

## Don't Swat!

### That Fly May Be A Friend

Harrisburg — Stop! Don't swat that fly. He might be a friend—if he is a Sarcophaga Aldrichi that it. You can tell by watching where his maggots breed.

They breed in the cocoon of the forest tent caterpillar, killing the pupae and thus ridding the state's forests of an insect pest which for two years running has stripped the leaves off trees throughout large areas, particularly where the scarlet oak is prevalent.

The little fly's work is already in evidence. Populations of caterpillars have started dropping off although the full effects will not be known until next year when

the caterpillar would normally start to multiply again.

While defoliation does not kill trees over the short run they can be destroyed if the caterpillar feeds on them for three or four years running. This is the second year that the pest has occurred widely throughout the state.

One unfortunate characteristic of the fly is that it seems to be attracted by warm bodies although it does not bite. As a result, visitors to parks or those out for a walk in the woods might find themselves unduly attractive to the insect. They will soon disappear, however, after completing their reproduction cycle.

### Your Garden Grows Poisons

Poison may be growing in your garden, extension specialists warn. It has been estimated that more than one hundred plants found in American gardens contain some poison.

Consider the tulip bulb, which contains enough poison to kill a man. One ten cent package of castor bean seed has enough poison to kill five children. Sweet peas can cause temporary paralysis, and 'elephant ears' can induce painful swelling of the mouth, tongue, and throat. Some other common plants have poisonous seeds, berries or leaves.

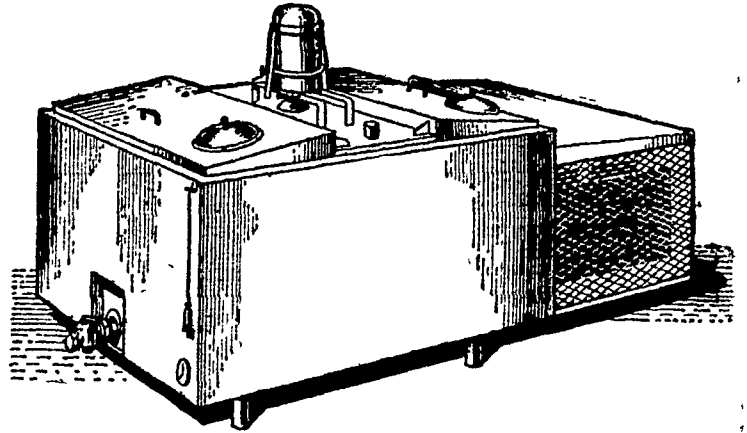
This does not mean you should stop growing flow-

ers. However, you should take precautions to insure that no members of your family eat what should be looked at. Do not chew on the leaves or stems of plants and warn the children not to put leaves or stems in

their mouths. Above all store plant bulbs where the children can't get them.

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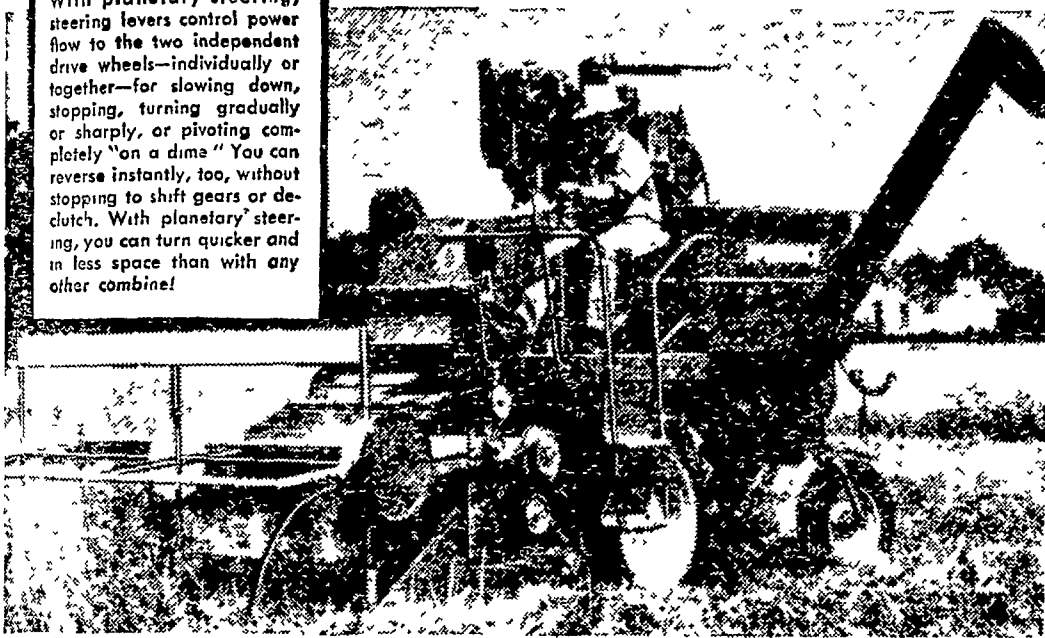
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