

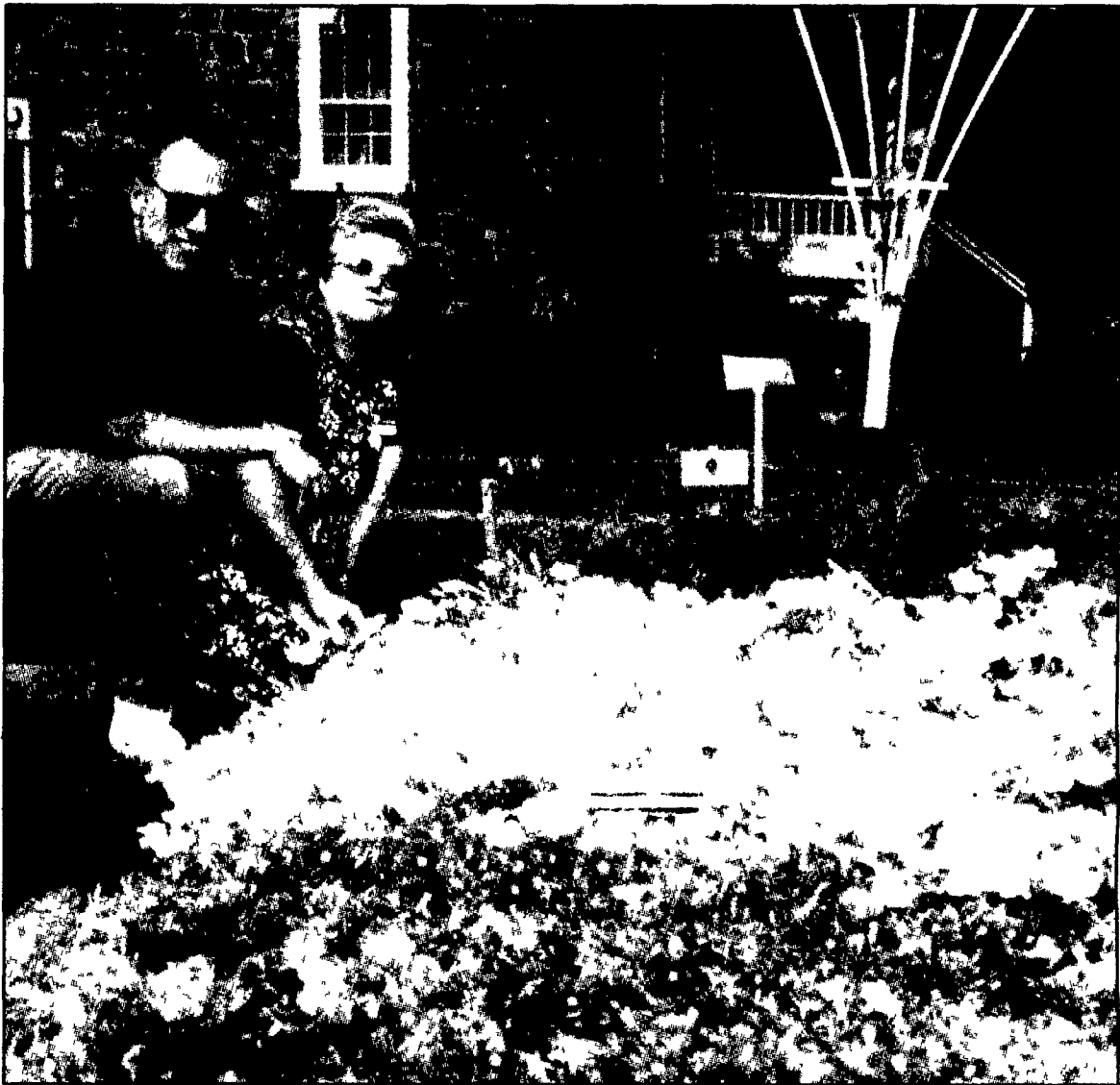
Grower & Marketer

Promoting The Eastern Vegetable, Fruit, Nursery, And
Direct Marketing Industries

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, January 22, 2000



Gardener Selects Program Gives New Meaning To 'Colorful' Gardening



Kathy Engle-Debes of West York, a Master Gardener since 1991, and one of two evaluators of the extension plants grown in the Trial Garden, and Tom Becker, Agent/horticulture in York County. The two look over the Pink, Misty Lilac, and Purple Wave petunias that were hit by the drought, but after rain returned to radiant bloom. Engle-Debes & Becker were pleased with the Petunias' performance.

JINNY WILT

Adams Co. Correspondent

YORK (York Co.)—If you live in York County and are looking for a flower that will put a bloom in your garden, try the "new look" variety of a *Celosia Argentata*, or *Coreopsis Rosea* "American Dream."

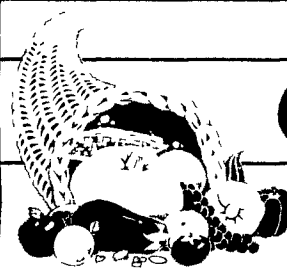
Then there is the *Petunia X hybrida* "Misty Lilac Wave," chosen the very best in York County in the Pennsylvania Gardener Selects Plants of the Year program. The project was undertaken this summer by the York County Master

Gardeners and the Penn State Extension Office in trial gardens at John Rudy County Park.

At 28 other sites throughout the commonwealth, gardeners planted "new" plant varieties in an effort to determine which would perform best in that particular locale.

Tom Becker, York County extension agent/horticulture, said that York County has a thriving green industry. These businesses provide bedding plants, flowering annuals, perennials, and woody landscape plants to

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Calendar

Saturday, January 22

Cornell Maple Production School, Bradford County extension office, Towanda, 9:30 a.m.

Monday, January 24

Northeastern Pa. Maple Syrup Producers' Association Annual Meeting and Dinner, Bethany Methodist Church, Bethany, 10:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 25

Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Growers Convention, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, thru Jan. 27.

