

Search For Blooming Plants That Tolerate Next Summer's Scorching Heat

(Continued from Page A1)

all growth," said Alan Michael who led a recent tour of the variety trials during the Capitol Region Summer Turf and Ornamental School.

Participants could choose from several workshops that included weed, turf, soil, tree, and disease control. Alan Michael explained the variety trials are conducted in search for new and improved plants. Every plant is clearly marked to help visitors identify the variety.

Weather plays an important role in a plant's results. Three identical plants of each variety are planted by May 20.

The flowers are planted outdoors. To replicate growing annuals in shade, canvas topping is placed over plants in adjacent areas.

"If they don't look good by July 4, they are doomed for a low rating," Michael said.

Last summer was the driest and hottest in Pennsylvania's history. The hottest. It severely stressed the flowers. This year's early spring brought torrential downpours and continual rain with little sun.

The unpredictable weather can result in different performances, but the outdoor location is comparable to the gardens where they will be planted, unlike trial gardens, where irrigation is controlled.

Plants are evaluated for performance on a numerical score: 1 is unacceptable, 2 is poor, 3 is acceptable, 4 is good, and 5 is excellent.

Plants are scored every two to three weeks on appearance of flowers and foliage, uniformity, pest problems, and overall landscape display.

Best of species is reserved for cultivars with the highest rating in their respective categories.

Weather isn't the only circumstance that causes plants to yellow. Michael said, "Ivy is notorious for getting yellow, usually from lack of iron. Add iron, but only on amounts specified. Too much causes toxicity."

"There are 137 varieties of new Guinea impatiens. You'd be hard pressed to find a bad one in all those varieties, but five years ago, it was the opposite," Michael said.

(Turn to Page A23)



Hundreds of people attended the Capitol Region Summer Turf and Ornamental School at the Southeast Research and Extension Center, Landisville, in search of plants that bloom well from May through September.

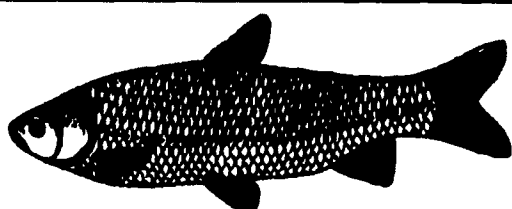


Wendy Brister, River Valley Landscapes Inc., demonstrates container gardening by planting Angelonia in a bucket.

Float - a - Cow
LEE-MAR FARM
 2724 Conestoga Creek Rd
 Morgantown PA

610-286-9052
 Sales & Rentals

Give Your Down Cow Her Best Chance



BARLEY STRAW NATURAL POND TREATMENT

REDUCES ALGAE GROWTH
 ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY
 SAFE FOR FISH & PLANTS
 COMPLETE KIT INCLUDED
 TREATS UP TO 10,000 SQ. FT.

HEIDEL HOLLOW FARM
 PHONE 888-422-5243
 www.baleinabag.net



**THE MOST RUGGED,
 RELIABLE,
 TIME-TESTED
 MOWERS...**

**that
 you've
 probably
 never
 heard of.**

If you've ever driven down the interstate and seen those big, hard-working mowers along the medians, chances are they were Bush-Whackers. Bush-Whacker mowers have been popular for more than 75 years for highway rights-of-way, and are used in 27 states across the U.S.

Now they're available for anyone who needs a tough, dependable mower for a big job.

The Bush-Whacker is available in a range of sizes to fit your needs — from the five-foot model all the way to the big 20-footer. They're easy to maintain, and parts are available with quick turnaround.

So now that you've heard of us, why not contact us today? You'll be glad you did.

Bush-Whacker® **CUMMINGS and BRICKER, Inc.**
 WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS

Hall Manufacturing
 www.bush-whacker.com

100 Stover Drive
 Carlisle, PA 17013
 717/249-6720

100-120 Lehigh Ave. - P.O. Box 928
 Batavia, New York 14021-0928
 716/343-5411

Serving Farmers Through Farm Equipment Dealers Since 1961