

TOMATOES TESTED.

At the Agricultural College, Michigan, 148 varieties of tomatoes have been tested. A large number of the so-called varieties have been found synonymous, or so nearly alike that they could not be readily distinguished; still the result of the work greatly simplifies the work of the gardener who, when selecting, need only consider the groups, and not the



FIG. 42.—WONDER OF ITALY.

sub-varieties, which differ little from each other.

For pickling and preserving, the Cherry, the Pear and the Plum tomatoes are commended. One of the varieties of the latter group, known as "Wonder of Italy," is shown in our engraving.

For ordinary cooking and table use, the apple-shaped varieties are the best, as Advance or Hathaway's Excelsior for early, and almost any in the group of Cardinal, Paragon or Perfection groups for main crop. Of these latter, the Ignotum,

of the Paragon group, is especially commended in the following terms:

Among the older varieties the Ignotum deserves special mention. This tomato was obtained as a sport from *Eiformige Dauer*. This year it exhibited some tendency to revert, but it furnished us the largest and finest fruits we had. They were thick, solid and quite smooth. One of the earliest to ripen, the plants remained vigorous throughout the season notwithstanding the dry weather, and still bore a number of

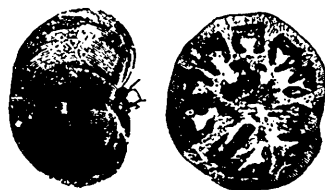


FIG. 43.—IGNOTUM.

green fruits when killed by the frost. The variety was tested by quite a number of specialists, and without exception they spoke favorably of it. Prof. Goff, of the New York Experiment Station, writes: "Although the fruits were not very uniform, some were as fine as anything in the shape of a tomato I have ever seen; of good size, remarkably solid and perfectly smooth. With a few seasons' selection it will doubtless be unsurpassed."

The *Mikado* is described as quite early, and averaging the largest of any tomato grown; the *Acme* is of thin skin, making it too tender for distant shipment.