

You Ask, You Answer

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QUESTION — A Reinholds reader would like to purchase a used flat beater and 12-quart bowl for a Reynolds Electric Company commercial mixer serial number C37129.

QUESTION — Betty Sterner had a set of 12 plates limited edition 1979 Franklin Mint Porcelain by Peter Banett, but the January plate broke. Can anyone help her find a plate to replace the broken one?

QUESTION — Roman Peters, Port Trevorton, would like to know where to purchase miniature horseshoes that are approximately 1½ -2-inch in width, measured from the outer edges.

QUESTION — Lois Babcock would like to know where to buy Raggedy Ann and Andy candy or candle molds.

QUESTION — Eva Burrell, Glen Gardner, N.J., writes that her local Senior Center makes loom and crocheted small-sized rugs from strips of cotton, cotton blend, or polyester knit material. Their material supplier from Allentown has gone out of business. Does anyone know of another source for the strips of material?

QUESTION — Linda Gorman of Wayland, Mass., requests directions on how to make salve for cuts and wounds of livestock. She had requested this earlier and someone had given her a phone number for the Haffer's Salve recipe. They wanted \$50,000 for the recipe. She didn't want it that badly.

QUESTION — Doug Bunnell, Endicott, N.Y., would like to know where to find replacement bags for older types of hand-cranked cyclone seeders. There are replacement bags for the newer plastic seeders, but they will not fit the old wood base seeders.

QUESTION — A reader from Loysville would like to know where to buy black wool knit World War II Navy caps.

QUESTION — Ada King, 5131 Amish Rd., Kinzers, PA 17535, would like a book called "Shoo-Fly Girl" by Lois Lenski.

QUESTION — Jean Nestler, Halifax, would like to know of someone who can put new handles on old butchering knives.

QUESTION — Millie Donmoyer, Annville, wants pattern directions for making baskets out of telephone books.

QUESTION — Janice Kurtz, Millerstown, acquired a plastic Aqua-Matic Jet powered blender from the 1950 era manufactured by Aqua-Matic Products Co., Oceanside, N.Y. Kurtz needs the nozzle and hose assembly but when she wrote to the address, her letter was returned with addressee unknown. Anyone have the present address or parts?

QUESTION — Kathy Helsel, Woodbury, would like to know how to make vanilla-scented ornaments to paint or decorate.

QUESTION — A reader would like a formula for the old green and red paint used on old wooden farm implements. The paint looks like it was very thin and soaked into the wood.

QUESTION — John Randall, Holcomb, N.Y., lost the ad in which someone advertised portable scales with 5,000-pound capacity in this paper in January.

QUESTION — BJ Stoltzfus, Mohnton, would like to know where to find a horse hair wood stove brush, not a broom type.

QUESTION — Milton B. Moyer, Hummelstown, would like to know where to purchase spike oil, an antiseptic for dressing wounds.

QUESTION — Robert DeLong, Walden, N.Y., would like to know where to purchase Falu rodfarg paint, which is made in Sweden. It is a superior water-based red paint, ideal for barns, which previously was available from a company in Georgia.

QUESTION — A Turbotville reader would like to know where to find literature or an owner's manual for Van Berkel's original hand crank meat slicer from U.S. Slicing Machine Co. It was made in 1912 in La Porte, Ind.

QUESTION — Bill Sherwood, Beavertown, is looking for a kid's wagon made by Sherwood Company with the name Sherwood printed on the side.

QUESTION — Virginia Haines, Tabernacle, N.J., would like instructions for making eggs look like wood. She saw it demonstrated on television but didn't hear the amount of vinegar and water nor did she get the address so she could write to them for the recipe. She said that a flower or design is put on the raw egg and wrapped in nylon stocking pulled tight with a twister. Let it cook slowly in onion skins for four or five hours. She writes that the eggs are beautiful and look just like wood and will last a lifetime.

QUESTION — Louise Graybeal, Renick, W.Va., would like to purchase an electric milker for one milch cow.

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



GETTING THE BEST BUY ON TOPSOIL

Any "Great and Small" gardener who is in the market for topsoil would take issue with the saying "cheap as dirt." Dirt, or soil as horticulturists prefer to say, can be quite expensive and sometimes difficult to find.

Topsoil is usually sold by the cubic yard or by the ton. If the soil is sold by the ton then there is slightly less than a cubic yard of soil in a ton of clay loam (2,295 lbs.). Approximately 12 cubic yards are needed to cover 1,000 square feet with 4 inches of top soil.

All soils are not equal. A good topsoil should be a sandy silt or clay loam with good structure. Avoid soils that are full of large clods and rocks. The soil should also be slightly acidic with a pH of 6.0-6.8. Look also for soils with at least three percent organic matter.

If you're buying a large quantity of topsoil start by using a Penn State soil test. It will indicate pH and nutrient levels in the soil. It will recommend quantities of lime and fertilizer needed for the plants you will be growing. Cost of the soil kits are \$6 and are available at the Extension Office.

QUESTION — Jack Gaul, Pipersville, would like to know where to get information on a Standard Monarch garden tractor.

QUESTION — Milton Haines, Tabernacle, N.J., would like to know where to find transmission gears for a Midland garden tractor model #MR30, Serial #1017.

