

Penn State's Peace Corps volunteers serve around world

UNIVERSITY PARK — Penn State leads northeastern universities in the number of applicants seeking volunteer assignment to the Peace Corps. During fiscal year 1983, about 85 Penn State students applied to use their skills in one of the 60 developing countries where volunteers serve.

About one-third of the 85 received invitations to a country, says Ben Way, campus recruiter for the Peace Corps and a graduate student in agricultural economics. Another one-third have been nominated and put into competition for assignments. The other third are still in the initial phases of applying.

Penn State continues to be a large supplier of Peace Corps volunteers for several reasons, Way commented. The campus is one of about 60 universities having a permanent recruiter through whom students can get information and apply to the Philadelphia Regional Office. Penn State has programs in agriculture, forestry, science, engineering and health fields, the areas most needing volunteers.

Counting faculty, staff, and graduate students and people in the community there are about 65 former volunteers in the University Park area. Contact with a large population of foreign students, many from less developed countries where volunteers serve, is another source which can generate interest for international work.

Some recently assigned Penn State graduates:

Paul Bell, of Upper Darby, graduated in 1983 with a degree in business and art, and is now a volunteer in Tunisia helping a coastal fisheries cooperative to better organize marketing and input purchases.

Katie Hadlock, of Houston, class of 1983, is teaching secondary level mathematics in Swaziland, having had a very strong mathematics background incorporated into her administration of justice degree.

Charles Meade McCoy, of Boalsburg, class of 1983, is involved with fisheries extension work in Cameroon (West Africa). He is working with subsistence farmers, teaching them the techniques of intensive, small-pond fish culture. His biology degree provided the necessary technical background to build upon during the three months of training prior to his assignment.

Janet Norem, of Reading, who graduated in 1982 with an agronomy degree, is working on a crop program in the central African country of Zaire.

John Thompson, of Morrisville, class of 1982, is in Kenya helping to develop rural water sources in a wells construction project. He qualified with a combination of practical work experience and a bachelor of science degree in geography.

Before becoming a volunteer, a training program usually takes about three months. The areas emphasized are language and technical and cross-cultural training. Most of this takes place in the host country, although certain phases of technical training may be done in the United States. Language training is very intensive, with up to nine hours per day in class during the first four or five weeks. In many cases the trainees will be learning simultaneously the official language of the country as well as a local language, such as French and Lingala in Zaire.

Returned volunteers have put their skills developed in the Peace Corps to work in a variety of ways:

Eric Rudyj, now living in Philadelphia, graduated in 1976 with a forestry degree, and worked for three years with the Ministry of Forestry in Thailand. For the past three years he has been a recruiter for Peace Corps in the Philadelphia Regional Office, which processes Penn State applicants. He plans to return to the Southeast Asian region in the near future to continue in forestry

management.

Jeff Alwang, of Media, class of 1979 in foreign service, worked for three years in Paraguay trying to improve rural sanitation and water delivery systems. He is now completing his master of science degree in agricultural economics at Penn State, and plans to continue in international work, perhaps after a doctor of philosophy degree at either Cornell or Florida.

Gwen and Mike Frazier, of Pleasant Gap, both earned masters degrees at Penn State, and then worked in Honduras from 1975 to 1977. Gwen ran a teacher training service for home economics teachers, the first in the country. Mike was involved with a teacher training program for teachers of the blind and retarded,

and developed an instructional media lab for home economic teachers. The Fraziers are now back in the State College area, with Gwen working on a doctor of philosophy degree in home economics education. Mike is teaching secondary special education at Bald Eagle Area High School as well as teaching photography at the Centre County Vocational Technical School, Pleasant Gap, in the evenings.

James Seyler, of DuBois, left Penn State with a forestry degree in 1971 and spent the next four years as a volunteer in the Republic of Comeroon with the Ministry of Forestry. In 1976 he went on to become an assistant Peace Corps country director for agriculture and rural development projects in the Central African

Republic. After 2½ years there, he then filled the same role for forestry projects in the West African country of Upper Volta, for another 2½ years. He has now been living in Kenya for about 2 years, involved with forestry management.

Ben Way, the Peace Corps recruiter at Penn State, is from Wayne and graduated in 1977 in environmental resources management. He served from 1977 to 1981 in the Central African Republic, working in inland fisheries.

