

# Vinca perks up a garden

DOYLESTOWN — What flower thrives in sun or shade; hot dry places or cool moist locations; is hardly ever bothered by insects or diseases; and stays fresh and perky even in late summer to fall when many other annuals look "tired"?

"It's Vinca rosea, or Periwinkle," says Jeannette Lowe, horticulturist for the W. Atlee Burpee Co. and enthusiastic home gardener. "This versatile beauty can brighten your garden borders, edgings, patio or window boxes under almost any growing conditions."

Vinca plants are a picture with their glossy, rich green leaves a perfect foil for attractive single flowers about 1½ inches across. They bloom profusely in fresh colors ranging from snow white to pink and rose shades. Some varieties "wink" with contrasting eyes or centers in the blossoms.

Try Vinca Polka Dot for a scintillating effect. The white flowers accented by cherry red centers attract immediate attention in hanging baskets or planter boxes. Polka Dot is also pretty in the garden as an edger or ground cover. The plants tend to spread vigorously and grow only 4 inches high.

An outstanding newcomer this year is Vinca Pink Carousel. Imagine rose-pink flowers on trailing plants about 6 inches tall and you'll have a mental picture of this debutante. Better yet, plan

now to grow Pink Carousel this summer and see how attractive it is in hanging baskets, containers or highlighting your garden in borders, beds and edgings.

How about varieties of Vinca that grow a little taller, 10 inches high? The so-called Dwarf series of Vinca is a favorite, with neat "hedgelike" plants. They're excellent for edging your garden or mass planting in beds, as well as for growing in containers on patios, porches or roof-tops. Choose separate colors for special effects... Little Blanche, a pure white for a cool look in daytime, a

lovely shimmer at eventide; Little Bright Eyes, a sparkler with rosy-red eyes flashing from fresh white petals; Little Delicata, a pale pink charmer with contrasting red eyes; and Little Pinkie, a solid rose-pink. Burpee offers all the above, plus a well-balanced mixture of all these separate colors in Dwarf Vinca.

Vinca rosea is easy to grow but in northern areas of the United States should be started inside about 8 to 12 weeks before the last expected spring frost. This means late February into March in much

of the country. With this headstart, Vinca comes into bloom in late July and continues until nipped by frost in the fall.

Vinca cannot stand any frost. Wait until weather and soil are really warm before the move to the garden. First, however, accustom (harden off) the seedlings to the outdoor environment for about a week. Put them outside in semi-shade on warm days, bring them back inside at night if chilly temperatures threaten.

Now the Vinca is ready for the permanent location. Prepare the

ground in the garden well, work in a balanced fertilizer according to soil test recommendations or package directions, and set the plants 8 to 12 inches apart. In planter boxes or hanging baskets use a potting mixture of two parts planting formula or vermiculite to one part sieved garden soil. A basket 8 or 9 inches in diameter holds about 6 plants. Watch Vinca in containers or baskets closely in hot dry weather and water whenever the soil feels dry. Plants dry out much faster than when grown in the garden.

## The incredible egg, a nutritious food

HARRISBURG — The incredible egg is one of nature's most perfect foods. Its nutritional value, versatility and relatively inexpensive cost have made it a staple in Pennsylvania's diets.

Eggs are a powerhouse of nutrition. They are low in calories - just 80 calories per large egg - yet provide essential protein, vitamins and minerals. Two large eggs provide about 20-30 percent of the minimum daily requirement for these dietary essentials.

Eggs are one of the least expensive sources of protein, costing only pennies more today than they did 25 years ago. A dozen large eggs weigh at least 24 ounces or 1½ pounds. So when large sell for 90

cents a dozen, they are only 60 cents per pound.

Although most of the eggs sold in supermarkets are large, special offers on other sizes often may make your buying decision more difficult. An easy formula can help you decide which eggs are the best buy, according to Vicky Wass, Egg Promotion Specialist with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

To compare egg prices, first determine the difference between the special price and the price of large eggs. If large eggs are 95 cents per dozen and extra large eggs are \$1.05 per dozen, the price difference is ten cents.

Next divide the price of large

eggs by eight (always use the price of large eggs). Compared this number to the price differential. If the price difference is higher than this number, the higher priced eggs are the better buy. In this case, 95 cents divided by 8 equals 12, which is higher than the price difference, and the large eggs are the better buy.

