

# Growing Tomatoes for the Canning Factory

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**T**OMATO growing in Ontario is becoming more and more extensive, and has proven so far to be one of the most profitable crops of the farm. Although we have no definite figures to date, yet one cannot fail to see that this industry is on the increase. In 1904, over 1,500,000 bush. were consumed by the canning factories alone, representing a sum farm-value of \$326,486. As the consumption increases, together with improvements in canning methods and machinery, the supply naturally will increase also.

There are distributed throughout eastern, western and southern Ontario some 50 canning factories. Of this number 40 make tomatoes one of their specialties, and offer every inducement for farmers to grow them. Of late, however, there is a feeling of dissatisfaction with the price per bushel, which is 25 cents, the farmer on the one hand claiming that 30 cents should be, and is, a moderate price, especially where dangers of early frosts are prevalent; while, on the other hand, the canners claim that 25 cents is not only legitimate, but insures the farmer a fair margin of profit. It might be said, however, that where the farmer meets with exceptional conditions, 25 cents would seem sufficient, but in normal conditions, 30 cents is hardly too much in consideration for the risk which the

average grower has to encounter in the general run of seasons in this province.

## SOIL, THAT IS SUITABLE

The tomato will grow and succeed in a great variety of soils, and in different districts will give different results, on the same kinds of soil. The best results, therefore, will be obtained only by a close study of the soil and its treatment under the prevailing conditions.

The best soil is a clayey loam. Although it is not as early as others, yet it produces a firmer and thicker tomato with a smaller percentage of water, which to the canner is of great importance; for, the larger the percentage of moisture, the greater will be the lack of solidity and the smaller the number of cans to the bushel. The waste in pulp and juice at present commands little value on the market.

The land should be well drained, either artificially or naturally, and if possible, the location should be an elevated one so as to insure atmospheric drainage, thereby lessening the probable damage by light frost. Under no conditions should one try to grow tomatoes in a low, damp locality. Not only do they suffer for lack of drainage there, but early and late frosts will, in all probability, damage

them, and fungous diseases, such as wilt and blight, are more likely to be prevalent.

## PREPARING THE LAND

It is always best to grow crops in rotation, and this applies equally well to tomatoes. The tomato should be preceded by a hoed crop, and preferably a deep-rooted one. In the fall, after the land has been plowed, a good dressing of well-rotted manure should be applied to the soil and ribbed up. In the spring, this should be thoroughly incorporated with the soil, and a suitable seed-bed prepared for the time of planting.

## WHAT IS THE BEST VARIETY?

The question of variety is of great importance, and can be solved only by continued experiment. No variety will give the same results, on different soils and in different localities. Season, climate, treatment and source of seed, all have a prevailing influence on development, product on and time of ripening. One must observe his neighbor's methods and experiment for himself, before he will eventually find the most profitable tomato for his district. The following are those grown in the different sections of Ontario with apparent success: Early—Earlianna, Chalk's Early Jewel, Moore's Early Marvel, Atlantic Prize. Late—Stone, Ignatum, Living-



Field of Beans in the Essex Peninsula of Ontario

The growing of beans is carried on extensively in the Essex peninsula of Ontario, particularly in the counties of Huron, Kent and Essex. This year the industry increased wonderfully. Whole farms were devoted to the growing of this crop. Most of the beans are grown for winter use and are consumed in Canada.