

York conservation tour

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last fall, the field's stands were thin, due to poor winter weather conditions. Reseeding has established the fields in a mixed clover-timothy-alfalfa hay, and lab tests on crop residue show that background heavy metals in plant samples are less than samples taken from crops grown on "virgin soils."

"That means crops taken from the acreage are suitable for entering the food chain," affirms landfill manager Bill Ehrman. "And we're excited about that."

Ground water is monitored four times yearly, and vents carry off methane gases being generated underground as the waste layers decompose. Although Ehrman says that some methane is being collected from similar installations in California, the gas is highly flammable and the authority has no immediate plans to harness the methane release.

At the current rates of tonnage going into the landfill, Ehrman noted that the site has the capacity to operate another ten years.

At the final stop on the tour, the

visitors climbed a gentle, sun-splashed hill to where the last of the Naylor Winery grapes hung in deep clusters on neatly-staked rows of vines, and then ended their conservation education with a brief sampling of the winery's specialties.

Dick and Audrey Naylor started their winery business slowly, planting just an acre and a quarter to vineyards back in 1975, adding yearly to attain the present 12 acres. Plans are for continued slow growth, with up to no more than 25 total acres of the trellised, wire-supported vines for wine production, table grape sales, and pick-your-owns.

"This is one of the finest grape growing areas in the world," asserts Naylor. "It has everything going for it: good Chester soils, fine climate, dry weather at harvest and metropolitan areas nearby for markets."

Baby vines barely reach to the bottom trellis wire before they're two years old, at which time the vinters tie the fledgling tendrils to the supports. At three years, a

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Wine-making expert Dick Naylor, left, and county agent John Smith discuss crop needs for one of the area's most promising agriculture ventures, table grapes and winery

production. A row of the classic Cabernet-Sauvignon wine grape in the background is one of the last varieties to be harvested.

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

Here's A Timely Tip...

Apply lime often for best results

To keep your soil neutral, liming every 2 or 3 years is recommended, because of the new higher analysis fertilizers being used today



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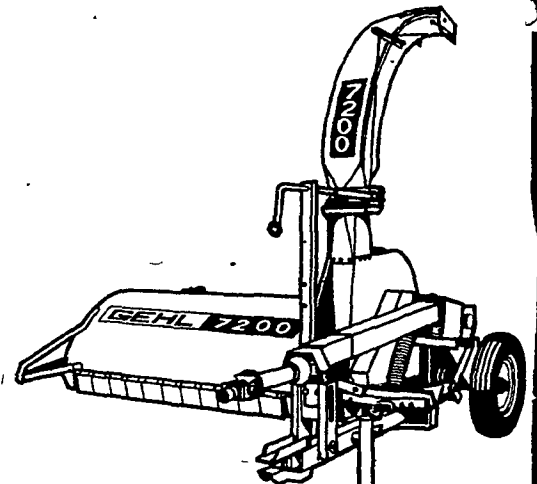


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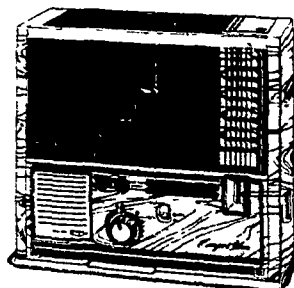
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