QUESTION — Mae Stancill, 2344 Pennington Rd., Bel Air, Md. 21015-1204, wants a source for plain white and printed feed bags in which animal feed was sold. She also wants a source for the tissue iron on embroidery patterns of yesteryear. Also, does anyone have an old cookbook from Rumford or Clabber Girl baking powder company that they would like to get rid of? She will pay postage.

QUESTION — J.R. Pepler, Glen Mills, would like to find a source for ram horns. He wants to make shepherd's crooks from them as they do in England. The horn is softened and bent into the top end.

QUESTION — C.Stage, Lawrenceville, has a hoosier cabinet that is painted in the original green with small black flowers on top, two roll-style doors, and a flour mill. The bottom half has been painted over to a lighter green. It has the manufacturing tag #013. She would like an estimate of the value as it is or stripped down. The wood is not oak, but a lighter wood.

ANSWER — Thanks to Darlene Heisey, Mt. Pleasant Mills, for answering two questions. June Kummerer, 1505 Kummerer Rd., Pottstown, PA 19464, wanted books on bobbin lace and Frances Krall, Myerstown, wanted a craft book with directions for five-strand rug braiding. Both can receive books requested if they write to House of White Birches, 306 E. Parr Rd., Berne, IN 46711. Darlene writes that she does many crafts and orders many books through that address.

ANSWER — Leslie Heullitt, Rock Cave, W.Va., wanted a mail-order company that sells feedgrade ground kelp from 50-pound bags. Thanks to an anonymous reader who writes that it may be ordered from David Kunkle, 216 Pleasant Valley Rd., East Earl, PA 17519-9301. Phone is (717) 445-4794 or Fax (717) 445-6082.

ATTENTION — A reader writes don't throw away used Christmas and other greeting cards. Send to A.L. Stoltzfus, 1319 Tanning Yard Hlw. Rd., Peach Bottom, PA 17563.

ANSWER — Mrs. A.S. Martin, 2354 Main St., Narvon, PA 17555, has a lot of achimenes bulbs with deep purple flowers. She calls them monkey faces. If this is what Peggy Gordon is looking for, she may have them for paying the postage to Mrs. Martin.

ANSWER — Leo Rodgers, Tamaqua, wanted an operator's manual for a New Holland stack wagon model #1012 and for a Massey Ferguson Model #120 baler. Thanks to Braden Cammauf, who works for New Holland. He writes that the address to receive replacement operator's and service manuals for all past and current New Holland products is New Holland North America, Inc. 20770 Westwood Drive, Strongsville, Ohio 44136 and the toll-free phone number is 1-800-635-4913. If Leo wants to order by phone, the specific operator's manual number for a 1012 bale wagon is 42100224.

TOMATO CRACKING

Tomato cracking or yellow shoulders is common on tomatoes ripening in 85° or higher temperatures. Yellow blotches around the stem scar is caused by all carotene being produced in the fruit.

Some varieties are resistant to cracking. Both high temperature and a fluctuation of moisture can cause cracking. Try to maintain moisture in the soil for good tomato growth by using a mulch or by watering more frequently.

POISON BERRY

A very good crop of berry-like fruit is growing on bush honeysuckle. This honeysuckle is growing along many of our roads and edges of fields. The fruit is brightly colored — either red or orange, with some shades between. Often we are asked, is the fruit edible? The answer is definitely not.

Honeysuckle fruit is always born in pairs in the axil of the leaf. The fruit stalk is very short and the fruit is set close to the stem. They have a soft texture and are quite "juicy" when crushed. The outer stem is translucent.

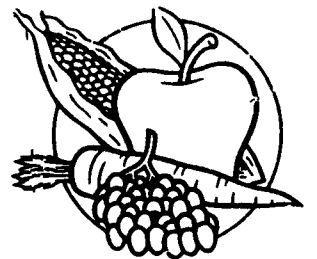
Foliage on the honeysuckle opposite leaves on the stem. Most of the common types will have leaves that range from 1 to 2 inches in length and/or diameter. The leaves may also be slightly velvety on some types as well.

The fruit is not edible and can cause some distress if eaten. The greatest concern in most instances is from small children picking and eating the fruit. The fruit has no real value except for birds who do eat and spread the seed to new areas and fields.

There have been questions about the value of the fruit for janes and jellies — it should not be used for this purpose.

Overall the plants do make attractive ornamental materials and work well in a more natural type of landscape development. They make ideal background and border plants where little or no maintenance is planned or desired. If honeysuckle is allowed to persist, it will grow into an attractive small tree in time.

Any questions regarding the above article can be addressed to Tom Becker, Penn State Cooperative Extension at (717) 840-8408.



Safe To Eat?

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Other notes: In some recipes the starter itself leavens the bread. In other recipes, such as the Amish Friendship Bread, added chemical leaveners (baking powder and soda) or yeast leaven the product. Good starters add characteristic flavor and texture to bread products. With recipes such as the Amish Friendship Bread there are enough other ingredients added that inexperienced bakers may not know whether they have the intended flavor and other effects of a proper starter. Again, practice and experience, along with good recipes, will aid in making successful sourdough products.