

## Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



We left Victoria, on the last leg of our Canadian tour, by driving through Beacon Hill Park. Here we saw a 127-foot cedar totem pole. All during our trip the weather was wonderful except for one day.

Our group had several hours to walk through the 54-acre Butchart Gardens. Their special gardens are dazzling and we had lunch here before boarding another ship of

the British Columbia Ferry fleet. Our bus was one of the 450 vehicles that it carried across the Strait of Georgia to Vancouver.

For our protection, our key numbers were not the same as our room numbers. And, one time I forgot my 504 room number and had to wait for our luggage to arrive as the key had 600 printed on it. One evening we took a sundae back to the hotel for a friend but he was not in his room and so Allen had to eat a second one. The

friend told us that he loved strawberry ice cream and could not find any.

Vancouver is the third largest city in Canada. Here we saw black squirrels and western red cedar trees that were 400 years old. We took a lot of pictures of flowers in Queen Elizabeth Park. In a Canadian Craft Museum we saw large tapestries exhibited by textile artists. We shopped here in the Pacific Mall for some gifts. The items displayed in the Vancouver Art Museum gift shop were quite expensive.

Our group had a delicious salmon farewell dinner the night before five taxis took us to the Airport. We spent all day on planes and in airports waiting for our suitcases as we transferred from Air Canada to U.S. Air. In Toronto we turned in \$230 in Canadian money and got \$167 in U.S. money. In Philadelphia our plane was late to Harrisburg so we found our son, Philip, waiting to drive us home. Most of the people in our group had visited Lancaster County at one time or another and this surprised me. It was so nice to be home again.



## Fall Cleanup

NEWARK, Del. — Sanitation is the home gardener's first and best defense against plant diseases and insect problems, and October is the time for end-of-the-season cleanup. According to University of Delaware Cooperative Extension plant pathologist Bob Mulrooney, a few sanitary practices in the yard and garden now will encourage healthier plants for the next growing season.

"Because dead plants provide winter hiding places for insects and diseases, spade them under or compost the plant tops," Mulrooney says. "You can even compost diseased or insect-infested materials. The only exceptions are plants that have died from wilt caused by Fusarium or Verticillium fungi. These fungi produce overwintering structures that can survive composting."

Mulrooney says that, in general, the benefits derived from compost to improve plant health outweigh the possibility of introducing pathogenic organisms. Most disease-causing fungi and bacteria do not survive composting because they cannot compete against the normal decay-causing organisms.

"Another safeguard is to use compost only when it is fully broken down," Mulrooney advises. "Completely composted materials will be crumbly to the touch and no longer identifiable as leaves, plants or grass cuttings."

If you don't want to remove the crop debris from the vegetable garden, Mulrooney recommends tilling it into the soil. This alternative offers several advantages. Tilling mixes the organic matter into the soil, which improves the soil structure and fertility. Turning the soil over also interrupts the life cycle of many insect pests, exposing pupae and larvae to winter cold.

Another landscape sanitation practice for fall is pruning trees and shrubs. Cut out and destroy all dead wood and any wood that shows evidence of disease or insect infestation. Be sure to prune either before or after the leaves fall. Pruning trees during leaf-drop could open trees to infection or infestation.

As for the fallen leaves, rake and then dispose of or compost. Chopping up leaves with the lawn mower will speed decomposition.

"Discourage Plant Diseases in the Home Garden," a Cooperative Extension fact sheet that gives more detailed information on fall landscape cleanup, is available from county Extension offices.

Advertorial

# The University of Wisconsin now evaluates forages using Milk/Acre.

The Department of Dairy Science & Agronomy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has developed a program that evaluates forage production in terms of milk/acre. The only recognized program of its kind, it allows farmers to assess a forage based on quality (R.F.V.) and yield (tons/acre).

In determining milk/acre, the program assumes a cow weight 1,350 lbs. in mid-lactation stage producing 70 lbs. of milk/day.

Information from a forage analysis is used to calculate relative feed value (R.F.V.). Then using yield/acre, R.F.V. and the above assumptions, a calculation is made for milk/acre.

For example, a forage with an R.F.V. of 110 and a yield of 5.0 tons of dry matter produces 6,343 lbs. of milk/acre. Contrast that with a forage having an R.F.V. of 122 at 5.0 tons of dry matter, which produces 8,365 lbs. of milk/acre.

The higher the R.F.V. at an equivalent yield, the higher the milk/acre — and the greater the forage quality. By the same token, the higher the yield at an equivalent R.F.V., the higher the milk/acre.

For more information about the program and how to apply it your dairy operation, call Hoffman Seeds at 1-800-776-7929.

### Calculating Milk per Acre from R.F.V. and Tons per Acre of Dry Matter

