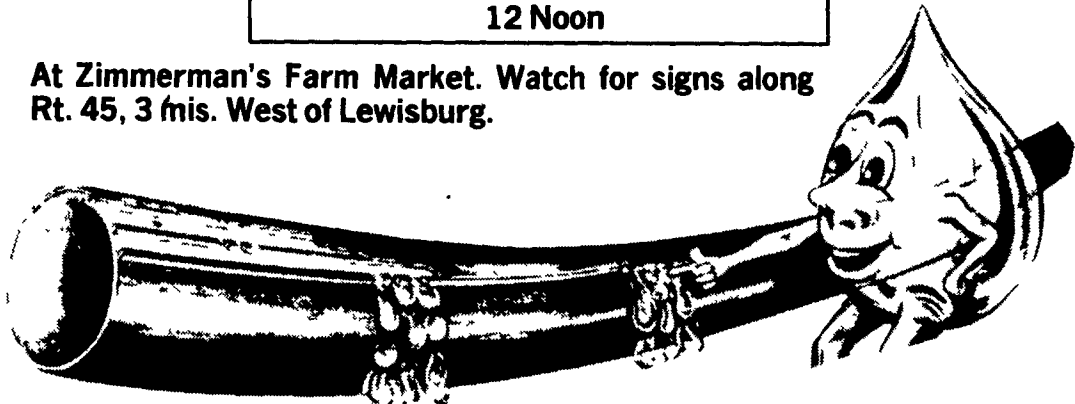


PRODUCE GROWERS WELCOME TO FIELD DAY

June 19, 1986

12 Noon

At Zimmerman's Farm Market. Watch for signs along Rt. 45, 3 mis. West of Lewisburg.



Featuring different trials and experiments on growing produce. See in action various setups of drip irrigation. Also solid set irrigation and traveling gun irrigation. Instructions given how to pack produce.

Be sure to attend this field day if you want to learn more about growing produce and marketing. Also importance of correct fertilization.

For more information call or write:

Zimmerman's Farm Market
RD #3 Mifflinburg, PA 17844
717-966-3194

Zimmerman's Irrigation
RD #3 Ephrata, PA 17522
215-445-4144

Cage Tomatoes For More Fruit

NEWARK, Del. — Home gardeners can grow more tomatoes in less space by putting plants inside cages, says University of Delaware extension garden specialist Dave Tatnall. According to him, yields in excess of 25 pounds per plant can be achieved with this method and the harvest season for a single plant may extend from July until frost.

Use cages made of heavy, rust resistant wire that can support considerable weight, Tatnall advises. Cages should be 5 to 6 feet tall with mesh large enough to reach through for picking fruit. Concrete reinforcing wire or woven wire fencing is ideal. Here's what to do:

Cut 6½ foot lengths of wire with bolt cutters or a hacksaw. Then bend each piece into a circle, overlap and fasten the ends together to form circles about 22 inches in diameter.

Prepare garden soil and plant tomatoes about 3 feet apart. Mulch well. Then place a cage over each plant. Anchor the cage securely by tying it to stakes driven into the ground. Use two or three stakes per cage to keep cages from

blowing over in strong winds. Be sure to leave walking space between cages.

Tatnall recommends using an indeterminate hybrid variety when caging tomatoes. Better Boy or Big Girl are excellent choices because of their high yields, long harvest season and disease resistance. Supersonic and Jet Star are also good choices.

Do not prune or sucker tomato plants in cages. Instead, walk around them every day or two and push back ends that are escaping. Growing tips of tomato vines are less brittle in the afternoon or evening than in the morning.

A healthy plant should fill its cage by midsummer, Tatnall says. Let it grow to the top and hang toward the ground.

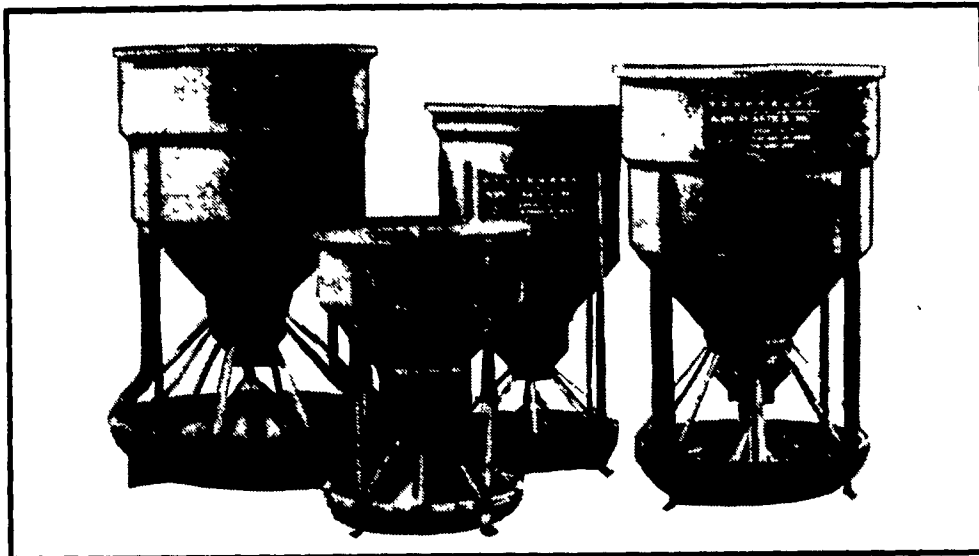
For best growth, water plants weekly unless it rains an inch or more. When their first fruits are an inch in diameter, sidedress each plant with about a tablespoon of garden fertilizer. Sidedress again every three weeks, as long as tomatoes are actively growing.

At the end of the season, remove and store cages under cover for reuse.



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