

## Weed hit list

(Continued from Page A1)

receive testimony for any additions or deletions to the weed hit list.

But even before the testimony began, both Ag Secretary Penrose Hallowell and Rep. Samuel Morris, chairman of the House Ag Committee — the two members present — spoke about the need for better weed cooperation in Pennsylvania between such state agencies as PennDot, Game Commission, DER, etc.

The need for better cooperation was cited for both weeds already on the noxious list and some of those being suggested as additions.

Concerning a present noxious weed — Canadian thistle — considerable opinion was expressed of the need for PennDot to get its control act together along highways and secondary roads.

Speaking about the need for better cooperation between PennDot and the farming community, Ag Sec. and dairy farmer Hallowell said:

"I live along Rt. 611. And, I know the hard time they (PennDot) have given me over the years."

Concerning new weeds being suggested for noxious designation, the Game Commission was particularly cited for such actions as introducing Autumn olive in areas like Huntingdon County and ignoring the spread of thistle in Berks County.

Donald Lutz, farmer from R1 Mohrsville, Berks County, had some choice comments about the Game Commission and the "Blue Marsh Weed Propagation Area," as he calls it.

"Last summer, I called the Game Commission and asked them to mow the musk thistle before it went to seed," he said.

"The Game Commission gave me a real educated answer.

"They told me not to worry that it wouldn't come up until next year.

"Then, they cut some thistle after pollination and baled it for mushrooms growers and did some of their own propagation."

In his very emphatic Pennsylvania Dutch tones, Lusk named, not only the Game Commission, but PennDot, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Metropolitan Edison as weed violators.

In addition to the stinging indictments of the various state agencies for their lack of weed cooperation, testimony was also given on possible additions and deletions to the noxious list, primarily from representatives of the Grange and PFA.

One of the most "unique" new weeds cited for adding to the list is "Mile-a-minute," the local name for an Asiatic weed introduced from the Malay Peninsula through

a nursery in the Stewartstown area of York County possibly 30 or 40 years ago.

Actually its spread is closer to a mile-a-year, according to Nathan Hartwig, weed scientist at Penn State, who says it has spread out over about a 75-mile radius of Stewartstown.

It's now found in York, Lancaster, Adams and Dauphin counties and in Maryland. It can grow to a height of 20 feet in a season.

Birds disperse the seed, which has been found by the state in wheat seed coming out of York County. This illustrates one of the purposes of the Noxious Weed List — to provide teeth for the state to keep the unwanted weed seed out of Certified Seed.

Main spokesmen for the Grange were Lutz, of Berks County; Bernard McMath, Shade Gap, Huntingdon County; and Charles Wismer, State Master.

Lutz' two candidates for the list were the two thistles he potted and brought to the meeting — Spear or bull thistle and Musk or Russian thistle.

"I've been hoeing for 46 years so I know about these thistles that came out of my meadow," Lutz said.

McMath explained about the Autumn olive brought into Huntingdon County by the Game Commission, which has since grown to small tree height and contains large thorns, capable of piercing equipment tires.

"We predict that Autumn olive will be as bad as Multiflora rose," Wismer said.

"It's so bad already it's suffocating the farmland."

William Adams, of the PFA, testified for five additions: shattercane, water hemlock, autumn olive, Jimson weed (thorn apple) and Tartarian honeysuckle.

Other suggested additions included the Mile-a-minute, Poison Ivy, Ragweed, Poison hemlock, Kudzu and Nightshade.

The Bureau of Plant Industry has also received suggestions to remove Canadian thistle, chicory and Multiflora rose from the list.

Expansion of the noxious weed list is now being partially considered because of the trend to no-till farming, in which reduced cultivation is more conducive to their spread.

Hartwig of Penn State also cited the difference in control emphasis between neighboring states. Maryland has vigorously attacked and controlled Johnsongrass, but Pennsylvania has not, with the result that it is moving back into Maryland from neighboring Pennsylvania areas.

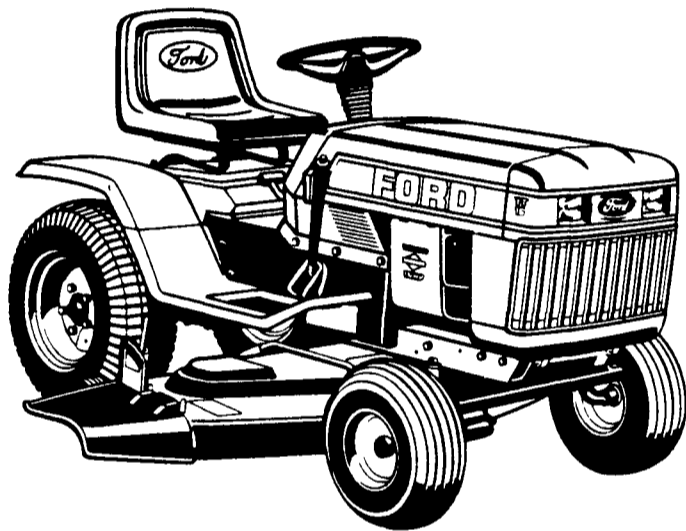
The testimony will now be given to all members of the committee, including those absent: Sen. Edward Helfrick, chairman of the Senate Ag Committee; Nicholas

Benedictis, DER secretary; and Peter Duncan, Game Commission director.

They will then meet to officially consider any changes in the list.



Bernard McMath, of Shade Gap, Huntingdon County, carefully holds clippings of Autumn olive which contains thorns large enough to pierce a tire.



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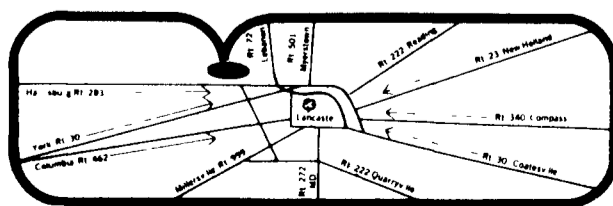
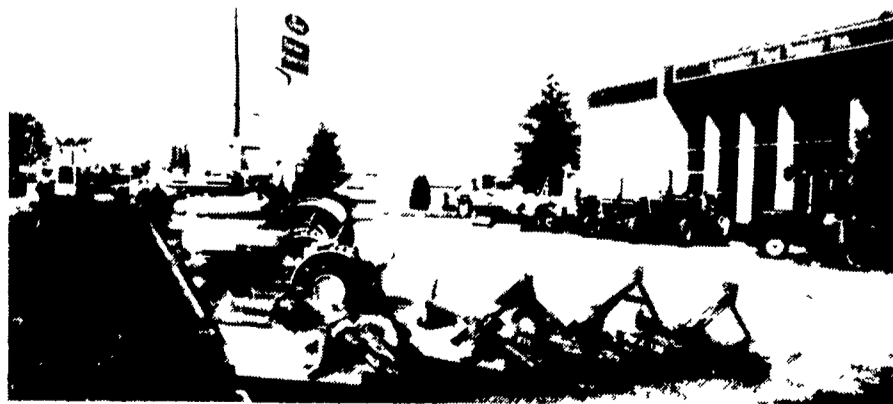
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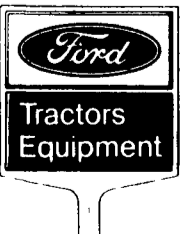
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