

Hot Weather Increasing Insect Damage to Tomatoes, Tobacco, Corn

Russet Mites, found in Lancaster County this year for the first time in three years, pose a threat to the tomato grower, according to Associate County Agent Harry S Sloat.

Sloat told growers at a series of meetings last week that the insect is of nearly microscopic size and multiplies at a tremendous rate during hot weather. Its presence can be detected by general bronzing or yellowing of the

tomato plant stem and leaves. "Don't confuse this yellowing or bronzing with nitrogen deficiency," Sloat warns. "Nitrogen deficiency starts at the tip of the leaf and works back. The Russet Mite usually is found on the stem first."

The best control is sulphur in a spray or dust applied at the rate of an ounce of 95 per cent wettable sulphur per gallon of water. Six pounds per acre can be applied with Manzate or Zerate.

When asked about the practical aspects of irrigating the tomato crop for the remainder of the year, Sloat said that the cost of irrigation per acre should not exceed \$20 to \$25 per acre.

Some other insect and disease problems in this year's tomato crop were also discussed by the associate county agent.

Some two spotted mites are moving in from alfalfa and clover.

(Continued on page 12)



THREE FIRST-TIME tomato producers are instructed by James Dutt, Penn State extension vegetable specialist, right, in some of the fine points of tomato grading. They are, left to right, Warren Spickler, R2 Mt. Joy; Mahlon Shelly, R4 Manheim, and John Kopp, 13, R2 Mt. Joy. They have planted 10,

eight and three acre fields this year respectively. Dutt told them that the presence of white mold in tomatoes this year is being graded down much harder than formerly because it has been found that it does not wash out properly in processing. (LF Photo)

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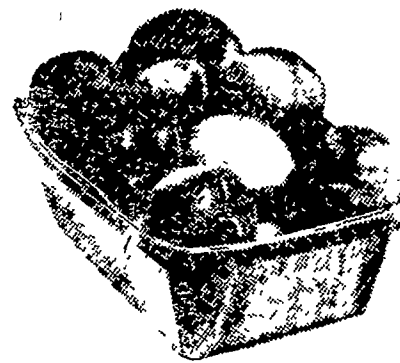
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