

## Tips offered for weed control

FLEMINGTON, N.J. - Too often insects and diseases are noticed after it's late to control them. There are a number of very useful cultural controls that the home gardener can use, according to William G. McIntyre, agricultural agent in Hunterdon County, N.J. Consider some of the following: Composting - this process results in considerable heat generation in a mass of compost. The heat generated will kill many diseases and insects. Composting combined with sanitation, will eliminate many problems.

Rotation - changing the location of plants in the garden from one season to the next, will break a disease or insect cycle and result in a reduction of problems. For example, avoid growing crops like tomatoes, eggplants, and peppers, in the same part of the garden year after year. These are all members of the family solanaceae. Growing them in the same location, year after year encourages the build up of diseases that effect this family, like verticillium wilt and others.

Resistant varieties are always a good idea. If you have a choice between a resistant and a non-resistant variety, play it safe and use the resistant ones. This does not mean that the plants are immune to disease, but certainly the resistant ones will suffer less than those that do not have this genetic protection.

Sanitation - good weed

control, in and around the garden is a big help. Many of the insects and diseases that effect vegetable plants, live over in weeds. Snails and slugs, appreciate the cover provided by the weeds. Removal results in less competition for your plants. Makes them more vigorous and at the same time eliminates hiding places for many problems.

Paper barriers can be used around plants like tomatoes, cabbage, and many others, to discourage cut worms.

Handpicking, one of the oldest insect control measures, and a most effective one, is just picking them off by hand. You need to be alert to what's going on

in your garden. Look for egg masses, look for the first Colorado potato beetles, be on the alert for horn worms, Mexican bean beetles, cabbage loopers, all of these and many others can be picked off by hand and destroy while small before they do damage. By keeping abreast of the populations build up you can decide when and if other control methods are needed.

If after all of your efforts, chemical means are necessary, select the proper insecticide. Be sure that the label of the material you use covers both the pest you want to control on the plant concerned.

## Milk production up

HARRISBURG- - Milk production in Pennsylvania during April 1977 totaled 664 million pounds, up three per cent from the previous month and five per cent above a year earlier, according to the Crop Reporting Service.

The number of milk cows in the Commonwealth during April was 703,000 head, down 1,000 from a year ago. Production per cow averaged 945 pounds compared with 900 a year ago.

United States milk production during April totaled 10,741 million pounds, up three per cent from a year earlier. Production per cow averaged 977 pounds in April

compared with 948 a year ago. Milk cows on farms totaled 10,989,000 head, down one per cent from April 1976.

## Lueck speaks to 4-H club

LANCASTER, Pa. - Arnold Lueck, Lancaster County Extension agent, spoke to the Manheim Township 4-H Community Club on their latest meeting held May 3.

Lueck's topic was on vegetables and flowers, and dealt with the importance of plants as well as the proper care of them.

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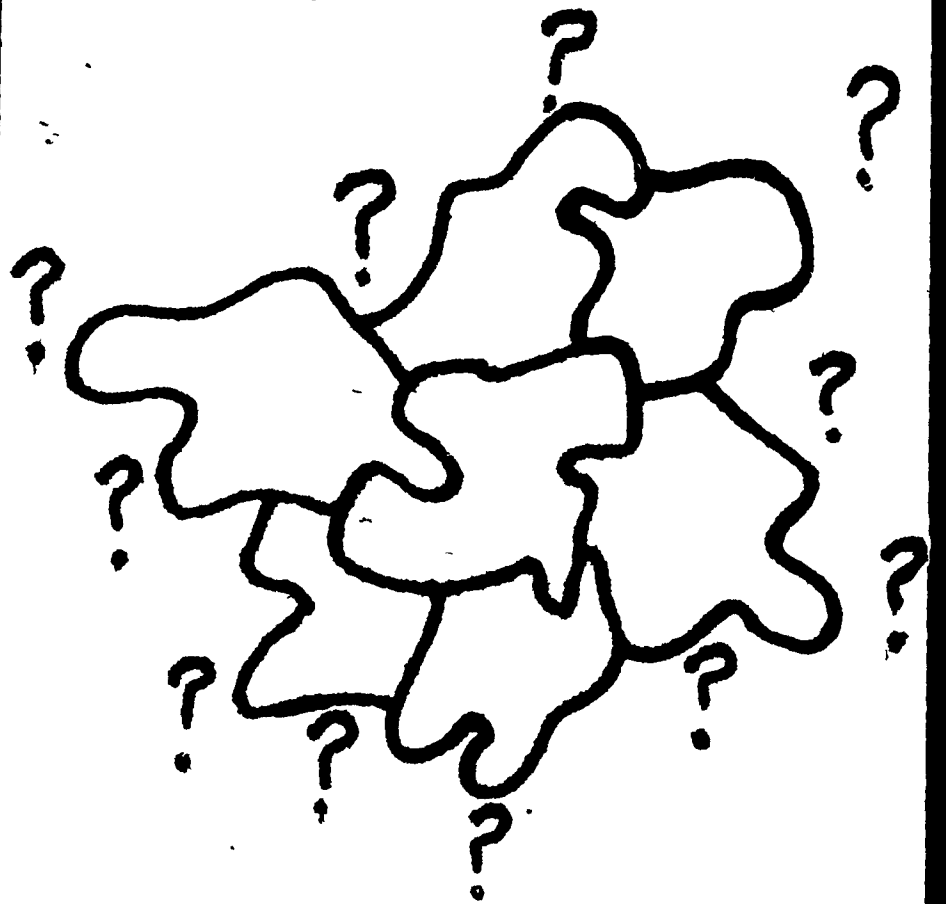
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