

Plant lovers' corner

Remedies possible for injured plants

Plants that are suspected of having Winter injury should be allowed to respond to natural growing conditions. Do not prune the plants until early to mid May



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or until you can fully determine the extent of the damage. Quite often the plant will recover and send new growth from portions that looked very dead only weeks before. Pruning too early in the season might remove more growth than necessary.

Pruning may be necessary later in the season after the new growth appears. If after waiting a reasonable period of time with no growth response you can assume that the plant or plant portion is dead and should be removed. The exact waiting period will depend upon the plant.

Some assistance can be given to plants that appear to have been injured but are not totally dead. An application of an antidesiccant may help to retain additional moisture in the foliage until the root system is able to sustain the moisture supply to the leaves. This material will not revive dead plants, but may

prevent or reduce further injury until the weather warms naturally. Follow the package direction for application.

Minor root injury can be overcome with light applications of fertilizer. Mild stimulation of the root system in the Spring may help to speed the recovery of the plant. Generally ¼ to ½ pound of a 10-5-5 analysis fertilizer per each 100 square feet of surface area under the plants will be adequate for the spring. Too much fertilizer may burn the existing roots and set the plant back even further.

After the fertilizer application, water the plants well to move the material into the root zone. Keep the plants watered well during the dry weather to prevent root injury. Care is needed, however, not to over water the plants at any time since this condition can also bring about additional root injury and may kill the plant completely.

Mechanical injury resulting from an accumulation so snow should be pruned off to sound wood. The severely split or splintered wood will not heal and can endanger the remainder of the plant. Rough edges on any such wound should also be trimmed smooth with a sharp knife. Paint any exposed cuts and inner wood with a tree wound preparation designed for this use.

Animal injury may not always be easy to correct since it frequently involves total removal of the bark on the plant. Where all the bark has been eaten from a stem about all that can be done is

11,000 volunteers assisting in removal of roadside litter

HARRISBURG, Pa. - In conjunction with "Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Days" April 29 and 30, the State Transportation Department plans a major program to remove thousands of tons of litter from its state highway system.

The annual campaign coincides with the national objective of the Keep America Beautiful organization, which last year awarded a Distinguished Service Citation to PennDOT for its environment protection efforts.

PennDOT crews in all of the department's 67 County Maintenance Districts will be assisted by volunteers in organized youth groups such as Boy and Girl Scouts, conservation and service bodies, and civic-minded individuals.

In recognition of the volunteer effort, expected to involve about 11,000 individuals, the Department's

to prune that portion back to a lower side branch or bud. If the injury has occurred on the main trunk you may wish to wait and see if the plant will send out new shoots from some point below the injury. If this occurs, prune off the stem above the injury.

On smaller stems where there is minor chewing, or girdling is not complete, use a sharp knife to trim and smooth the edges of the wound. Paint the exposed inner wood with tree wound paint after it is trimmed.

A light application of fertilizer as described above will help to stimulate new growth on animal injured plants that are not completely girdled.

Roadside Environment Division headed by Robert Ross, will present 3,000 Beautification - Conservation award patches and 8,000 meritorious service certificates.

Ross said more than 98,000 persons participated in last year's observance during which more than 4,000 tons of litter were removed from over 12,000 miles of State highway.

Operations Friday, April 29, will involve only Department personnel to concentrate on preliminary pick-up and preparation for the massive undertaking the following day.

Organized groups and individuals desiring to take part in the clean-up should contact the PennDOT maintenance office in their respective counties for scheduling their cooperatives efforts, Ross said.

Berks County dairy club holds meeting

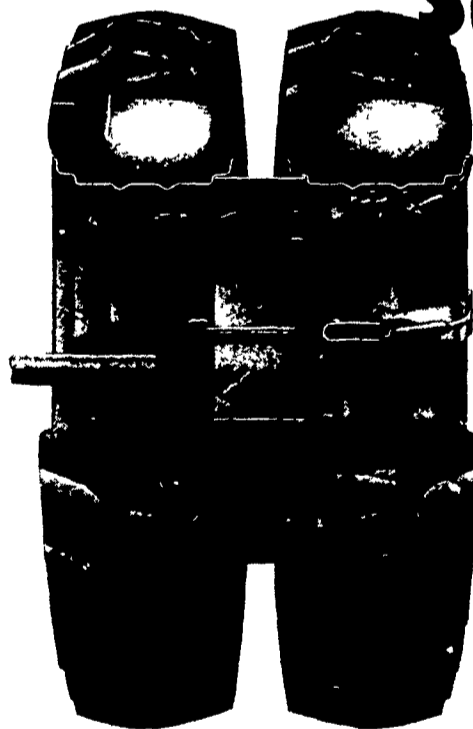
The Western Berks 4H Dairy Club met on April 4, 1977 at the home of Karen Leshner.

A general business session took place, followed by refreshments.

The next meeting will be held on May 12 at the home of John Stump.

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