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HORTICULTURE

Growing Tomatoes in Pots

S. B. Courtis, York Co., Ont.

For the benefit of those readers of the Canadian Dairyman and Farming World, who, like myself, work only a few acres in mixed gardening, and whose patches of tomatoes consist only of a few hundred plants, I will give a few facts from my experience. Fourteen years ago, I purchased 200 six-inch pots, and planted them with tomato plants, in a rough green house, placing the pots as close together as I could. When the plants met I placed the pots farther apart, so as to give them at least ten inches for each plant. I planted also the same number of plants in hotbeds.

I planted out the lot, the 400, on June 2nd. They were all good plants of the same seed bed, the only difference being in the treatment of same. The pot plants had numerous stems as high as the main stem, while the hotbed plants had only a good main stem. They were planted side by side, two rows of each. A rapid growth set in with the result that I gathered tomatoes for fully four weeks from the pot plants, and sold by pound, before I had anything to mention from the hotbed plants.

The conclusion that I came to is that in small pots, the roots soon become lodged, with little to feed upon, and become stunted, whereas in larger pots they are not punished to the same extent. However, I would not advise the use of pots to any great extent. They are very difficult to look after, but to get the best results in localities as far north as Toronto, we must have good plants.

The easiest and the best way that I know of, is to dig up a spent hotbed, say, one that lettuce has been grown in, and plant in strawberry boxes. Give them as much room as you can afford. Place on the bed and fill with loose earth to level of boxes. They are easy to water and the roots will feed from the bed.

Beginners' Difficulties in Spraying

Robt. Thompson, St. Catharines, Ont.

As the season for spraying is rapidly approaching we find many of our growers treating the work of applying the lime-sulphur wash. In the preparation of this mixture, if there is no boiling plant nearby, and the grower wishes to prepare his material cheaply and effectively, he can make a plank box, about three or four feet wide, from five to seven feet long, and 12 inches high. Secure a sheet of boiler plate, that will project a couple of inches outside of box. Fasten the box to the sheet iron securely by means of screws through drill holes.

A fire place can be built of bricks, so that the boiler plate will rest on brick-work. Leave open at end and put in two or three lengths of stove pipe.

Limbs or brush can be used for stirring. The brick makes the cheapest place for boiling lime and sulphur. The back end of the box can be lowered a little, and a large faucet put in to run the liquid out of the pan. For fifty gallons of mixture, put 15 gallons of water in the pan. Bring to a boil, and add 22 pounds of good fresh lime. Have 18 pounds of finely ground sulphur mixed to a paste previously in hot water. Pour this in on the lime.

When the lime begins to slack, stir occasionally. Boil for one or two hours, or until the mixture turns a greenish colour. Keep boiling vig-

orously all the time. Add more water to make the 50 gallons. The last few gallons added may be of cold water, so that the mixture, if going directly into the pump to be used, will not be boiling, and thus injure the hose. Great care should be exercised in straining into the tank, using for the last straining, a strain of fine mesh to the inch. Fine nozzles can then be used, and no trouble will be experienced from clogging. Better work can be done with small nozzles, and less material used.

Spray the first time about two-thirds of the tree from the windy side, then, when there is a change of wind, to the other side. If necessary, the other third can be sprayed. A good breeze is found to be a good aid in spraying, especially for large trees. Be sure and cover every spot on the trees.

When spraying with Bordeaux mixture and poison for codling moth, see that every twig and leaf is covered and every apple covered, so that the poison will have filled the calyx end of the fruit. Thoroughness in every particular is one of the secrets of success in spraying.

Wood Ashes for Vegetables.

I have the chance to buy a quantity of wood ashes at five cents a bushel. Will it pay to buy them for vegetable? How much will be applied per acre? R. L. L. Digby Co., N.S.

Wood ashes contain potash, phosphoric acid, and lime, all of which are useful in the growing of vegetables. The ashes are usually valued more for the potash which they contain than either of the other two constituents, for vegetables require potash more than lime or phosphoric acid. On clay soils, lime has an additional advantage, in that it liberates potash from the soil. Thus the ashes will supply potash direct and lime will liberate it, from the insoluble combinations in the soil. If you can buy wood ashes that have not been leached, and of which you know something of the history, for 5 cents per bushel, they will make a very cheap form of fertilizer. For vegetable crops, you may safely apply these at the rate of a ton to a ton and a half per acre.

Moss on Apple Trees.

What strength of potash should be used on old apple trees to remove moss and lichens? J. E. N. Huron Co. Ont.

It has been found from experiment, that a two per cent. solution of caustic potash will remove moss and lichens from trees satisfactorily, and will not injure the trees when they are dormant. Even a two and one-half to three per cent. solution may be used without injury to the trees when dormant, but this strength is not necessary and, as caustic potash is unpleasant to use, even in a two per cent. solution, we would not advise using a stronger one. One application will accomplish much, but two applications would be better, and should be sufficient.

An Important Item in Butter Making

There's one feature that many good farmers' wives rather neglect in their butter-making, and that is the kind of salt they use for seasoning. Some salt contains many impurities. It is only an old standard make, like Windsor Salt, upon which you should rely. Windsor Salt is absolutely pure—it has been found that the prize winning butter at the leading Agricultural Fairs for years back has been salted with Windsor Salt. Windsor Salt never cakes up into lumps. And Windsor Salt is economical, too. You'll be putting money back in your pocket by buying Windsor Salt all the time.

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