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● Transplant

(From page 1)

minimize the injury to the roots and other plant parts during transplanting, the garden extension specialists caution

Water the plants with enough water to moisten the soil to a depth of 6-8 inches

Using a light sun shade to protect the plants from intense sunlight after they have first been moved may help them recover from the shock of transplanting. A bushel or peck basket placed over the tops of the plants makes an excellent sun shade because it lets air and some sunlight in. Newspaper can also be used. Just lay it lightly over the plants and weight the corners down with stones. Keep the sun shade over the plants during the hottest part of the day. As the plants become stronger, it can be left off for longer periods until it's finally removed.

● Tomato Harvester

(From page 1)

will be featured at the Vegetable Field Day, set for Wednesday, Sept. 13, at the Penn State Horticulture Research Farm five miles west of Pine Grove Mills on Route 45,



MECHANICAL HARVESTING OF TOMATOES has not entirely eliminated the labor force. Skilled sorters must ride the harvester as it works its way down the field but only one sorter is needed to handle as many tomatoes as five workers can pick by hand. In this self-propelled model, conveyors carry the fruit into the bulk bins at the rate of 10 to 12½ tons per hour. The model shown working in a California field measures 23 feet from blade to vine discharge and weighs a hefty six tons. At present only a pear-shaped variety of tomato is solid enough to be handled by this machine, but plant breeders are busy developing round varieties with the characteristics necessary for machine picking.

Centre county

James D. Dutt, extension vegetable gardening specialist, announces the demon-

strations will give cannery fieldmen and tomato growers an opportunity to see how far mechanical tomato harvesters have advanced.

Tours of the vegetable breeding and variety plots, weed control and tour of the farm are scheduled from 9 a.m. until noon. Staff members who are conducting the research will explain the projects and answer questions.

Chemical weed control experiments are being conducted on onions, cabbage, beets, carrots, cucumbers, snap beans, lima beans, and tomatoes both direct seeded and transplants. Although some of the plots will have passed the harvest period, the majority are expected to be at a stage favorable for observation.

Dutt explains that many new chemicals look promising for the weeding of vegetable crops, and even direct seeded tomatoes were successfully weeded with chemicals on the Horticulture Research Farm this year.

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Mr. Sitler is a graduate of Penn State University, majoring in animal husbandry. He was an Assistant County Farm Agent working closely with 4-H boys and girls. He has been exposed to all segments of the farm industry by working on and for beef and poultry farms throughout the state. Ned was born and raised in York County, where his parents operated a feed store. Call on Ned anytime, allow him to help you with your problems.



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