

USDA may ease Canadian import rules

NEW YORK, N.Y.—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed to ease Federal import requirements for horses and other animals returning to the United States after public exhibition in Canada. The proposal would also revise import rules for the offspring of both U.S. and Canadian mares born during exhibition.

Under the proposal, U.S. animals would be able to re-enter this country without additional Canadian health or test certification if they attended publicly recognized exhibitions such as races or circuses.

However, they would be required to return to the United States within 90 days of the date they left and be accompanied by the U.S.

export health certificate issued to them when they entered Canada. The port veterinarian must also declare them free of clinical evidence of disease at the time of re-entry.

The U.S. health certificate for returning horses would be required to show that tests for equine infectious anemia (EIA) with negative results had been conducted

within 90 days of re-entry into this country.

Also, offspring of mares returning to the U.S. that were born after test dates listed on the mares' U.S. health certificates could enter this country without additional Canadian certificates. Foals of Canadian mares could return to Canada from the United States without having to take an EIA test if the mares had proved negative to the disease within 60 days of the export.

Officials of the department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service said the time periods stated in the proposals are adequate to prevent the introduction of communicable disease. They also noted that the United States and Canada have similar disease control requirements for exhibition animals.

These proposals are to be published in the August 21, 1979 Federal Register. Interested persons have until October 22, 1979 to file written comments. These should be sent to the deputy administrator, Veterinary Services, APHIS, USDA, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782. All comments received will be available for public viewing at the Hyattsville office, Room 805, during regular working hours.

Longwood Gardens alters form of training program

KENNETT SQUARES—Longwood Gardens has announced important changes in the application procedure for its Professional Gardener Training Program, a work-study program that prepares high school graduates for horticultural careers.

Previously, seven students were accepted each year for the two-year program. Now, fourteen students will be admitted every other year starting in 1980. Classes will begin on even-numbered years thereafter.

Applications for the Professional Gardener Training Program are accepted from June 1 until September 1 of the preceding odd-numbered year. Because of the new procedure, however, applications for the 1980 class will be accepted until October 1, 1979. Those persons wishing to apply this year for the class beginning March of 1980 should write to Coordinator, Professional Gardener Training Program, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA 19348, telephone 215-388-6741.

Graduates of the two-year program currently are employed in nursery production, garden center management, floriculture, park management, turf-grass maintenance, land

scaping, and botanical and private garden management.

Applicants must have a high school diploma and a good academic record. Two full summers (six months or the equivalent) of work in a horticultural operation such as a botanical garden, arboretum, nursery, greenhouse, florist shop, or landscape and lawn maintenance business are required. Students accepted into the program receive a stipend to defray living costs. There is no tuition fee.

Over the two-year residency period, students are assigned to each of eight major areas within Longwood's Horticulture Department for periods of one month or more. Each area provides a variety of experiences, including growing floral crops, maintaining conservatory displays, controlling pests, maintaining lawns, producing vegetables and fruits, growing herbaceous plants, pruning shrubs and trees, growing tropical plants, operating equipment, and digging and balling trees.

There will be increased emphasis on both academic and practical experience in the revised, 24-month program. Students will spend an average of 10 hours per week on classroom work,

special projects and study time. One to three full days per week are devoted to this academic work. Occasionally, classes are scheduled after regular working hours, and weekend duty is a possibility.

Additional practical experience in crop production will be available through a special project in the Longwood greenhouses. Each student will select several greenhouse crops for study during the two years.

Students are required to live in dormitories on the grounds at Longwood, Monday through Friday. Meals are prepared by students in fully equipped kitchens in each dormitory.

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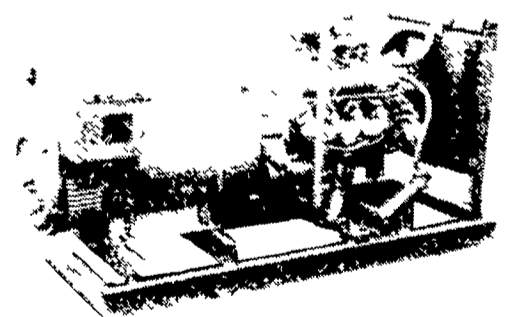
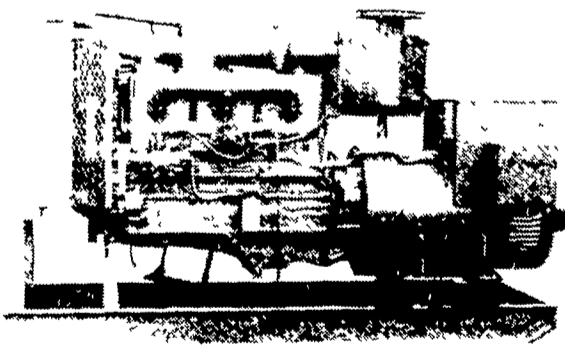
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