## **Defoliation of Tomato Plants** May Be Helpful

country are asking about the ad- heim. Pa purchased the "River visability of defoliating tomatoes This article is designed to Brothers of Elizabethtown, Pa give tomato glowers food for thought, it does not supply a final answer to the question " Shiuld I defoliate my crop?"

To different groups of chemicals have been used to kill foliage of growing plants

Dessicants, such as pentachlorophenol, potassium cyanate, and cyanamide, dust, kill the foliage, but usually do not cause leave to abscise or drop from the plant These materials often cause injury to tomato fruits contacted by the chemical, so they are not desirable for tomato defoliation.

True defoilants, such as magnesium and or sodium chloride, tetraborate and pentaborate, normally cause leaes to drop from the plant Because these chemicals apparently have very little toxic effect on the fruit, they are the materials commonly used in tomato defoliation

Observations in California last year indicated that defoliation late in the season tended to increase amount of fruit picked by approximately two tons per acre, while at the same time it appear ed to increase amount of shrievel ing, reduce amount of mold and improve fruit color

Although experimental data on the effects of tomato defoliation are quite limited at the present time, research is in progress at various experiment stations from New York to California, so that within a few years the picture should be much more definite In the meantime observations and experience suggest the following possibilities

Defoliation might pay

1 If full is undamaged

2 If mold is reduced, due to better air movement through, and more lapid drying of, defoliated plants

3 If a labor crew late in the season, will stay on the job to

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### Valuable Farms Sold In Lancaster County

Two valuable farms in the Lan caster Farming area were sold at Tomato growers throughout the Henry H Shelly of RD2, Man-Farm" which belonged to Hofler This farm lies along Route 441 and adjoins the Susquehanna

River just north of Falmouth. The farm contains over 107 acres and was sold at \$460 00 per acre for a total sales price of \$49,335 00.

The "Conewago Farm" owned by Hoffer Brothers lies just out side of Elizabethtown and is part ly in Lancaster and partly in Dauphin County It contains 311 acres and was sold to V D Leisure, a tire distributor of Harrisburg, for \$53,500 00 The new owner propose to stock it with Angus cattel. Walter K. Dupes

harvest defoliated plants when they will not stay to harvest nondefoliated plants

4 If ripening is hastened or if yield is increased.

Defoliation might not pay 1 If fruit is damaged, either

directly or inducetly 2 If mold or full fly population is increased.

3 If tonnage is lost because unexpectedly favorable weather conditions continue for several large numbers of ripe fruit are weeks following defoliation Once hidden from the pickets Use dethe plants are defoliated, photo-

fully study the pros and cons before contracting for a defoliation job Remember that every geld is different, and each case must be decided on its own merits Never defoliate more than two weeks before canneries are expected to close for the season, and never defoliate except in fields where foliage is heavy and green and foliants rather than dessicants,

synthesis stops and no more and never exceed the rates recgrowth or production can occur ommended by the manufacturer

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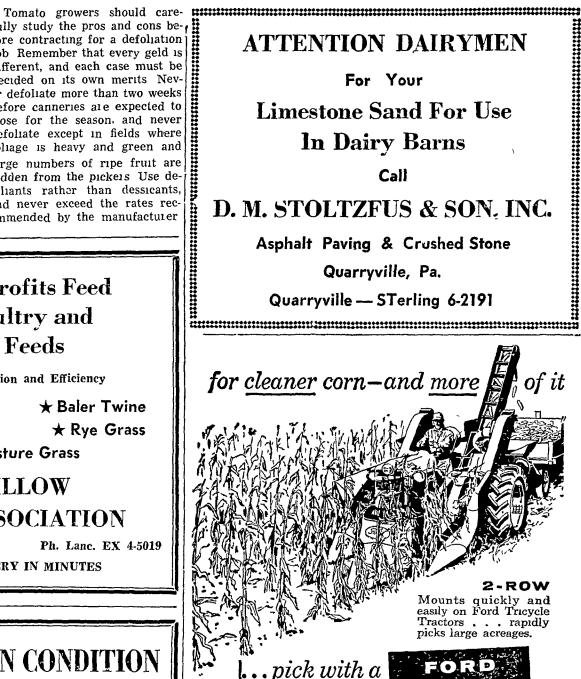
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JOHN SCHANTZ (left), R D.1, Ephrata, and Glenn Porter, R.D.1, Washington Boro, Lancaster County, are shown giving an electric demonstration "Is Your Anti-

quated House Wire A Problem?" at the 34th annual 4-H Club Week, Aug. 11-14, at the Pennsylvania State University. The demonstration won a blue ribbon.





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