



"Opens whole new areas of the country to this beautiful flowering plant," says developer of the new winter-hardy azalea.

SURVIVES TEMPERATURES DOWN TO 45° BELOW ZERO

New Azalea Is Winter Hardy

They're calling the new Northern Lights winter hardy azalea one of the biggest breakthroughs in plant breeding in recent years. Harold Pellet, researcher at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska, who helped develop the new variety, says it opens whole new areas of the country to the beautiful flowering plant.

"Northern Lights can withstand temperatures down to 45° below zero, 20 to 25° lower than previous varieties," says Pellet.

The problem with azaleas is that they form flower buds in the fall and carry them through the winter. When

exposed to excessively cold temperatures, buds freeze and the plant doesn't bloom the following year. The unusual increase in hardiness in the new variety is almost like developing a new plant, says Pellet.

The Northern Lights azalea is available in light to dark pink colors in nurseries throughout the country. Cost varies but will generally run from \$15 to \$20 per plant.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harold Pellet, University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska, Minn. 55318 (ph. 612 443-2460).

ERASED AS EASILY AS A PENCIL MARK

New Ballpoint Pen Has Erasable Ink

It looks like a pen, writes like a pen and is a pen — but with a difference. It's Eraser Mate, the first ballpoint pen with truly erasable ink that works like a regular ballpoint pen, according to the Paper Mate Division of the Gillette Co.

Available soon in most retail outlets for a suggested retail price of \$1.69, the pen's ink can be erased with any common eraser as easily as a lead pencil mark. While the ink is erasable for several days, depending upon the writing surface, it does eventually become dry and hard to erase.

The company suggests that the pen not be used for writing checks or similar documents in order to guard against any possible alteration of these papers.

Eraser Mate has been under development for nearly 10 years. The ink, which has many characteristics of rubber cement, was developed several years ago. The problem was getting the ink, which is 100 times thicker than regular ballpoint ink, into a pen and have it come out smoothly and evenly on a writing surface. The problem was solved by a pressurized filling process, which not only allows the pen to write at any angle, but to also write upside down.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, The Gillette Company, Paper Mate Division, c/o Wayne Lincoln, Boston, Mass. 02199 (ph. 617 261-8040).

Farm Wife Puts Family On Slats

If you've had trouble controlling mud and manure carried into your house, you may want to take a hint from Rose Grossman, Pinedale, Wyo., who put her family on slats — just like the hogs in their confinement building.

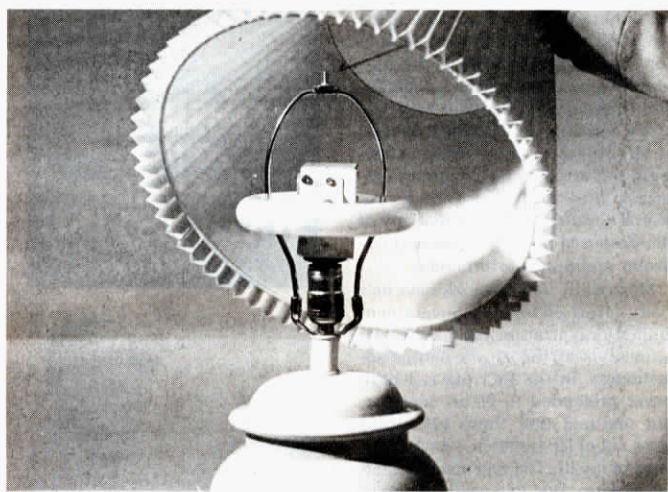
"It works for the pigs, so why shouldn't it work for us," says Rose who had a special "mud room" entryway built complete with slatted floors, a hose with high pressure nozzle, shower and drainage system. "There are foot lockers and boot racks so everything is off the floor. Water drains into a metal pan and tile system and is carried away from the house. There's no smell or manure build-up, and we disinfect the room

occasionally," Rose points out.

The 8 by 10 ft. "mud room", as the Grossmans call it, has 2 by 1-in. oak slats spaced ¾ in. apart in lift-out sections, which make it easy to retrieve dropped valuables. Although the room was built as part of a new home, Rose sees no reason it could not become an addition to existing homes.

"Sometimes I wish our whole home were slatted," adds Rose, who has played an active role in the family operation.

The Grossmans recently retired from farming near Streator, Ill., where they had their mud room house, and moved to Wyoming.



Average Killer Watt bulb lasts 12,000 hrs., versus 750 hrs. for average light bulb.

USES 50% LESS ELECTRICITY

New Bulb Cuts Watts In Half

Any regular incandescent lamp or fixture can be converted into a fluorescent one with the new cost-saving Killer Watt adapter from Johnson Industries, Los Angeles, Calif.

The donut-shaped Killer Watt fluorescent bulb screws into any lamp socket or fixture to replace the conventional incandescent bulb. Depending on the wattage desired, one or two bulbs are used.

Killer Watt inventor Jack Miller says the average incandescent bulb lasts about 750 hours whereas a fluorescent bulb lasts 12,000 hours. "If you burned a normal bulb 4 hours a night, it would last about 6 months. But a converted Killer Watt fixture would burn for 8.3 years," he says.

Invention of the smaller fluorescent unit mounted in the center of the

unit made the converter possible. Miller says it has the low maintenance and energy-saving qualities of large commercial units but is much easier to use for lighting around the house.

Fluorescent bulbs cost about 50% less to operate yet give off the same light as regular bulbs. Estimates are that about 10% of a home's utility bills are for operating lights so 5% of the utility bill could be saved.

A single-bulb Killer Watt converter, equivalent to a 60 watt lightbulb, sells for \$14.99. A 120 watt double-bulb and converters for ceiling fixtures are also available.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Alan Fried, president, Johnson Industries, 2638 Yates Ave., Los Angeles, Ca. 90090.