

Vegetable growers meeting features new varieties

**BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
LANCASTER** — Vegetable production, including new varieties that look good for the coming year, was discussed at a day-long session attended by some 90 growers at the Farm and Home Center on Tuesday.

The new varieties were outlined to the growers by Peter Ferretti, Extension vegetable specialist. Among the new varieties listed were:

Tomatoes—A new variety named Count was reported to be the best performing during the past season. It was described as a multi-purpose tomato, which is just as firm as Floradade.

Among other varieties cited were Baron, a firm, multi-purpose tomato with some susceptibility to early blight; Freedom, a meaty type with good flavor that responds to mulch, and Royal Flush, the best performing in wet conditions.

Peppers—An early pepper with little foliage problem is Gypsy, which may be of interest to growers not desiring a bell. A good yielder among hot peppers was Sure Fire.

Sweet Corn — One of the best looking is Star Dust, a 70-day variety with eating quality comparable or better than Spring White. Other varieties include White Lightning, an 87-day variety, and Banner, an 85-day yellow with some Stewartville tolerance.

Among other vegetable varieties listed were Calypso as a pickling cucumber, Roadside in the melons, Gourmet Globe in zucchini, Princess 39 in early cabbage and White Contessa cauliflower.

In a discussion of soil management, Ferretti stressed the need to keep pH levels at recommended levels of 6.2 to 6.8 for vegetables.

"Beginning in 1977, a drop

in pH levels has been noted in Pennsylvania," he explained.

"Losses due to leeching may be reduced this year due to the drought conditions."

Ferretti recommended proper soil tests and adequate liming, preferably the finest limestone available if results within six weeks are desired.

Robert Tetrault, Extension entomologist, emphasized that a change in the activities of the European corn borer has been noted in studies in Delaware and Bucks counties.

"Previously, the borer had peak periods of activity around June 15 and August 10," he explained.

"But now, population counts seem to be continuing throughout the season from June through the fall."

Problems have been encountered with the borer in peppers and snap beans in areas south of Lancaster and York counties and spraying programs have been advanced to four or five-day schedules.

Tetrault also covered some problems that have been noted with the Colorado potato beetle on tomatoes and eggplants.

Dave Miller, of the Miller Plant Farm, York County, outlined variety tests conducted there last year.

In the tests involving 15 varieties of cauliflower, the best all-around type was Snow Crown. The earliest variety was White Contessa.

Miller said the best planting program featured successive plantings of the Snow Crown. In other tests, varieties noted included the Ace Hybrid in peppers, Market Prize in cabbage, Ruby Ball in red cabbage, Ice Queen in Savoy and Green Comet in broccoli.

Alan McNab, Extension plant pathology specialist, reviewed tomato diseases, including early blight, fruit

rot and bacterial speck. Studies, according to McNab, have shown that these diseases can cause potential losses of 30 to 35 percent and proper spraying programs can more than recover these losses.

Control measures include crop rotation, hot water treatment of seeds, disease-free transplants and a recommended fungicide

program if the diseases appear.

In a brief presentation, Peter Alexi, of the Herr Fruit Farm, urged growers to contact their state legislators to support the Fruit and Vegetable Growers Marketing Bargaining Act.

This bill is expected to be introduced in the next few weeks in Harrisburg and

would require that processors talk to a representative of farmers before setting fruit and vegetable prices.

Returning for a discussion of defoliation diseases in melons, McNab said that studies have shown that losses can exceed \$1,000 an acre while fungicide treatment to reduce them can run up to \$250 an acre.

McNab discussed both leaf spot and powdery mildew. Among control measures, he recommended rotation, avoiding adjacent plantings and fungicide programs when the diseases appear.

In a final session, Ferretti and York County growers John Fitz and Ronald Markey discussed various weed control programs.

Fulton Grange holds hobby show

OAKRYN — Fulton Grange No. 66 held their regular meeting on Jan. 26 at the hall in Oakryn with Master Thomas C. Galbreath presiding.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Browning were accepted into membership. It was reported that it is not very likely now that permits will be granted to anyone to cross the bridge over the Octorara Creek on route 272 with heavy equipment.

The Master announced State Grange regional conferences for Feb. 28 at 10 a.m. at Kutztown and 7:30 p.m. at West Chester. Some local officers and committee chairmen will attend. The Master attended the Solanco

Advisory Committee for School Improvement.

Saturday, April 4, was slated as the day to hold the annual roast turkey supper at the Grange Hall.

Mrs. Jesse Wood, Lecturer, was in charge of a hobby show. Members displayed collections of State metal trays, old coins, hen on nests, and antiques consisting of dishes, photos and postcards of local landmarks, Santa Christmas cards, Halloween cards and an automobile. Many crafts on display consisted of wooden candlesticks, serving tray, puzzles and Christmas tree ornaments. Fancywork included crocheted tablecloth, afghan

and edgings; counted cross stitch, latch hook, needlepoint and stitch 'n stuff pictures. Tole painted milk can, kettle and coffee pot and rubbed out painted basket, planter and pins were exhibited as were a houseplant, genealogy books and papers, and a unicycle.

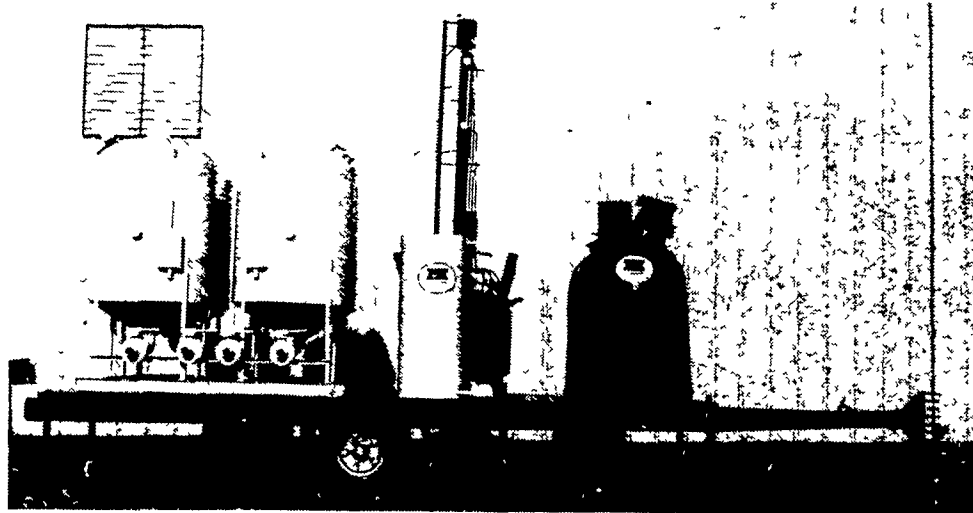
The following told about their hobbies: Mrs. George Hough, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Holloway Jr., Mrs. John Wise, Mrs. Thomas Galbreath, Mr. and Mrs. J. Everett Kreider, Mr. and Mrs. Charles McSparren, Mrs. William Taylor, Mrs. Richard Edwards, Mrs. Donald McCallin, Peggy Galbreath, Mrs. Thomas C. Galbreath, Mrs. Cecil

Campbell, Mrs. Howard Steinberg, and finally Mrs. David Wissler demonstrated riding her unicycle.

The Young Marrieds committee will be in charge of the program at the Feb. 9 meeting. Robert Kreider will show slides taken last year in Germany.



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