For more information on the Peace Corps at Penn State, Ben Way's address is 434 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802. The telephone number is 814-863-0249.

Sweet corn plantings need proper spacing

NEWARK, DEL. — Planting sweet corn once a week for four weeks will not always result in a month-long continuous supply, says University of Delaware extension agricultural agent Derby Walker. Strange as it seems, the corn may all be ready for harvest at about the same time.

The explanation lies in a concept farmers call "growing degree days." To grow to maturity, corn needs a certain number of warm days, so it doesn't grow as quickly in the spring as it does in the summer.

So-called 90-day sweet corn may need more than 90 days to mature if it's planted early in the season when the air is still cool. It may need less than 90 days when the weather is warm. When planting are spaced a week apart, each will mature faster than the previous one because air and soil will then be warmer.

There are two ways to ensure continuous corn, Walker explains. Plant several varieties that mature at different rates, from 64

to 94 days. Or time the interval between plantings so that late-planted corn won't catch up to early-planted corn. To make sure the interval is long enough, don't make a second planting until the corn in the initial planting is about 6 inches high and has three leaves. If the first planting was made early in the season, two or three weeks could pass before it's time for the second planting. However, the interval may be reduced to one or two weeks for subsequent plantings.

If the weather becomes very hot and dry later in the summer, your corn will mature faster but the ears will be smaller and fewer.

If you make a late planting for harvest in the fall, remember that it will again take longer for the crop to mature because of shorter days and cooler nights. That's the time to go back to early-morning varieties.

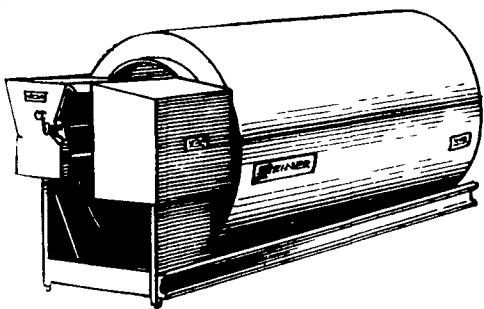
All crops grow faster in warm weather, so be sure that successive plantings are far enough apart to avoid an overabundance of

produce at one time.

Maturity dates on seed packages provide a relative indication of faster and slower maturing varieties. This information is useful if you wish to make one planting of several varieties that will mature at different times. But don't become impatient if your vegetables take longer than the package indicates, Walker says. Mother Nature's calendar controls harvest dates, not the calendar on the wall.

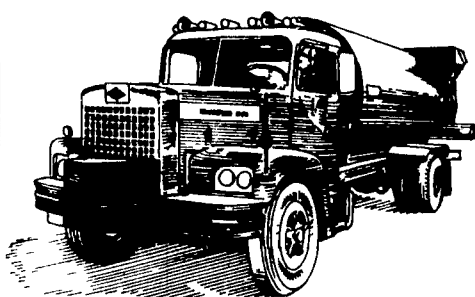


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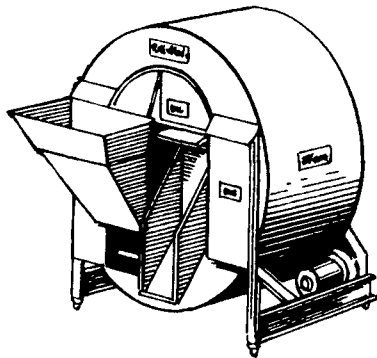
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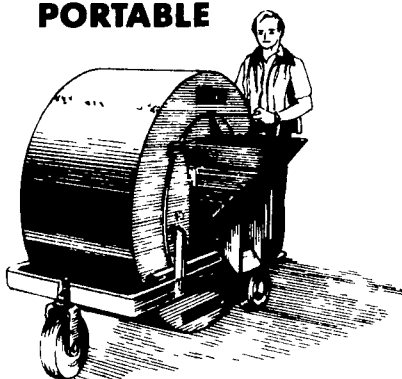
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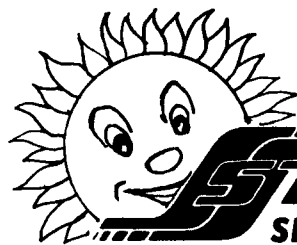


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