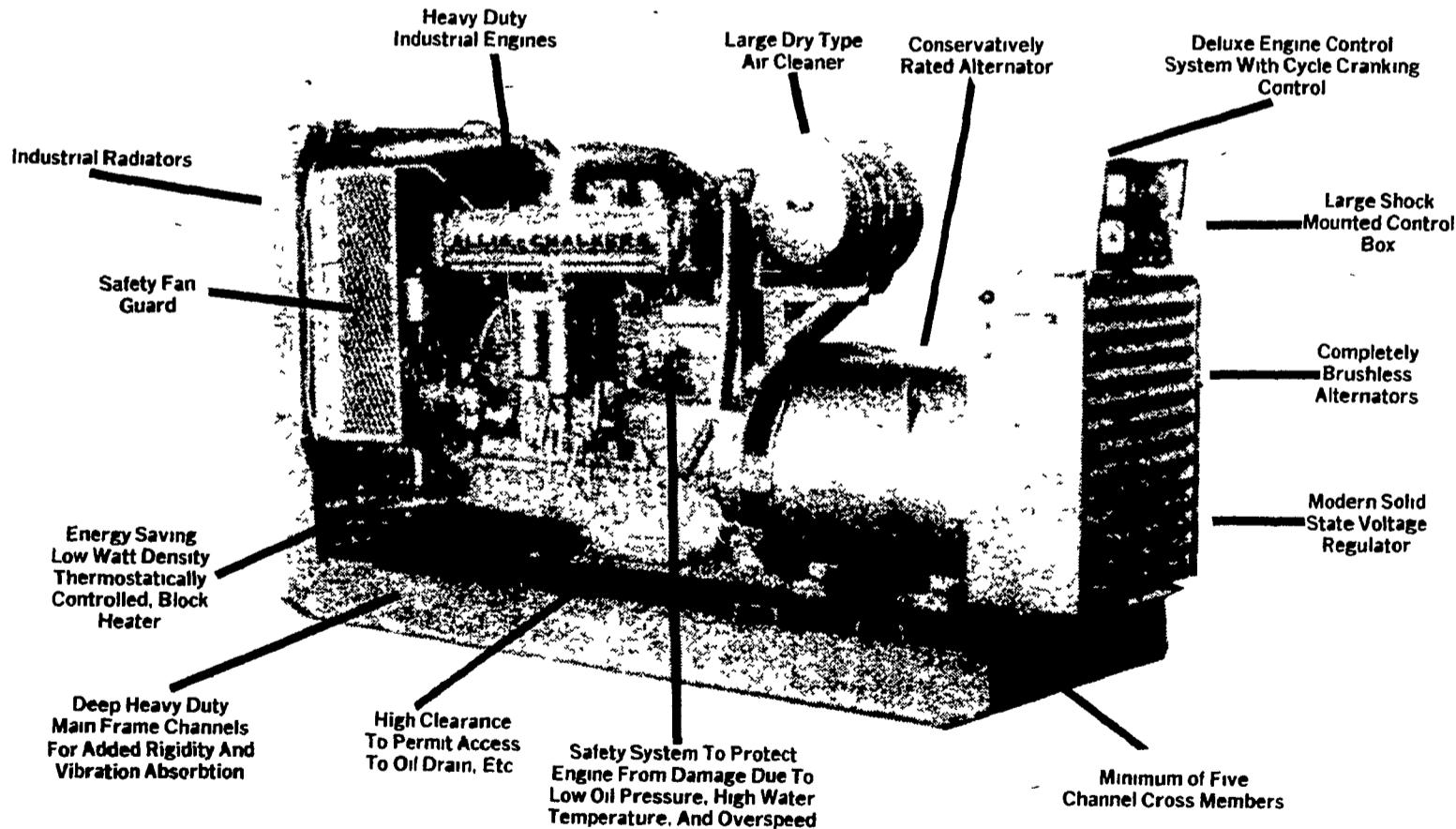
A free wallet-sized egg price comparison chart is available for consumers. The chart is a handy and quick way to determine the better buy among eggs. For a copy of this free chart, write to the Pennsylvania Egg Promotion Program, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA, 17110.

# Give Eggs a Break

## MARTIN MACHINERY

Emergency or Prime Power Systems from 1 to 1000 KW Balanced Design to Give You Peak Performance For Your Application: Farm - Industrial - Commercial - Residential

Check These Features:



**24 Hour Emergency Service  
by Radio Dispatched Service Personnel**

OPENINGS FOR DEALERS IN DELAWARE,  
MARYLAND & PARTS OF PENNSYLVANIA

## MARTIN MACHINERY

P.O. Box 35, Martindale, PA 17549  
215-445-4800 or 267-7771

For Free Literature or Demonstration,  
Send This Coupon

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Martin Machinery  
P.O. Box 35  
Martindale, PA 17549