

ficient, it will often be advisable to reduce the area of wheat or oats, and grow an acre of garden stuff instead; for the same work devoted to the garden will pay you 500 per cent. profit above that realized from grain culture.—*From How to Make the Garden Pay.*

RIPENING TOMATOES FOR EARLY MARKET.

IN growing tomatoes for market, the premium is and always has been on earliness more than any other one thing. Whoever succeeds in getting his crop before the customers a week in advance of his competitors is sure of a good price and of good profits, and this even when the fruit is not up to the standard as to size and quality.

This observation is not new, nor confined to this country. The market gardeners about Paris, France, have also found it out some time ago, and, as told in the *Revue Horticole*, often employ artificial means for hastening the maturity of the crop. To do this, the fruit is picked when yet green, but approaching maturity, and spread out upon a layer of straw under the hot-bed sashes. Here they are lightly sprinkled from time to time, to keep the atmosphere moist, and prevent them from shrivelling. During the greatest heat, on bright days, partial shade must be provided, else the tomatoes will be liable to get burned or scalded.

It takes but a few days of such treatment to bring out the bright color of maturity in the fruit, but the latter usually fails to attain to the full rich flavor of the tomato when naturally ripened. The quality of specimens picked in the more advanced stages of ripeness, however, as indicated by even the slightest beginning of coloring, is not perceptibly impaired or altered. Melons may be treated in a similar way for the purpose of hastening their maturity.

Our progressive market gardeners usually rely for their early fruit mostly on the selection of such early varieties as King of the Earlies, Earliest Advance, perhaps Dwarf Champion, etc., and on starting the plants very early under glass. It may pay them to try the method here described.—*Popular Gardening.*

PICKING AND MARKETING GRAPES

"VINTAGE time," as it is still called, is the grape grower's harvest, and is a very important and busy time of the season. It is one thing to grow a good crop of grapes and another to gather and market them properly and to the best advantage.

Some vineyardists, who have not had the kind of experience that begets wisdom, and being actuated by short-sighted cupidity, are tempted, and sometimes do pick and ship fruit to the city markets when it is scarcely