Extension service tapes give advice on just about everything

By RACHEL DANIEL
Garden editor

A new service providing helpful recorded messages on every-thing from houseplants to lawn and garden questions is now available in New Orleans, thanks to TeleTips. The service is available in New Orleans and Slidell, and people in other areas can request copies of the TeleTips topics by writing to the TeleTips office, P.O. Box 30248, New Orleans, LA 70119. Or they may call the TeleTips office at 486-9711 to write to TeleTips, P.O. Box 9160, Metairie, LA 70055.

For more information about TeleTips, call your parish cooperative extension Service office. The phone numbers are Orleans, 486-5984; New Orleans, 279-9402; Plaquemines, 485-0051; St. Charles, 783-6331; and St. Tammany, 892-2208.

Pamphlets with a list of about 300 topics and request code numbers have been distributed in cooperating garden centers in this area. Garden tips are under these headings: houseplants, garden flowers, shrubs and vines, lawns, trees, landscaping, fruits and nuts, vegetable gardening, yard and garden pests and holiday plants.

Topics in non-gardening subjects are nutrition and diet, food buying, food safety, canning, drying and storing food, food preparation, microwave cooking, weight control, stain removal and consumer tips.

With a TeleTips topic list, available free of charge, a person can look up the subject on which information is desired, dial the TeleTips number and request the appropriate code number.

For example, a New Orleanian who wants to learn something about buying trees should dial 486-2711 and ask for No. 1437. He or she should have paper and pencil ready to take notes on the message, which may last only 3 or 4 minutes. An operator will plug in the message first writing down the number of the request.

People in areas other than New Orleans or Slidell can call, but it will cost them a long distance charge. The complete service in New Orleans is available Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., when the operator is on duty.

At other hours a recording on a timely topic will be aired. At present the recording tells how to buy and thaw a turkey. Other messages of general interest which will be aired will be on teaching children how to use money and telling people how to make homemade ice cream.

Those unable to obtain copies of the TeleTips topics pamphlet in local garden centers may request them by writing to TeleTips, P.O. Box 30248, New Orleans, LA 70119. Or they may call the TeleTips office at 486-9711 to write to TeleTips, P.O. Box 9160, Metairie, LA 70055.

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For more information about TeleTips, call your parish cooperative extension Service office. The phone numbers are Orleans, 486-5984 or 486-5734; Jefferson, 541-7771; St. Bernard, 279-9402; Plaquemines, 485-0051; St. Charles, 783-6331; and St. Tammany, 892-2208.

During a test run of the service in New Orleans over a few weeks, the TeleTips office received almost 300 calls some days, according to Ann Peterson, who is operating the TeleTips office in New Orleans. An assistant agent in communications for the Metropolitan area, she is a native of Baton Rouge and holds bachelor's and master's degrees in home economics from LSU, specializing in consumer behavior and marketing.

Peterson says new tapes for TeleTips are made on the original brochure are as follows:

1246. Salt-Tolerant Plants; 1304, Louisiana Pecan; 1401, River Birch Problems; 1427, Shade Trees for New Orleans; 1428, Small Flowering Trees and Shrubs for New Orleans; 1500, Anticipating Shade Needs; 1703, Lima Beans; 1704, Pears; 1806, Slugs and Snails; 1812, Scale Insects; 2602, Buying and thawing a Turkey; 3169, Making Homemade Ice Cream; 3517, Stain Removal from Carpets and Upholstery; 3518, Stain Removal from Clothing; 3519, Urine Stains from Carpets and Upholstery; 2520, Urine Stains from Clothing and Linen; and 3623, Teaching Children to Use Money.