

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



amount of wind striking the house helps save energy. These lower shrubs will not shade the house.

For a windbreak choose plants that are relatively hardy for your area. These plants should grow quickly and provide the needed cover. Finally, it should have a form and growth characteristic that supplies a dense barrier to the wind.

The following plants are hardy in most areas in Pennsylvania, have a dense habit of growth and do well in most soils.

Deciduous trees for windbreaks: Lombardy poplar, hybrid poplar, Japanese larch, amur maple, red maple, European hornbeam, Washington Hawthorn, Green Ash, Pin Oak, Japanese Tree Lilac, and Blackshaw viburnum. Note: Lombardy poplar, hybrid poplar and Japanese larch are often a temporary windbreak that's removed after 10 years.

Medium size evergreens for the outside rows: Colorado blue spruce, Douglas fir, Serbian spruce, white spruce, or white fir.

Tall Evergreens for inside rows: hemlock, white pine, red pine, Austrian pine and Norway spruce.

Shrubs for windbreaks: Burning bush, witch hazel, beautybush, amur privet, common lilac, arrowwood viburnum, nannyberry viburnum, and Siebold viburnum.

Before planting, check local ordinances that restrict planting near boundary lines. Soil test the area before planting. Use

good quality plant material for the initial planting. Balled and burlapped or container grown plants establish faster than bare rooted material. If plants have to struggle for several seasons they are slow to form into a good windbreak.

Keep trees watered well and weed free to reduce competition for moisture and nutrients in the soil. Periodic soil testing and corrective pruning also helps to assure that they are getting an

optimum level of nutrients for good growth.

Windbreaks also serve as noise barriers, visual screenings, effective snow barriers and a refuge for wildlife. For more information, contact your extension circular 392, Windbreaks and Shade Trees.

Any questions regarding the above article can be addressed to Tom Becker, Penn State Cooperative Extension at (717) 840-7408.

Landscaping With A Windbreak

During the winter months tall trees planted in one, two, or three rows help control wind movement across open land and around the houses of farmers and gardeners. A windbreak located 50 to 200 feet upwind of the house will greatly reduce wind velocity and snow accumulation.

Important factors in the effectiveness of any windbreak include the height of the plants, the width of the planting strip, and the number of plant rows are directly related to the amount of wind reduction. The taller and wider of the planting, the more effective it is. Rows should be 10 to 12 feet apart with trees in a staggered arrangement. The types of plants used also have a bearing on the value of the planting as a windbreak (generally evergreens are the most effective). Large areas of dense forests upwinds often can take the place of a windbreak.

Your windbreak success depend on adequate space on the property to allow for enough plants. Unfortunately many residential properties do not have enough space to plant an effective windbreak. Tall plants used near the house shades the house in the winter and actually increases heating costs because of lost solar radiation falling on the house. Most evergreen trees can spread 10 to 12 feet at their base which presents a space problem. They also get tall enough to create a shade problem when used close to a structure.

Where there is limited space on the property consider using a dense shrub of small tree border or planting. Where possible extend a windbreak 50 feet beyond the ends of the area to be protected. This planting helps reduce the initial velocity of the wind moving across the property. Such plantings help to reduce the wind speed for a distance of between 4 to 6 times their height. Any reduction in the

**Financial Aid Hotline,
Chat Night
Open For Students**

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) - Students and their families can receive information on applying for financial aid by calling a toll-free telephone hotline or logging into a LIVE Internet chat forum, the Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (PASFAA) announced today.

The hotline and chat forum will be offered January 26-29, between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. The events are sponsored by PASFAA. January is Financial Aid Awareness Month in Pennsylvania.

PASFAA financial aid administrators will answer questions

about a variety of financial aid programs and services, including grants, loans and work-study jobs.

Students and parents can receive telephone assistance by calling one of the numbers below.

- Western Pennsylvania: (800) 762-0025
- Central Pennsylvania: (800) 692-7392
- Eastern Pennsylvania (800) 729-4724

The Internet chat forum can be accessed through the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency's (PHEAA) website at www.pheaa.org.

Better Kid Care Workshop

WESTCHESTER (Chester Co.) - "Insurance and Legal Matters for Home-based Childcare Providers" will be the topic of the next Better Kid Care workshop sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension, Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester, on Tuesday, January 27, 7-9 p.m. Registration for this satellite (distance education) program, which offers DPW credit hours, is \$5 per person due in advance.

Learn what insurance is nec-

essary for the appropriate management of a home business, where to look, and how to get help in dealing with insurance and legal matters. On-site activities will supplement the satellite broadcast from Penn State.

The next program in the Better Kid Care series, "A Good Four-letter Word: PLAY," will be Tuesday, March 3. To receive registration information, contact the Extension office at (610) 696-3500.

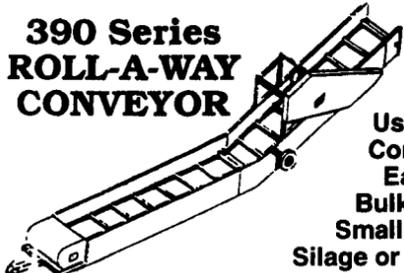
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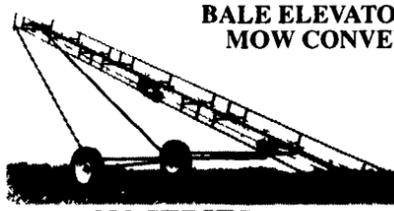
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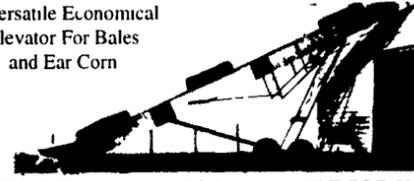


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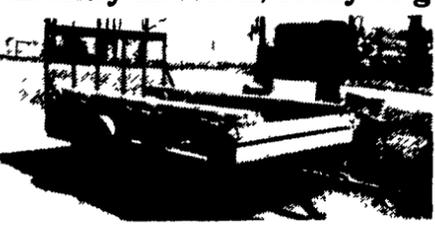
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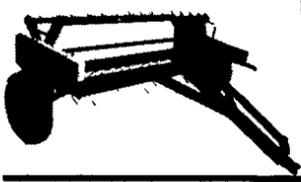
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