

All Gardens
Great & Small
by
York Co.
Horticultural Agent
Tom Becker



Cambria Selects Dairy Princess

EBENSBURG (Cambria Co.) — Tammy Kuzar, daughter of Robert and Sandy Kuzar, wears the Cambria County dairy princess

crowns. Crowned recently at the pageant held at the Cambria County Extension office, Tammy will promote the consumption and sale of milk and dairy products and create better relations between urban and rural people through her contacts. In the fall, Tammy will be a senior at Cambria Heights High School, where she is a member of the Foreign Travel Club and SADD. After high school graduation, Tammy hopes to attend Edinboro University and major in education.

the county 4-H dairy club and has been a dairy ambassador for three years. She also enjoys reading and photography.

Dairy ambassadors who will assist in promotion are Carolyn Itle, daughter of Patrick and Karen Itle of Loretto; Stephanie Dixon, daughter of Gerald Hogue and Janet Dixon of Ebensburg; Jody Itle, daughter of Matthew and Elizabeth Itle of Loretto; Rachel Ralph, daughter of Robert and Marjita Ralph of Loretto; Lindsey Itle, daughter of William and Joyce Itle of Loretto; and Tom Sawyer, son of Dennis and Janet Sawyer of Mineral Point.

Tammy has seven of her own dairy animals on the family's Kuzar Dairy Farm. She is active in



Cambria County Dairy Princess Tammy Kuzar, sitting, will have plenty of help with dairy promotion. From left are dairy ambassadors Carolyn Itle, 1995 Dairy Princess Marie Lieb, ambassador Jody Itle, and Lindsey Itle.

obic decomposition.

If you do find your mulch went sour, spread the mulch out in a thin layer on a paved surface. Let the toxic vapors naturally dissipate for three to seven days. Then apply the mulch to a small area of plantings and wait for several days. If plants don't show wilting, discoloration or other abnormal growth indicative of sour mulch, the mulch is safe the use on the rest of your garden.

Avoid using sour mulch in containers, recently planted flower beds, or along the edge of landscape beds. Annual flowers planted prior to spreading sour mulch may die withing 24 hours. Plants affected often have chlorotic leaves, leaf scorch or plant dieback.

Another way to check for sour mulch is to check to pH. Sour mulch will have a pH of 1.8 of 2.5 which makes neutralizing with lime unreasonable.

Lastly, do no overapply any type of mulch. Dense mulches like sawdust should not be more than 2 inches thick while shredded bark a maximum of 2 to 4 inches thick.

ammonia, it has properly gone sour and should not be spread in flowerbeds.


Finely shredded mulches are especially prone to 'sourness.' Often caused by compaction store mulch in several small piles rather than one large one. Mulch piles that remain intact for more than one week should be no higher than four feet.

Mulch piles that are used and replenished regularly can be higher than four feet. Shape piles so that water runs off and does not puddle into the center of the pile. Water fills pore spaces, displacing oxygen, resulting in sour mulch. Better yet, cover mulch piles with a tarp to prevent waterlogging.

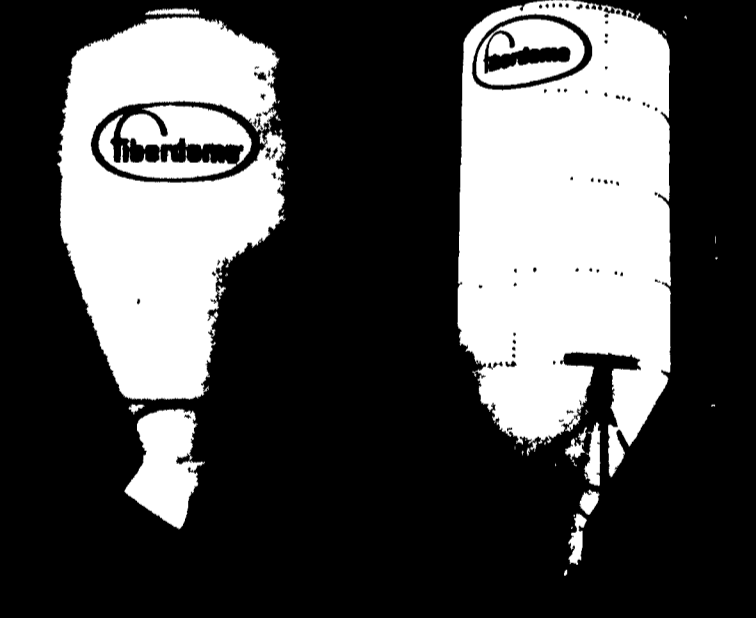
Turn or mix piles if they are stored in one location for a long time. This allows any toxic byproducts to dissipate and incorporates fresh air to reduce further anaer-

Avoid 'Sour' Mulch
Lots of things are sour: grapes, cherries, bark mulch, etc. Even wood chip mulch can go sour if not stored properly. Decomposing within large (6-12 feet high) mulch piles occasionally sour. Without oxygen a toxic by-product results of various organic acids and alcohol. If mulch is spread in landscape beds these acrid odors are highly toxic to plants. These strongly pungent odors are released after breaking open the pile.

If you are buying mulch (shredded tree bark, old sawdust, mushroom compost or bark chips) and storing it for later use, keep these precautions in mind. Most bark mulch that was stored properly, should not go sour. Mulches that have not soured should have a fresh garden aroma. If the mulch smells like vinegar, sulfur or



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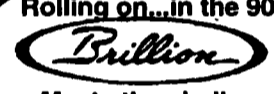
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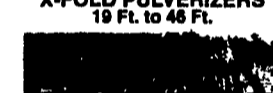




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