



The Early Girls weren't But the Big Girls might be

Either way, the garden has not yet yielded up one single ripe tomato

Despite the slow and sometimes stilted start of our garden, July's magic wands of heat and moisture have waded across the veggie patch to wreak a transformation

A series of circumstances involving of family house guests, day trips, and overnight business meetings combined recently to divert my attention from any thought of vegetable cultivation to more pressing issues. Like cuddling precious grandsons

Knowing that stretch of the calendar would offer more important things than "piddling" around the patch, I had it planted, mulched, and weeded as much as possible well ahead. As was the season, though, the garden was horrendously late getting planted to begin with, due to the springs which opened in the adjoining field with the plentiful ground water supplies

Tomato plants started in the greenhouse in late March were aging rapidly in mid-May, while alternately drowning and drying

out at their semi-shaded, hardening-off spot on the patio I like to start my own tomato plants, especially certain varieties that I've never seen for sale anywhere as seedlings, then supplement them from our local garden centers. Usually, even that isn't necessary, since my Mom inevitably will have more than she can use and is overwhelmingly generous in sharing anything she has with her family

With spring's delay in planting, the tomato seedlings looked so pathetic in mid-May that I finally tucked them into a temporary home in the flower border. Transplanting tomatoes generally makes them sprout new roots and become more vigorous. I hoped it would work on these poor babies

By the time our low-lying garden finally dried enough to cultivate, my envy was deep for other gardens already sporting vigorous onions, foot-high peas and lacy carrot foliage. In a two-day frenzy, the garden was planted, mulched and marked. Reuse of a couple of very large pieces of heavy bunker-silo plastic cover with planting holes still usable from last year greatly hastened the process. Finally, a

home for the frustrated tomato plants.

Only one tomato crop failure has ever blighted my record and I have a culprit on which to blame it the manure pile our son constructed in the garden the intensely-snowy winter he was home following college. With nowhere to move boxstall manure on a daily basis due to heavy snow cover, the garden next to the field road sported an awesome bedding manure stockpile by spring. Only one spot in the garden suffered any after effect, a small stretch of tomato row where some acidic liquid from the pile had puddled during the storage. Those plants didn't die, but threatened to all summer, and bore little fruit.

Mr record is now further tomato blighted. For some reason, perhaps the harsh weather treatment of the seedlings and the lateness with which they were finally planted into the ground, about half of them died. Nearly a total loss was an experimental hybrid, named Olympic, a freebie sent a few years ago with a seed mail order. There may be one stalk that survived, likely reason I've never seen this variety offered anywhere

Faring better were my Heinz canning variety and a few of the Early Girls. The Long Keepers never made it to the re-transplant stage. Luckily there were more than enough of some of the hardier varieties to replace the losers. And the garden itself supplied the healthiest of all tomato stalks, several volunteers happily poking up in spots from the asparagus patch to the raspberries. They joined the pack

I broke down and purchased a few more Early Girls and some

big sister Big Girls. Friend Ann shipped me some "stone" tomato plants, a meaty-type we anxiously await to try. And Mom, predictably, donated her extra Rutgers, more than I needed with the overflow further donated to the neighbors.

First moment I had last weekend found me fleeing to the garden, to be greeted by some lovely, green Early Girl fruits. We should be picking a fresh tomato or two within the week

Once I find them among the weeds.

Cornfield In Shape Of Noah's Ark Opens

PARADISE (Lancaster Co.) — The next frontier of family fun entertainment is coming back to Paradise. The Amazing Maize Maze™ returned to Cherry-Crest Farm for the third year in a row and opened its stalks to the world on Friday, July 17 at 10 a.m. The day featured the 2nd Annual Fellowship Challenge, a chance for non-profit organizations to win money to fund education or family assistance programs.

The 4.77-acre cornfield maze is entitled Catch the Rainbow. The maze is cut in the shape of Noah's Ark and boasts more than 27,000 marigolds and petunias, which form a 1000-foot rainbow.

