

In a previous bulletin tomato-culture after lettuce was given in detail, but there are other crops which may be grown with profit, such as radishes, cucumbers and parsley. Under the benches the space may be used for mushrooms, dandelion, pie plant and asparagus. The mushroom crop is about as profitable as any that can be grown, and yet it requires no light. It has the advantage, also, of not being produced so largely in the South as other crops, hence competition is not to be feared.

In view of the facts that have been stated it is evident that an important industry may now be built up. If such a thing is not done it will be because gardeners do not take advantage of the situation. The business ought to be encouraged, for whatever is done in this line means just that much added to our productive capacity.—*Ohio Experiment Station.*

TOMATOES AS A GREENHOUSE CROP.

In the eastern states tomatoes are often forced in midwinter, at which time they bring fancy prices in the large cities. A higher temperature is required to force tomatoes than most other crops, artificial pollenization must be practiced, and great care taken to keep the plants free from disease. These items reduce the profits very materially, and renders this business quite uncertain except near large cities.

The Ohio Experiment Station has found that there is more profit in keeping the houses filled with lettuce during the greater part of the winter and holding back tomatoes for a spring and early summer greenhouse crop.

Lettuce is not a profitable greenhouse crop later than April, but tomatoes flourish in the houses during the spring and early summer months much better than in winter. The crop is mostly gathered during May and June, at which time 16 to 20 cents per pound is realized.

This is less than half the price paid in winter, but owing to decreased cost of production and greater demand, there is more profit in a spring than a winter crop.

In order to have plants ready to fill the houses as soon as the last crop of lettuce is out, tomato seed is sown about the last week in December. Seed is sown in shallow boxes, not having more than two inches depth of soil. As tomatoes require considerable heat, these seed boxes should be kept in a warm part of the greenhouse.

Soon after the plants have formed the second leaves they should be transplanted. For this purpose the same kind of shallow boxes are used as before, and in these the young plants are set about two inches apart each way. If kept growing nicely the plants will begin to crowd each other in three or four weeks, when they should be again transplanted. This time they are to be set about four inches apart each way. The same kind of boxes may be used as before, but greater care must be taken to keep the plants watered than when younger, as more water is required because of the greater amount of foliage. During all stages of growth in which the plants are kept in boxes or flats, a good method of watering is to place the boxes of plants in a shallow vat, holding a small quantity of water. If these plant boxes have slatted bottoms as they should have, the water soaks up evenly through the soil, and in a more thorough and satisfactory manner than when surface watering is practiced. The only precautions that need be observed in following this method is not to water until the plants require it, and not to keep them soaking after the soil is fairly wet. If desired, the plants may be set in four inch pots or in large beds at the second transplanting, instead of into boxes, but the latter plan has some advantages over the others.

Early in March the plants ought to be a foot or more in height, and just coming into bloom. They are then ready to set in permanent beds for fruiting.

These beds should contain about six inches of soil. The plants are set about 20 inches apart each way, and in order to occupy the ground fully lettuce plant are set between. As soon as the lettuce is cut the tomato plants are given the whole space. The soil should be stirred frequently, and it is advisable to mulch the surface with half-rotted manure. An important part of the care of the crop consists in pruning and training. The plants must be tied to some support and the tying must be repeated as often as required, as the plants increase in height. Stakes may be used for support, or strings may be tied to the rafters, and the lower and fastened to short stakes driven near the plants and the plants tied to these strings. The side shoots near the base of the

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