

Celebrate A Great American Anniversary...The Day Cows Came to America — May 14, 1611

Noreen Rouse
Sullivan Co. Dairy Princess

Milk...wholesome, soothing, nutritious. If you can hardly imagine life without milk, cheese, ice cream or butter, then you can certainly appreciate the significance of the first dairy cow's arrival in America. Indeed, that was a happy occasion for the colonists and a history-making day for American cuisine and nutrition.

When the colonists arrived in the new land in 1607, they discovered many riches, but no cows and therefore no milk, no butter and no cheese. Four years later, on May 14, 1611, when the first cow arrived at Jamestown, Virginia, the pilgrims shared their good fortune with their

friendly Indian hosts. Historical accounts tell how Cherokees, who had never known livestock before, were particularly impressed by the cow's velvety elixir.

The cow thrived on the great, unspoiled continent, but dairying on a big scale was still a long way off. Until the 1850s, every family had its own cow. Excess milk was used for cheese and butter, but little was sold since transportation was by horse and wagon and no refrigeration was available. If you wanted milk when you traveled, then you took the cow with you. Pioneers took their cows into unsettled territories and even Admiral Richard E. Byrd the famous ex-

plorer, took cows with him when he went to the South Pole.

Several innovations in the mid-1800s changed the status of the family cow. In 1841, the first regular shipment of milk by rail was made from Orange County, New York to New York City. In 1856, Gail Borden invented the condensed milk process. Refrigeration came into use in 1880. The first pasteurizing machine was introduced in 1895, and the first compulsory pasteurization law was passed in Chicago in 1908.

Improvements in dairying through the years have meant that one cow can now produce the milk that it once took ten cows to produce.

Control Weeds

MONTROSE (Susquehanna Co.) — How would you define a weed?

A nasty plant that causes you angst? A creeping vine that overtakes your lawn?

A further description might be that it is a plant that is not wanted. Whatever your definition, a weed is simply a plant growing out of place. To farmers, corn in a soybean field is a weed to gardeners, last year's tomatoes sprouting in the green bean patch can be called weeds. Generally, but not always, weeds are hard to eliminate.

What can you do about these pesky plants that grow where you don't want them? There are several ways to control them.

First, consider prevention. Removing undesirable plants before they flower and develop seeds will reduce the number of weed seeds added to your garden. Most weeds produce a huge number of seeds. When

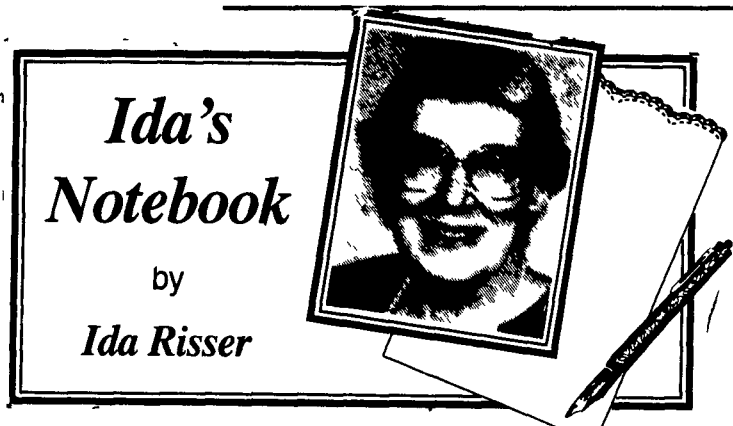
adding mulch or compost to your garden, be sure that it is weed free. Old weedy hay may be a cheap source of mulch, but it could add unwanted weed seeds that you would have to deal with in future years. While hot composting may kill many seeds, cold composting may not. Remember too, that many seeds lie dormant in the soil for years, so prevention will not guarantee a weed free yard.

Secondly, consider control methods. Mulching is effective in preventing weeds from growing in gardens. Mulch smothers weeds by depriving them of sunlight. Organic mulches such as grass clippings or compost are effective in improving the garden soil by increasing the amount of organic matter. Wood chips can deplete soil nitrogen unless fertilizer is added. To be effective, mulches should be applied several inches thick—additional mulch may be needed later in the growing

season. If weeds still poke through the mulch or grow in your lawn, try elimination. Depending on the type and number of weeds, various approaches can be used. Many weeds can be removed effectively and safely by physical control methods such as hoeing or pulling. This usually works for a few dandelions or in vegetable gardens when weeds are small. Usually, they are easy to pull when mulch is used.

The last method is chemical control. For some hard to destroy or creeping types of weeds, this can be the only way to get rid of them. When using chemicals, follow directions carefully. If they chemical is misused, drifts in the wind, or washes into storm sewers, it could cause death or injury to desirable plants as well as to pets, wildlife, or people.

If all else fails, live with them. The weed free perfect lawn is a relatively recent phenomenon.



There is lots of work to do outside when it is not raining. So far we have had plenty of moisture and everything is growing. This includes the weeds in the flower beds and the strawberry bed too.

There is more rhubarb growing along our rail fence than we can use. Some will be given away and some will be frozen. My husband has ordered more roses as some died over the winter. He has also planted more apple and apricot trees.

Now that my braided rug is finally finished, I can devote my time to outside work such as trimming grass along the porches. Even though I hated to do it, I asked my husband to cut down a pretty 10 foot cedar tree growing very close to the house. It was very pretty but only a few feet from the house's foundation.

While we had visitors, I took several trips with them. One day we drove to Hershey. Here we saw "Hershey's Chocolate World" and walked through a lush jungle setting. There is an educational tour which tells us the process of chocolate making. Children enjoy the ride on the tour cars and so do the adults if their feet are tired.

The gift shops are an unusual experience as you will see more candy than you've ever seen in one place. It is packaged in every shape and form. There is also a place to dine on sandwiches and soup or a full meal. There is no entry fee.

Soon I shall have to put some of my houseplants in the garden. A few have died over the winter. I'll buy impatiens and begonias for the outside flower beds. But for now I am enjoying the pink and white tulips around our mailboxes.

Why Do Flowers Have Different Colors?

Why do flowers have different colors?

Flowers use their colors for survival!

Every color in a flower has a

Sometimes the effort needed to maintain a showcase weed free lawn is more trouble than its worth. With the widespread use of bluegrass and the application of broadleaf weed killers routinely applied to many yards, no wonder it is increasingly difficult to find that proverbial four-leaf clover!

For this or similar backyard conservation practices, visit Land Resource Days at Agawam Farms, on September 8 and 9. For more information on the event, call the NRCS office at (717) 278-1011, ext. 101, the Conservation District at (717) 278-4600 ext. 280 or Cooperative Extension at (717) 278-1158.

specific role. Almost all flowers have green parts. The green comes from chlorophyll, a substance that helps flowers make food from sunshine. Other colors, such as red, purple, yellow and blue, help attract insects and birds - which then help the flowers make seeds for next year.

First, some background. People can only see colors in a range that's called the visible light spectrum. It includes all the colors in a rainbow, plus white and black. Some insects see part of this visible spectrum, but they can also see what's called ultraviolet colors.

Flowers that want to attract insects have both visible and ultraviolet colors in their petals. Bees and other insects know they will find sweet, sugary nectar and pollen near the ultraviolet colors.

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