



Paul Ecke won a No. 1 poinsettia grower, shows plants he brought back from Hamburg, West Germany. For tests at his Escondido experimental station. Plant he holds is starting to get root growth, was broken off another larger poinsettia.

AGRICULTURE NEWS

Poinsettia Imports Undergoing Tests

By PETER EIDEN

Sixteen German poinsettia plants are undergoing tests and observation to determine their potential to the Southern California flower industry at the Escondido experimental station of the Paul Ecke Ranch.

Ecke, whose headquarters are at the 50-acre Escondido ranch on Savary road, brought the plants back under federal auspices to this country after a 100-mile tour of Europe. He spent three months this summer combining business and pleasure in nine European nations.

The noted cutting imports are of two single red varieties Cardinals and No. 55. They may be grown at lower temperatures than most U.S. types.

Ecke said he believes he already is growing these types on the Escondido ranch, but will conduct tests to determine this.

TO GO EAST

Two of the plants will be shipped to the Beltsville, Md., for U.S. Agriculture Department experiments next spring. The remainder of the poinsettias will be brought to Escondido after a two-year waiting period required by a country and nance regulation importation.

Ecke also brought back four drageons, one blue and three reds from Hamburg and turned these over to USDA's Washington laboratories.

WAS 6TH TOUR

The trip proved his most successful sales tour of Europe. While still abroad, he ordered about 10,000 cuttings and customer, Ecke added.

Poster Award Given

Frederick E. Crane, 18, a San Diego State College art student, is the winner of a Teenage Food Poster Contest sponsored by the women of the San Diego County Farm Bureau.

Mrs. Homer Robb of Escondido, contest chairman, said the theme of the contest was "Food Comes First. For Health and Fitness." It was to stress the importance of good food for good health, Mrs. Robb added.

Second and third place winners were Barbara Snelling, 17, an Escondido sister, and Escondido sister, Barbara, a senior at Escondido Union High School and Janet is an eighth grade pupil at Grand Canyon High. There were five other contestants.

The three winners received cash awards of \$7.50, \$5 and \$2.50 respectively.

Posters of all eight contestants will be entered in the state contest with posters to be judged after Sept. 30.

Flood Control Plans

ESCONDIDO — Work plans for a proposed multi-million-dollar flood control project in this area will be delayed temporarily until it is decided whether Lake Wohlford will be part of the plan.

Lake Wohlford is owned by the Escondido Mutual Water Co., which will determine whether the lake can be included in this project without jeopardizing it as a water supply reservoir for the company.

Representatives of the city of Escondido, the Escondido Soil Conservation District, and the state Division of Forestry met here yesterday with representatives of the state Soil Commission and the federal Soil Conservation Service to discuss the project.

The estimated cost is \$10 million, six and seven million dollars. Federal and state funds will finance about 95 percent of the project, which will provide protection for the 15 square-mile Escondido Creek watershed.

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Sweet Potato Tour Planned

Bernard J. Hall, a county farm adviser, will compare five new sweet potato varieties with the standard variety Monday at San Luis Rey.

The tour, at 2 p.m., at the Sloop and Wilman Ranch, also will visit plant spacing trials of sweet potatoes at maturity.

Plant spacing ranges from 6 to 18-inch rows.

Hall's talk will summarize results of early sweet potato plant spacing with plastic mulch.

Dr. Al Paulus and Dr. Tom Little, both University of California farm scientists, will outline the selection of disease-free seed stock and methods of increasing plants from seed beds.



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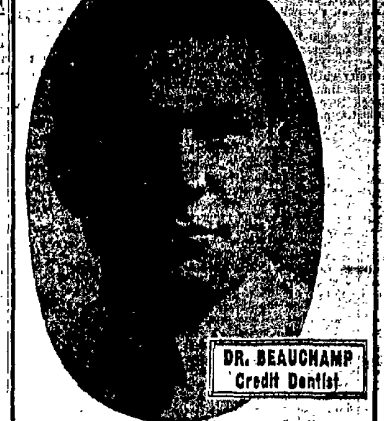
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