

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



**BUY FRUITS AND
VEGETABLES GROWN IN
PENNSYLVANIA**

Shoppers go to the supermarket once or twice a week and visit roadside markets occasionally. Market research has found customers visit farm markets for a variety of reasons. These include freshness, product quality, locally grown, seasonal specials, competitive prices, friendly service, connection to the land, and entertainment value. Freshness and product quality are the two most important for 75% of the customers polled. Locally grown is increasing in importance. It ties in directly with quality and freshness.

Get the latest on growing potatoes..bedding plants..greenhouse vegetables..small fruits..cut and dried flowers..marketing..and more by visiting the Pennsylvania Commercial Vegetable Conference and Trade Show..January 27th to the 29th at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. For more information contact your County Extension Office or call (717) 694-3596.

Make a New Year's resolution to control plant diseases in your garden. The tedious tasks of selectively removing spotted foliage, pruning dead branches, removing plants, sanitizing equipment and spraying a fungi-

cide probably would not make it on the "Top 10 Joys of Gardening" list.

Fortunately, the increasing availability of disease-resistant plants offer some hope. As you pick and choose from gardening catalogs, be alert to any disease-resistance information listed. Review the past growing seasons. If you've had problems with a particular disease, find out if plants resistant to that disease are available. Some companies list specific disease information.

The terms "resistance" and "tolerance" do not mean that a variety is immune to all diseases. Resistance means a plant has the ability to avoid infection. Tolerance means a plant can withstand a moderate disease infection without a substantial loss. The degree of resistance or tolerance can vary under different environmental conditions and with different strains of the disease pathogen.

You can avoid many diseases by using resistant species and varieties. Tomato varieties are available that are resistant to Verticillium wilt (the "V" after the variety name), Fusarium wilt (F), and root knot nematode (N). Wilt fungi invade the

water conducting vessels, causing infected tomato plants to show drought stress symptoms, wilt and die. Root knot nematode infects and causes small galls on roots. Certain varieties of pepper, squash, cucumber, bean and sweet corn, and other vegetables show resistance to various diseases. Virus diseases may cause stunting, leaf distortion and reduced yields.

Using disease resistance is only one component of a disease prevention program. Protect your garden by selecting plants

suited for your garden's location. Inspect plants for disease symptoms in the garden. Follow the specific cultural requirements of each plant species. Finally, scout plants often in order to spot disease problems early.

For a packet of 10 vegetable fact sheets (Asparagus to tomatoes). Contact Sara at (717) 840-7408.

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

Foreign Exchange Needs Host Families

EMMAUS (Lehigh Co.) - The American Intercultural Student Exchange, a non-profit educational foundation, is seeking local host families for high school foreign exchange students for the 1998-99 school year. AISE's students come from more than 40 countries world wide, and the program is expanding operations all the time.

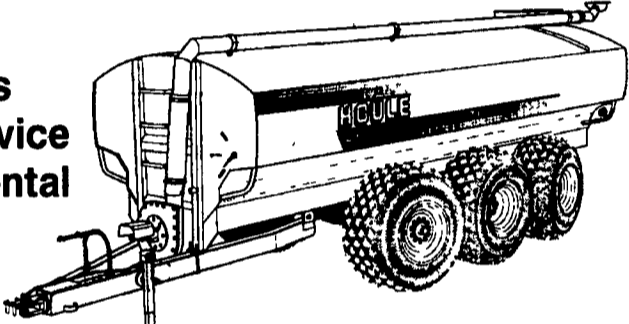
Every year, AISE places thousands of exchange students with loving host families throughout the United States. AISE exchange students live with American families and attend local high schools during their 10-month cultural exchange experiences. American host families provide these young ambassadors with a place to sleep, meals, and a family atmosphere in which to live.

AISE students are eager to learn about government, history, customs and language, while at the same time leaving a lasting impression of their cultures in the minds and hearts of their American host families and peers. Call AISE at 1-800-SIBLING or visit the AISE web site at www.sigling.org for more information on hosting a foreign exchange student in your home.

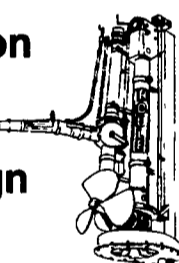


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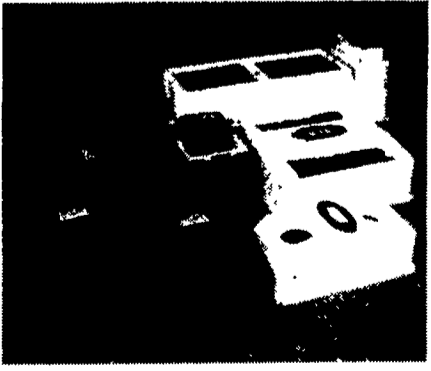
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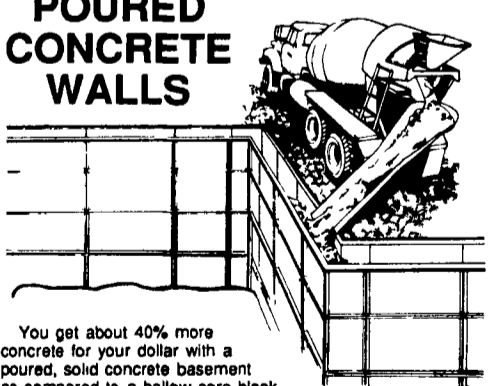
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