

Alternatives for the Christmas tree

LANCASTER — Does it bother you to spend money each year for a Christmas tree that lasts only a couple of weeks and then must be thrown out? How about using a live tree this year that can serve as a handsome houseplant the rest of the year and by next Christmas will be bigger and better than ever.

Two candidates for this job are foliage plants often used for interior decoration and available from most florists — the Norfolk Island pine and the podocarpus.

Though perhaps not as traditional, when decked out with ornaments and tinsel both make handsome tabletop Christmas trees, says University of Delaware extension horticulturist Charles Dunham.

The Norfolk Island pine isn't really a pine at all, but it does have evergreen needles. These cover branches spaced regularly around the trunk like spokes on a wheel. Each new flush of growth adds another tier of branches. The most handsome specimens have five

"spokes."

"This is one of the most satisfying plants for use as a large indoor foliage specimen," says Dunham. It requires moderate light, prefers cool temperatures, and has few insects or disease problems. Its most exacting requirement is a uniformly moist soil. "Let it dry out even once, or overwater so that the soil becomes soggy, and it will lose some of its lower branches," he says.

Norfolk Island pines can be put

outdoors in the summer and will stand full sun if they're gradually conditioned to it. In Florida, where these trees grow outside, they reach a height of 100 feet. Indoors, growth is much slower and they'll take 10 or more years to reach five or six feet.

The podocarpus is an upright evergreen with coarse, yew-like foliage. It, too, grows outdoors where winters are milder — from the Carolinas south. "It's one of the few foliage plants that isn't

bothered by an occasional blast of cold air," says the specialist. "So it can be located in or near an entrance way." It likes moderate light, even moisture and, like the Norfolk Island pine, has few pest problems.

A two-and-a-half to three-foot specimen of either of these plants will be priced very competitively compared to a choice full-size cut Christmas tree and much cheaper than a live one. Plants a foot or so taller will cost considerably more, however.

Del. Soybean Board grants aid program

DOVER, Del. — The Delaware Soybean Board announces it will receive proposals for its 1982 Grant-in-Aid program through January 15, 1982.

This is the second year of this farmer-run self-help program. Last year the Board selected twelve projects ranging from variety testing, under Delaware's conditions, to participating in an international soybean marketing program.

The Board's chairman, Joe Hughes, explains that they will be able to fund proposed research, educational and production projects or that proposed projects must present an opportunity for results that will benefit Delaware Soybean producers.

To obtain grant request guidelines, contact the Delaware Soybean Board, Drawer D, Dover, DE 19901 302/736-4811.

Heart of Penn goat breeders will gather

DORNSIFE — The Heart of Penn Goat Breeders will highlight their December meeting with a covered dish buffet.

The Dec. 12 meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Lee Zartman home in West Milton, Union County.

The group is slated to hear Dick Carlson, the new owner of Pure Goat Products, Boyerton. Carlton will be on hand to answer questions on commercial goat dairying.

Anyone interested in dairy goats is invited to the meeting and should contact Roberta Molard, secretary, for more information on covered dishes needed as well as other interests in the group. Molard's number is 717-758-8359.

To get to the Zartman home, take Route 15 to the Milton exit, left at stop sign off the exit ramp. Continue one mile past the West Milton State Bank and take the first left past the bank. The Zartman home is the first double brick home on the left.

"THE EXECUTIVE" 8085 Series II Computer Controlled Dairy Feeding System



SUMMARY

| Cow # | # Feed Programmed | # Feed Consumed | Ration Fed To This Cow |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| 001 | 20 | 20 | A |
| 002 | 10 | 10 | A |
| 003 | 3 | 3 | A |
| 004 | 25 | 25 | B |
| 005 | 17 | 17 | A |
| TOTAL FEED - 00075 | | | |

The cow number, feed quantity and choice of rations are entered on a keyboard. The computer looks at a tag permanently fastened to the cows ID rope and will allow her to eat 1/2 of this each 12 hr. period.* At the end of each 12-hour period, the computer will record on tape the consumption of each animal programmed. *Other time intervals available.

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The cow

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4. A gradual increase and decrease of concentrate.
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5. A printed copy twice daily of the feed used by each animal or animals that need attention only.

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