

## TOMATO CULTURE.

CHAPTER VIII.—(*Continued.*)

## PLANTING MAIN CROP AND PROTECTING FROM FROST.

*The advantages claimed are as follows :*

1. When the plants are set upright considerable loss often occurs by high winds breaking off the plants. When planted by my method there is no such loss.

2. The roots can be planted nearer the surface, and at the same time the stem of the plant can be buried up to where the limbs come out. The stem so buried will strike roots readily and cause the plants to grow more rapidly and yield more fruit. The roots being near the surface, and not shaded by the foliage of the plants, will get the full benefit of an extra amount of heat from the sun, which will cause them to strike new roots quickly and consequently to grow rapidly.

3. When late spring frosts occur, as they often do, the plants can be readily covered with the soil so as to make them perfectly safe from frost as follows : Raise the plants up and draw the soil under them so as to raise it about two inches above the surface. Now stand on the north side of the plant and with a hoe draw the soil carefully on the plant, covering the stem first and finishing at the top of the plant. Cover about three-fourths of an inch deep and they will be safe from the most severe spring frost that may come. If the next day continues cold and there is danger of frost the second night, the soil may be left on until the next morning, but it should never be left on longer than necessary. To uncover the plants kneel down on the north side of the plant and use both hands, one on each side, draw the soil off in the same direction in which the plant lies ; shake the plant up lightly and the work is done.

Long experience has taught me that the above plan is the cheapest, safest and quickest way to protect plants from frost. If by any mishap plants are partly frozen, they will seldom yield a profitable crop. Even when not more than one-fourth of the plant is frozen, the rest of the plant will be so chilled and stunted that it will take a long time to recover. If good plants are on hand it will be best to pull out all such plants and promptly replace with others.

## CHAPTER IX.

## AFTER CULTIVATION OF MAIN CROP.

As soon as the weeds can be seen springing through, take a good one-horse cultivator, set it wide and go through them once a week, or oftener if required.