

Y ask OU answer

This column is for readers who have questions but don't know who to ask for answers.

"You Ask-You Answer" is for non-cooking questions. When a reader sends in a question, it will be printed in the paper. Readers who know the answer are asked to respond by mailing the answer, which will then be printed in the paper.

Questions and Answers to this column should be addressed to You Ask-You Answer, Lancaster Farming, P.O. Box 609, Ephrata, PA 17522. Attention: Lou Ann Good.

Or, you may e-mail questions and answers to lgood.eph@lnpnews.com

Please clarify what question you are answering when responding.

Do not send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a reply. If we receive the answer, we will publish it as soon as possible. Please include your phone number because we sometimes need to contact the person to clarify details. We will not publish your phone number unless you request it.

QUESTION — Another reader requested information on getting rid of pesty moles.

QUESTION — Kitty Legge, Ulster, wants to know if anyone has information on how to get a penpal from Scotland. Any age is fine. She also wants to know how to find information on her Cherokee Indian heritage. She does not have a computer.

QUESTION — Simon Renno, Mifflintown, purchased a grain cradle at a sale. The piece is in good condition, on the side is printed: H.S. Walck Greencastle, PA. Renno wants to know who is H.S. Walck, what year the cradles were made by that company, and what year they stop using them.

QUESTION — Linda Tyrpin, Jonestown, wants to know how to get rid of unwanted peonies without digging them out.

QUESTION — S.E. Brown, Richland, read somewhere that someone makes baskets from old phone books. She would like to know the name and address for the person or organization that does this.

QUESTION — Sara Stoltzfus, Cochranville, is looking for someone to fix the motors in her Niagara massage recliner. Does anyone know of anyone who is able to repair them?

QUESTION — Paul Cherniski, Unionville, wants to purchase an aluminum carport from a manufacturer and assemble it himself. The carports he sees for sale cost about \$1,000, but the salespeople do not manufacture them. They order them, sell them, and install them to make a profit. He wants the name and phone number of the manufacturer.

QUESTION — E.G. Rebeck, Klingerstown, wants to know where to purchase rubber fingers for a chicken plucker.

QUESTION — Krista Schaible writes that a Bucks County friend needs information on how to get rid of colonies of bats. Their barn is literally infested with thousands of bats.

QUESTION — Shirley Orfanella, 1125 Slate Hill Rd., Quarryville, is looking for an old wooden "spool" like PP&L used for wire. She would like to use it to make a table.

QUESTION — L.Martin, Bethel, wants a Tri-Star vacuum sweeper or something similar in good working condition. If you have one to sell at a reasonable price, call her at (717) 933-8962.

QUESTION — Beth, no last name or address given, wants to know how to sterilize potting soil in the oven before planting vegetable seeds indoors.

QUESTION — Ella Ebersol, 311 Newport Rd., Leola, PA 17540, will pay for the following used books in good condition: "Easy Growth in Reading, Looking Forward," 5th reader, Winston by Gertrude Hildreth (can't determine where the book was printed), and "Around the Corner," a Ginn Basic Reader by Ginn and Company, copyrighted 1948-1953-1957-1961, Philippines copyright 1949.

QUESTION — Leon Spory, 730 Roaring Run Rd., Boswell, PA 15531-1946, wants seeds for a pole bean called Lazywife. He believes it is one of the best stringless bean he ever tried and is a good producer. He likes to plant a few seeds with the field corn, which eliminates the need for poles.

QUESTION — Margaret Marshall, Rochester Mills, wants the words to the poem, "Gossip the Barber," which she remembers was in a prose and poetry high school book in the 1940s.

QUESTION — C. Faus, Hegins, has some questions about rhubarb stalks. She writes that in the fall, before frost kills the leaves, she harvests rhubarb stalks. The leaves will not feed the roots after they are killed by frost anyway. Some people say the stalks and leaves have poison in them at the that time of the year. Is this true? If so, why don't they have poison in them when harvested before June 21?

QUESTION — Nine-year-old Alvin Stoltzfus collects business cards. He would like if people would send a few from their businesses or a collection of one if they no longer want it. Send to Alvin Stoltzfus, 1195 Mondale Rd., Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505.

QUESTION — Mary Davis is looking for simple goat milk soap recipe that uses ice cubes.

QUESTION — Ronald Strawbridge, Brogue, wants to know where to purchase cast aluminum name plates, cast on one side only.

QUESTION — David Simpler, Elkton, Md., writes that he used a product in 1972 call Purge-O-Matic from Stewatt Chemicals to clean soot from oil burners. It worked great, but he doesn't know where to get it now. He doesn't want to use soot sticks, he writes, because it will eat the furnace.

