

## Flowering Ornamentals Can Control Roadside Erosion

Flowering and ornamental plants normally grown in home gardens and landscapes can help control and beautify rural highway embankments, says Harold B. Harper, extension soil conservationist at Kansas State University, Manhattan.

A USDA research project in Georgia, covering a 9-year period, shows that daylilies, iris, crownvetch, English ivy, periwinkle, honeysuckle, broomsedge, and other native plants

have the most potential for roadside erosion control and beautification.

Crownvetch was one of the most promising plants in the USDA study, Harper reports. Daylilies and iris, planted three feet apart, covered the test banks in two years. Rooted cuttings of two small vines—periwinkle and English ivy—formed a good protective cover but were not as showy as daylilies.

Native broomsedge developed an excellent cover and withstood drought well in the USDA trials.



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## Trimnings

"Nobody Home" Again. In November we told how a Monterey, Calif. reader lets his not-at-home customers know he's been there. Now Raymond E. Lee, manager of the Tree Service Dept. for Ralph Synnestvedt & Asso. of Glenville, Ill., sends us a sample of what he uses. Ray writes, "We do a lot of custom tree and shrub spraying, especially for Dutch Elm Disease, scale and canker worm control, and we used to get an occasional beef saying 'you sent me a bill, but never did the job' (oil spray is hard to demonstrate after a few days.)" His 3"x5" white card is printed in green ink. On one side is a humorous cartoon depicting two gremlins spraying a tree, plus the simple message: "Dear Client: Your protective spray was applied today," followed by the company's name. There's a line on top for the date and one at the bottom for the foreman's signature. The reverse side reads: "Remember! We are at your service for ALL types of tree care: Pruning, Feeding, Surgery, Removals. Just phone if there is anything we can do for you. Park 4-1300." Jokingly, Lee says, "Before we had these cards, I always sprayed a window or two if no one was at home, but this newer approach is not so messy!"

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And why not? More and more turfgrass, weed control, and tree maintenance conferences are being held in resort areas where delegates can enjoy the outside beauties of nature while they're inside talking about how to enhance and preserve it. Roy Goss told us the recent Northwest Turfgrass Conference at Hayden Lake (Idaho) Golf & Country Club was a big success, partially because of the great surroundings. There were over 35 ladies there who toured nearby Coeur d'Alene Lake by excursion boat and then motored to Mount Spokane. There was plenty of parking and early arrivals took part in a golf tournament on the scenic course of the country club. We're seeing more ladies at these meetings, too; another reason for staging conferences in resort areas . . . or maybe we're just looking for an excuse to escape the everyday hubbub of big city life.

\* \* \*

Add five. Not long ago, Dr. Joseph E. Howland, of New Canaan, Conn., was presented Rhode Island's 4-H Alumni Recognition Bronze Plaque at a special Leader Recognition Dinner in Hills Grove, R.I. Dr. James Cobble, University of Rhode Island Dean of Agriculture, made the presentation to Dr. Howland who is now assistant to the president of O. M. Scott & Sons and editor of its "Lawn Care" magazine. Howland, an active 4-H club member in Rhode Island from 1930 to 1940, was former garden editor of "House Beautiful" and associate editor of "Better Homes & Gardens." It's no wonder he's responsible for so many of those beautiful publications Scott puts out. Dr. Joe can now add five more H's to his name: Dr. Joseph E. Howland, Honorary HHHH.