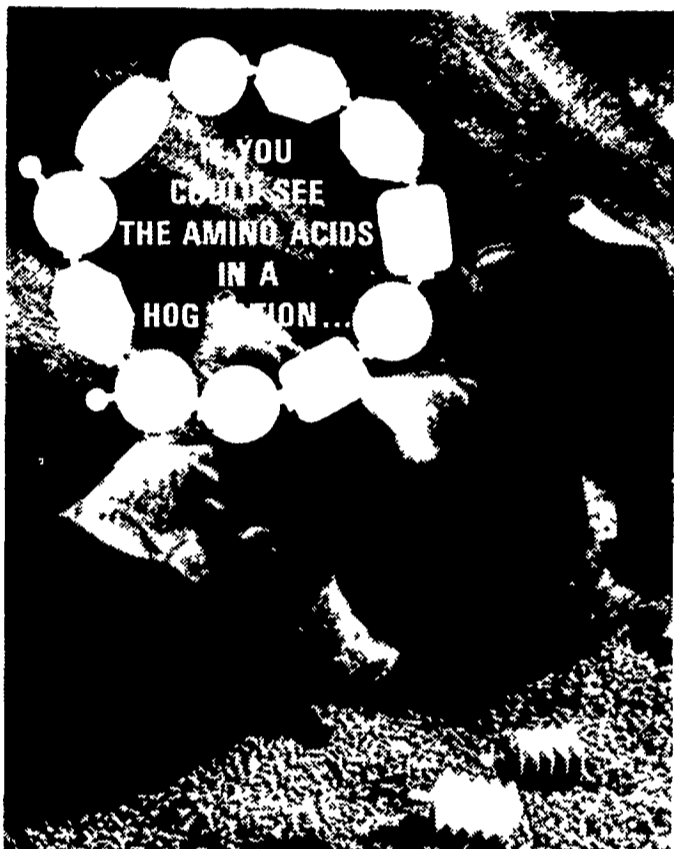


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