

Spring fashions are wide-ranging

COLLEGE PARK, Md. - Almost anything goes on the 1977 Spring fashion scene, reports Dr. Eleanor F. Young, Extension textiles and clothing specialist at the University of Maryland in College Park.

Despite its broad range, Dr. Young declares that most women like the freedom of choice which today's fashion scene permits. Even the practice of buying new outfits for Easter is no longer a strong tradition in the U.S., she notes, since clothes nowadays are less seasonal and fashion maxims are less rigid than they were prior to the 1970s.

But many women consider it a "must" to have at least one soft cotton knit dress in their wardrobe this Spring. Some of these are wrap dresses of the type made famous by designer Diane Von Furstenberg. And a high percentage are two-piece dresses for wardrobe versatility.

Skirts are continuing to lengthen, the Maryland Extension home economics specialist reported. And as hemlines reach farther below the knee, women's shoulders and necklines are getting barer, with heel

heights on shoes becoming higher and less clunky—repeating a fashion cycle the late 1950s and early 1960s.

This has led to costumes in the sundress look, with little jackets to make them respectable for office wear.

From here, today's fashion plate can shift into slinky dresses in soft feminine fabrics for evening and party wear, or to jumpsuits and jeans for jogging around the neighborhood or jumping into action with a wide array of other outdoor activities.

Stretch terry is a relatively new development in the stretch fabric field for jumpsuits and other sports clothing. And "rehearsal" pants are big this year for women golfers and tennis enthusiasts.

Sportswear is also the major holdout for the unisex look these days, with T-shirts and tunic tops being worn by both men and women. Vests, too, continue popular with both sexes.

Women may combine the vest with blazer jackets and either skirts and pants. Three distinct looks can be achieved, depending on the type of shirt or blouse worn. A plain-collared shirt creates a tailored look;

adding a mannish stock tie gives a more severe tailored look. By contrast, a lean toward glamour comes with a more feminine blouse and soft bow tie.

Full-length pants are still in fashion, too, provided they have long, straight legs that reach to the top of the toe.

Culottes - - often called gauchos - - are still around this spring. They offer the feminine look of a skirt but the wearability of pants.

And Bermuda shorts have returned to the sports scene—particularly for walking. They are also suitable for relaxed street wear, but not for office or professional attire. With knee socks, they present a young look.

Accessories are not as big as they were a few years ago. But "nothing" chains on the neck remain popular. And the enameled look for jewelry on both fingers and earlobes continues to be "in", along with bangle-type bracelets and a wide array of rings.

Open weaves in "dish cloth" designs are a new development in the fabric field, particularly for T-shirts and other sportswear.

For dress-up time, the sheer fabrics continue popular, with some of the old

favorites like dimity, organza, voile, and chiffon making comebacks.


The versatile piques and poplins are likewise returning to favor on the crest of the sundress's new popularity, she reported. They are also being used extensively in sportswear items.

White continues more popular than ever as a color for Spring and Summer wear. White with brown is a good color combination this year. And white with red or navy blue has always been popular.

It is interesting to note that this latter color combination is the most popular in North America and northern European countries, where most of the nations have flags in the same hues.

Dr. Young commented that white's continued popularity on the fashion scene is no doubt helped along by the fact that most white fabrics are much easier to keep clean than they were only 10 years ago.

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Lancaster Co. Society 10

Lancaster County Farm Women Society 10 were entertained with a slide presentation by Christine Christ, a representative from "Teen Haven", at their most recent meeting held at "Shady Maple." Miss Christ's slides were of a camp in York County.

The Rev. William Drury, Teen Haven director, talked about the work among teens and preteens at the Summer camp and the weekend camp during the school year. This program is now operating in Philadelphia, Washington D. C., and Lancaster.

The group has decided to

give a book to the Rohrerstown Mennonite Church Library and a donation to Easter Seals in memory of two deceased members. The Society will also donate \$10 to Easter Seals.

The May meeting will be held at the home of Susie Dietrich, 2405 State St., East Petersburg.

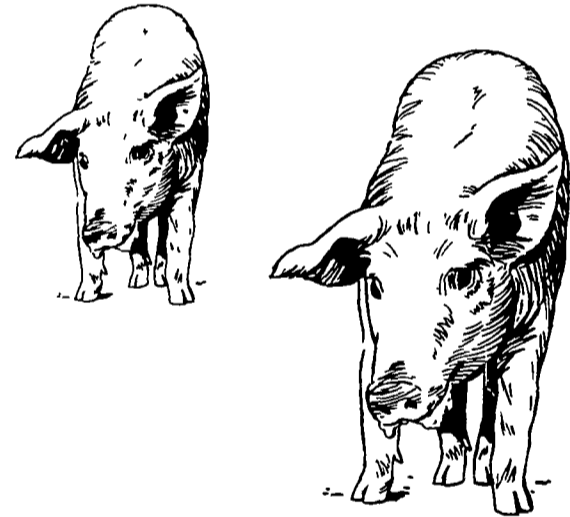
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