ANSWER — M. Nolt, East Earl, wanted to know where she can purchase a cast iron 12- or 14-inch pizza pan similar to a Pizza Hut pan. Thanks to V. Stauffer for writing that Weaver's Store in Fivepointville sells the pans. They work great, she writes. She even sent her favorite pizza crust recipe to make in the pans. Look for it in the Cook's Question Corner on page B8.

ANSWER — Amos Kauffman, 1860 Cambridge Rd., Honeybrook, PA 19344, wanted a used Kitchen Center Oster mixer for parts. They are no longer manufactured, and the gears are worn in his. J. Wine writes that her sister had this same problem on her Oster Center. R&N Electric, Inc. of Mechanicsburg were able provide replacement parts and gears. Phone number is (717) 697-4283. R&N also has a business in Wynnewood. Phone (610) 642-3480.

ANSWER — Curtis Weaver, 1396 Creek Rd., Carlisle, PA 17013, has an Enterprize 2092 sausage stuffer and wanted to know where to buy a lard strainer basket and plate to fit inside. Thanks to Wayne Grube, Barnesville, who recommends Weaver calls Chop-Rite Two, Inc., 531 Old Skippack Rd., Harleyville, PA 19438. Phone (800) 683-5858. The company's ad appeared in this



Some flowers tasty as well as pretty

After I planted some pansies last week, a friend told me they are edible. Can I really eat them?

Yes, pansies are among a number of edible flowers. The colorful spring flowers can help decorate cakes, add color to salad, or float prettily in a punch bowl.

But as with herbs, vegetables, and anything edible from your garden, take a few precautions before popping a flower in your mouth. Be sure not to pick any flowers that have been sprayed with insecticides or other pesticides. Stay away from any flowers you've found growing along a roadside—you don't know what they've been exposed to.

Pick flowers when fully blossomed, at their peak, for the fullest flavor. Experts say it's best to pick them early in the day, after the dew has evaporated, then refrigerate in plastic bags until you're ready to use them. Before using, rinse the flowers thoroughly to be sure any soil and insects are washed completely away. Remove the stamens and pistils to avoid consuming pollen and its off-flavor. And, of course, be certain that

what you're eating really is edible. Some plants and flowers taste terrible, and some are even toxic — know what you're about to eat before you eat it.

Plenty of reference books and web sites are available that offer detailed information. One site by the Extension Service at North Carolina State University has a list of edible flowers as well as a link to a list of poisonous plants. It's at <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/hil-8513.html>.

That said, you can enjoy not only the looks but the flavor of a number of flowers, including:

- Lilacs. Vary widely in flavor.
- Daylilies. Some liken the flavor to zucchini or asparagus. Too many might have the effect of a laxative or diuretic, so eat in moderation.
- Roses. Can be sweet or bitter.

Remove the white-colored base because it's always bitter.

- Rose of Sharon. Often has a mild, nutty flavor.
- Bee balm. Can have a citrus, minty or sweet flavor. Can be used to make tea, or in a salad.

Chow Line is a service of The Ohio State University. Send questions to Chow Line, c/o Martha Filipic, 2021 Coffey Road, Columbus, OH 43210-1044, or filipic.3@osu.edu.

paper April 20 on page 5. Grube writes that he heard Chop-Rite has acquired some of the Enterprize patents and have parts for some of the company's old equipment. Grube got grinder parts from Chop-Rite.

ANSWER — Lisa Ann Deardorff wrote that a hand pump has been on their farm for at least 60 years. It still pumps water; however, the handle needs to be pumped at least 10-15 times before the water comes, and the handle will not stay down. When pushed down, it pops back up. She wanted to know what was wrong and how she can fix it? Thanks to R.O. Miller who recommends she replace the lower cylinder check valve leather. Also in the deep well pump, replace the check valve on lower end of cylinder tall pipe. Miller suggests the sucker cup leather be replaced and check the leather when you have the cylinder off.

ANSWER — Mable Harnish wanted to know how to keep deer from eating her flowers. Thanks to Pat Elligson, Millers, Md., who writes that she read the following remedy five years ago and it has worked well for her. Acquire a bag of hair from a beauty shop, cut the legs off an old pair of panty hose and stuff a good handful into the toe. Place a stone in and then another handful of hair. Repeat until the stocking is full. Tie a knot or use a twist tie to close the stocking. Stretch several of these around the edge of your flower bed. You can gradually push these hair snakes under the greenery as plants fill out. When you water, be sure to wet the hair too. She also places a couple handfuls of hair in old kneehighs and ties them loosely in the branches of fruit trees. This has worked great for her. (She has no luck in tossing a little hair around because it blows away).

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