

GROWING AND MARKETING OF TOMATOES.

viour of varieties is in each section. These should be consulted, and also the reports of the State horticultural societies, many of which contain catalogues of the varieties known to succeed within their several districts. But most valuable of all will be found the experience of growers in the immediate vicinity. Their conclusions, though not always correct, are safest for the beginner, and he should only plant largely those varieties which they have found successful. The main planting should rarely consist of more

than two varieties of each fruit, except in the case of the strawberry, where four or five sorts ripening in succession may often be profitably grown. New and untried sorts, though highly commended elsewhere, should be planted in an experimental way only, for but a small percentage of the varieties introduced prove equal in value to the standard market sorts at the time of their introduction.

WM. A. TAYLOR, in Year Book,
U. S. Dep't of Agriculture for 1895.

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BY MR. JOHN CRAIG, OTTAWA.

THE possibility of marketing Canadian Tomatoes profitably in England has aroused a spirit of inquiry among market gardeners and fruit growers, relative to the best methods of growing the plants, packing the fruit, and the best varieties to cultivate for this special purpose. The following notes are prepared with a view of briefly answering these questions.

RAISING PLANTS.

The summer season of Ontario and Quebec is not long enough to admit of the profitable cultivation of tomatoes without the aid of a greenhouse, hot-bed, or window box in starting the plants in spring.

Soil for Seed Boxes.—The soil should not be too rich. A mellow loam of good quality, with sand added to the extent of one-fifth of the whole, will produce stronger and healthier plants than will the leaf mould one frequently meets with in the soil of window boxes. If a greenhouse is available the seed may be sown about the middle of March, or a month earlier if the plants are intended

to serve the demands of the home market. A high temperature, 95 degrees to 70 degrees at night and 80 degrees to 85 degrees in the day time, will produce large, succulent, but tender plants. A too low temperature will produce stunted weaklings. Neither class is desirable. It is better, however, to have the temperature slightly too warm, than too cold, in consideration of the nature of the plant. Sow the seed thinly, in rows six inches apart, pressing the soil firmly over the rows. An ounce contains 8,000 to 10,000 seeds. The seedlings should be transplanted at least twice before setting them in the open field. This treatment gives strong, stocky plants. If grown in the greenhouse the seedlings should be "pricked" into "flats" (shallow boxes) soon after the true leaves appear, setting them two to three inches apart each way. From these "flats" the plants are removed when they begin to crowd each other, to the cold frame or hot bed, setting them six to eight inches apart each way, or further if the plants are large. By the middle—or in a backward season—the last week of May (in this section)