

**● Big Tomatoes**  
(From page 10)

As soon as the plants are in the ground and growing, Campbell begins pruning all side branches which forces the leader to grow longer. To help out with the growth, each plant is hand fed

dried cow manure each week at watering time. Campbell gives each plant 10 gallons of water per week unless rains have been heavy. The ground around the plants is never allowed to dry out, he says.

The five inches of leaf mulch on top of the soil helps

hold the moisture where the roots can get to it. Campbell piles all the leaves from his shade trees on a heap in the fall. In the spring, the partially rotted leaves are broken up and used to mulch around the tomato plants. All during the season, the mulch is stirred at frequent intervals. Campbell believes the stirring up helps the mulch form a better barrier against water evaporation from the soil.

Although Campbell uses cow manure and leaf mulch on his plot, he is not, in the strict sense, an organic gardener. He applies lime according to a soil test and works either 5-10-10 or 5-10-5 into the soil when it is turned in the spring.

Every three or four days during the growing season, Campbell will tie the leader to the stake and support each bud cluster as soon as the fruit has set. At the same time the plants will get a treatment with a commer-



**TALL TOMATO PLANTS TAKE TALL METHODS FOR THEIR CARE** Sam Campbell of Milersville applies insect dust to the top of his 12 foot tomato plants as daughter, Wendy, steadies the ladder Campbell started with an eight foot stake and added a 5½ foot extension. He expects the plants to grow out over the top of the stake.

cial all-purpose dust for control of insects and disease.

Campbell likes the Big Boy for his purpose because it is a rank grower and bears heavy fruit. The Glamour plants this year are very heavy producers, but the stalks are not as vigorous and the fruit is smaller and more uniform. Last year he grew the Kevstate which gave him good results, but plants of this variety were not available this year.

Campbell who works as a buyer at one of the Lancaster department stores, readily admits that some of his practices may not be practical on the commercial scale, but he enjoys growing bigger and bigger tomatoes than before. Each summer he furnishes the tomatoes for the salad course for service and civic club luncheons which he attends.

"I just get a kick out of watching them grow and seeing how big I can get them," Campbell says. That is all the reward needed for the tender loving care he bestows on his plot of gigantic love apples.

Harvesting apples at the right stage of maturity will do more to lengthen their storage life and prevent scald than artificial aids, says Carl S. Bittner, Penn State extension pomologist. Quality and appearance are influenced also by the color of the fruit, condition of the trees, and kind of containers used for storage.

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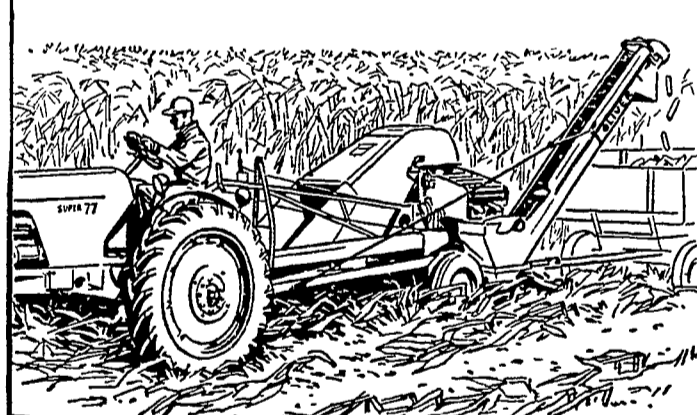
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