

Try these outdoor water saving tips

NORRISTOWN — The recent drought in eastern Pennsylvania injured or led to the death of many landscape plants. Since an attractive landscape can represent a substantial investment, it must be protected.

Water is a natural resource we have all taken for granted, says Paul N. Reber, County Agricultural Agent, Montgomery County. A few simple tips can help save water while still maintaining a healthy landscape.

First of all, learn the water requirements of all your plants.

Deep-rooted trees and shrubs like oaks or viburnums can tolerate long dry spells because their roots penetrate far into the ground. However, plants like hemlock, azalea, or rhododendron are shallow-rooted and are very susceptible to drought-induced injury.

Deep-rooted plants rarely have to be watered after they are established. Of course they may require water during dry spells which occur during the first year or two after planting.

Shallow rooted plants must be watched carefully during a drought. They should be watered every 7-10 days or at the first sign of wilting or browning of leaf tips.

There is a right way and a wrong way to water plants. The wrong way is to just quickly wet the soil surface every few days. The right way is to thoroughly soak the root zone of the plant every 7-10 days. To do this the water must be applied slowly over a period of 30 minutes to several hours, depending on the system used.

There are commercially available drip irrigation systems, all garden supply stores stock soaker hoses, or a home-made system can be used. Punch small holes in the bottom of a plastic jug, set in on the soil near the plant to be watered, and fill it with water. The water should be released at a slow enough rate so that there is no runoff. If the rate is too fast there should be smaller holes or fewer holes.

To make the best use of applied water follow these guidelines. To reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation, water in the cool

early morning hours and apply a mulch to the soil. Form a basin around plants to be watered to prevent run-off during watering. Keep the weeds pulled to prevent them from competing with the landscape plants for available water. If possible group plants together that have similar water requirements and remove sick or poorly performing plants.

Finally, avoid excessive fertilization. Drought-stressed plants are more sensitive to fertilizer burn and the growth promoted results in increased water requirements.

Newly discovered plant is rare find

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Botanists from the University of Maryland and James Madison University in Virginia have discovered a new flowering plant variety, the first such discovery scientists have made in the Middle Atlantic States in more than 30 years.

Named the "Shenandoah Wake-Robin," it is of the genus *Trillium*, a member of the lily family, and has a close cousin in another variety, the "Virginia Wake-Robin," known only from the coastal plains of Virginia and Maryland's Eastern Shore.

The new discovery is unusual for several reasons, says James L. Reveal who, with co-discoverer Norlyn L. Bodkin, will publish their findings in the scientific journal *Brittonia* in early 1982.

"The Shenandoah Wake-Robin is found in the mountains along the Virginia-West Virginia border where fewer than 1,000 individuals

are known," says Reveal, an associate professor of botany and research scientist with the University of Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station.

"It is so rare we will recommend that it be considered for listing under provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

"This rare plant, unfortunately, will be highly prized by wild flower collectors who wish to grow rare plants in their own gardens, and the plant is far too rare to be collected," he said.

Reveal notes that the coastal plains plant was on the national endangered species list — from January 1973 to December 1980 — and was only recently removed through intense conservation efforts by Maryland's Department of Natural Resources and its forestry and parks division in cooperation with the University's Department of Botany.

"The new discovery is an im-

portant plant that needs to be preserved," says Reveal, "for it is the only variety of the 'Lesser Wake-Robin' to be found at high elevations and represents a unique genetic expression."

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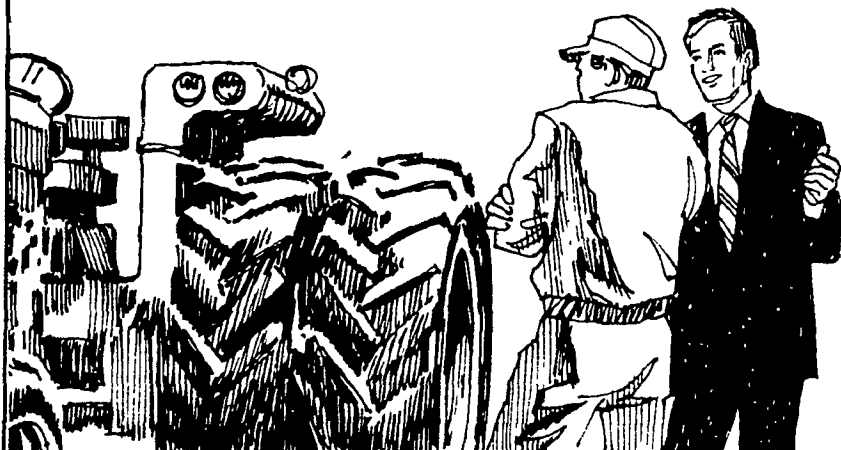
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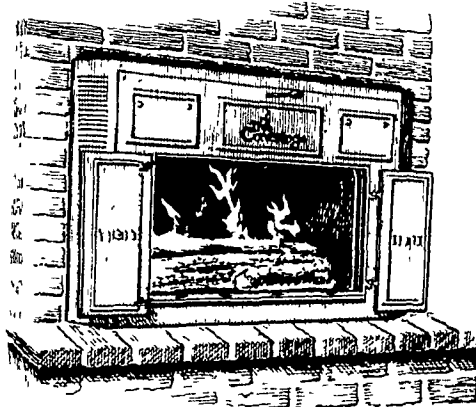


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FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, September 22

Farm Machinery Exhibits
Placed
Farm Machinery Exhibits Open 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Barbecued Pork Chop Dinner (YF Ref. Stand) 5-8:00 PM
Adult Tractor Driving Contest (LBD) 5:00 PM
Jr. Market Hog Judging 5:00 PM
Crop Exhibits Received (Grain Tent) 5-8:00 PM
Pig Chase 8:00 PM

Wednesday, September 23

Poultry Judging (Playhouse Basement) 10:00 AM
Cloister FFA Tractor Driving Contest 1:00 PM
Jr. Market Lambs Judging 4:00 PM
Street Fair Parade 7:00 PM

Thursday, September 24

Jr. Market Hog Sale 6:00 PM
Garden Tractor Pulling Contest (LBD) 7:00 PM
FFA & 4-H Baby Beef Judging 7:30 PM

Friday, September 25

Area FFA Tractor Driving Contest (LBD) 1:30 PM
Carcass Lamb Auction 6:00 PM
Cow Milking Contest 6:30 PM
Junior Dairy Cattle Judging 7:00 PM

Saturday, September 26

Exhibits Close (Ephrata Community Park) 12:00 Noon
Remove Exhibits & Clean Up Park 12 noon-2:00 PM
Visit the EAYFA and FFA Refreshment & Food Stands. Crop, livestock, and farm machinery on display all day, with special emphasis 4-9:00 PM at the Ephrata Community Park. This schedule applies only to the "Tent City" portion of the Ephrata Fair.