



Tired of poinsettias, holly and mistletoe? Try Amaryllis.

What's an Amaryllis? It's a red flowering plant discovered growing wild in the heat of summer in South Africa around the turn of the 17th century. Fascinated by their find, botanists brought it back to England.

The following winter—when it was once again blossom time in South Africa—the bulb surprised Londoners by bursting into bloom on Christmas Day. That first December bloom marked the beginning of a new tradition—Amaryllis at Christmas.

Today, most Amaryllis plants are bred in Holland, where they have been hybridized over the years. Because of the expense of hybridization, Amaryllis plants once cost a pretty penny.

Currently, an average-sized plant, between 18" and 36" high with four or more large flowers, costs between \$5 and \$7 a bulb.

Interest in the Amaryllis plant in the U.S. has grown tremen-

dously. Import figures show that in 1971 we bought 550,000 Amaryllis bulbs from Holland. This past year, the U.S. imported 1,100,000.

Bulb importers attribute the booming trade to the fact that the Amaryllis is, in their words, a "living plant." Once the bulb is planted, you may see growth within 24 hours. The typical Amaryllis is ready to bloom in 4-6 weeks. And, unlike the poinsettia—the perennial Christmas favorite—the Amaryllis blooms much longer, often from December through April.

The Amaryllis can also be made to flower year after year. When the Amaryllis no longer blooms, just cut it back and bury it outdoors until the following fall. When brought back indoors, the Amaryllis will bloom again for years to come.

[N.B. fans of the poinsettia. Your traditional favorite continues to make a strong showing in the trade ledgers, with imports now running more than 9 million plants a year.]

Deer Kill Report

More than 118,000 deer kill report cards have been returned to the Game Commission by hunters who were successful during the fall and winter whitetail seasons.

This year the report card for deer and turkey kills was

not a part of the hunting license, as in the past, and some hunters may have overlooked filing the reports.

The report cards are most important to the state's wildlife managers, who depend on the information to keep abreast of changes in

the deer herds and turkey flocks throughout the commonwealth.

Those who failed to file the reports on turkey or deer taken during the most recent hunting seasons are urged to do so immediately.

Improper Diets

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Chickies Creek Project Study Is Underway

State Conservationist Benny Martin, Soil Conservation Service, announced that the first phase study of Chickies Creek Watershed, Lancaster County, has been completed.

The work, completed by the consulting firm of Michael Baker, Jr., Camp Hill, includes a study of the land, water, geologic, archeological, social, cultural, and economic conditions throughout the watershed.

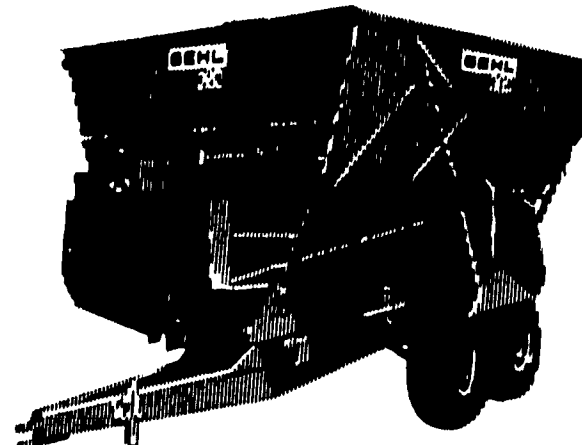
Martin said the Phase 1 study is part of an evaluation of the watershed to determine whether a watershed protection and flood prevention project is feasible under PL-566.

The consulting firm is now studying Phase 2 which includes surveys of flood damages and flood levels in the watershed.

The remaining three phases of the study will deal with engineering, hydrological, and biological conditions. All five phases are expected to be completed by June of this year, Martin reported.

The watershed project for Chickies Creek is sponsored by the Lancaster County Conservation District and Manheim Borough.

The major flood damage center in the 21,760-acre watershed is Manheim. During Hurricane Agnes, the borough was severely damaged by flood water. Industry, homes, and commercial establishments were severely flooded.



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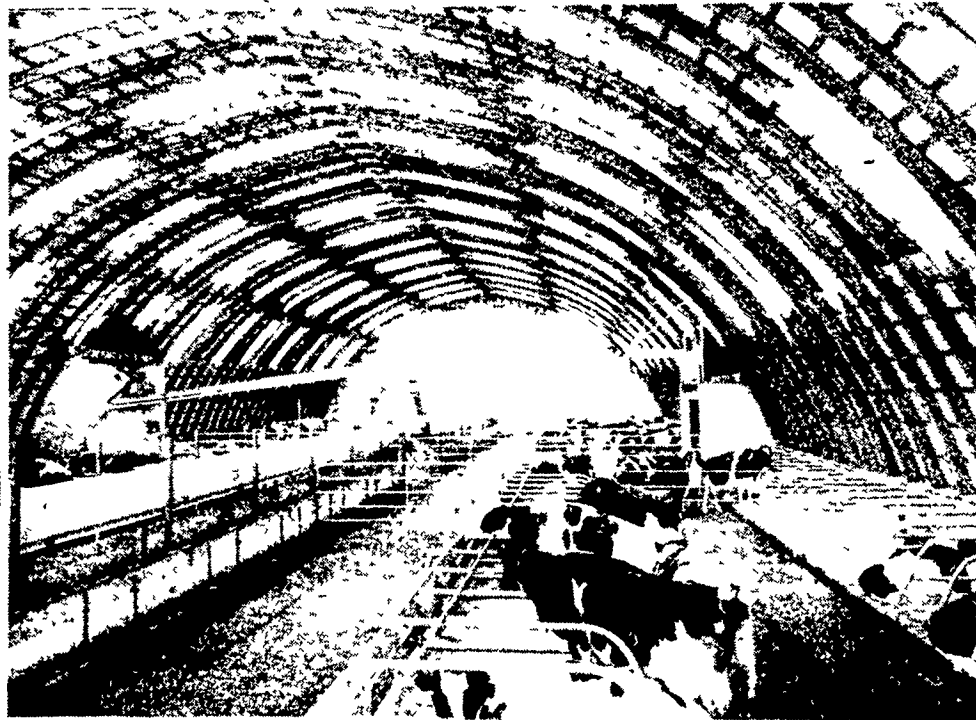
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