Thursday, January 27

Northeastern Pa. Turf School and Trade Show, Woodlands Inn and Resort, Wilkes-Barre.

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Planned, Installed Correctly, High Tunnels Benefit Growers

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff

RIDGWAY (Elk Co.) — A couple of years of using high tunnels have proven fruitful, literally, for Elk County grower Greg Burns, multicounty extension agent.

Serving as consultant for his two sons, who run the high tunnel operation, Burns installed the houses about two years ago. One larger house contains cantaloupes and the other houses tomatoes.

The houses are similar to ones that Burns inspected last August at the Penn State Ag Progress Days in Rockspring. At the Penn State research site, houses measure 17 feet wide by 36 feet long and eight feet high.

At the Ridgeway location, one house measures 32 feet long and the other about 40 feet long, and only 12 feet wide. The houses, like those at

Rockspring, use a four-year clear 6-mil plastic. Burns uses black plastic mulch inside.

Burns obtained construction information and material from a company in Moultonboro, New Hampshire. The houses, available in kits, cost \$900 and \$700, Burns said. Each took about a day to assemble.

The beauty of using high tunnels is that, inexpensively, crops can be planted earlier and rushed to market ahead of crops planted conventionally. The key is to ensure proper drip irrigation and to roll up the sides regularly. And, if necessary, ensure a heating system, such as a portable propane furnace, is installed to protect from freezing temperatures.

The past growing season Burns grew watermelons, muskmelons, and tomatoes. Because of the difficulty in harvesting the watermelons,

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Elk County grower Greg Burns, multicounty extension agent, inspects high tunnels at the Penn State Ag Progress Days in Rockspring. The houses are similar to the ones that Burns uses at his farm. Burns' houses are separately sized, one 32 feet long and the other about 40 feet long, and only 12 feet wide. Photo by Andy Andrews