Cherry-Crest Farm is located east of Lancaster, at 150 Cherry Hill Road, Paradise. The maze will be open to the public until Saturday October 10. Maze hours are 10 a.m. to dusk — Tuesday through Saturday in July and August and Friday and Saturday only starting September 8. Admission prices are \$7 for adults 12 and over; \$4 for ages 6 to 11; and free for kids 5 and under.

"The maze enables us to combine agriculture, tourism, and the universal desire to have a good time," said Jack Coleman, owner of Cherry-Crest Farm. "We are proud to present this original art form on our land and pleased that we can support a worthy cause by

participating in the Fellowship Challenge."

The Amazing Maize Maze™ is much more than just a labyrinth. The journey through the cornfield includes music, a script and interactive audience activities. Children may attack it like a 3-D Nintendo, seniors enjoy a walk through yesteryear, corporate executives come to develop team building or problem solving skill and everyone else comes for a good time. Winners are scored by a formula that considers how long it takes to assemble a map of the maze, find the hidden questions, and of course, find the exit.

Since 1993, the Amazing Maize Maze™ has been getting thousands of people lost across the United States. The company's first cornfield maze made it into the Guinness Book of World Records. This summer there will be six Amazing Maize Mazes in the United States, encompassing over 25 acres of cornfields.

The maze at Cherry-Crest Farm is the longest running Amazing Maize Maze and the most successful. Last year, 40,000 people came to Cherry-Crest Farm to experience this new form of agratainment. Besides the maze, Cherry-Crest Farm offers much to do, including a petting farm, a picnic area, a wagon ride, and an educational tour of their Dairy Farm.

MAINTENANCE FREE RAILINGS FOR PORCHES, DECKS OR BALCONIES

We have the expertise to design & create a system just to fit your need.
Any Size, Different Styles

Elite vinyl railing systems offer low maintenance and durability.

- No Rust
- No Paint
- No Scraping
- UV Stabilized
- Smooth Surfaces
- Impact Resistant
- Lasting Beauty
- Non Fading Colors
- Available in White
- Ivory
- Gray

717-354-0524
New Holland PA

Quality Workmanship
Product Durability
Customer Satisfaction

Elite
VINYL RAILING SYSTEMS

POURED WALLS

MANURE PITS WITH SLATTED FLOORS OR LAGOONS

AARON E. FISHER
434 Newport Road
Ronks, PA 17572
717-656-6486 Leave Message
or Call Monday, Wednesday,
Friday 7 PM - 7:30 PM

POURED WALLS

FISHER'S FURNITURE, INC.

CLOSED SUNDAYS, NEW YEAR,
EASTER MONDAY, ASCENSION DAY,
WHIT MONDAY, OCT. 11, THANKSGIVING,
CHRISTMAS & DECEMBER 26TH

NEW AND USED FURNITURE
USED COAL & WOOD HEATERS
COUNTRY FURNITURE & ANTIQUES

BUS. HRS. BOX 57
MON-THURS. 8-5 1129 GEORGETOWN RD
FRI. 8-8, SAT. 8-12 BART, PA 17503

Cowtown Rodeo
Cowtown, N.J.
"Cow Capital of the First Frontier"

Located on U.S. Route 40, eight miles east of the Delaware Memorial Bridge in Salem County

MAY 23 THRU SEPTEMBER

Every Saturday Night ★ ★ 7:30 Rain or Shine
Admission \$10 Adults ★ ★ \$5 Children 12 and under
Free Parking ★ ★ ★ Refreshment Stands
Group Rates Available: Call 609-769-3200

Quality and Value

- * Post Frame Buildings
- * Agricultural, Residential, Commercial, Equestrian
- * Customized for your needs

CONESTOGA Buildings Inc.

202 Orlan Road, New Holland, PA 17557
717-354-2613 Fax: 717-355-9170

Call Today For Your Free Brochure
800-544-9464