

to three weeks' time they should be transplanted again into six-inch paper or clay pots, or into quart berry boxes, one plant to a box or pot. Some growers think it advisable to transplant at least four times in order to secure strong, sturdy plants with thick stem and healthy colored foliage. Certainly this helps, and anyone desiring extra early fruit should follow this practice. The larger the root system and the sturdier the growth of the plant, the surer the grower is of an early crop.

For the main crop the seed should be planted a month later, and the plants handled in much the same manner. It does not seem to be the general practice among growers of the late crop to be sure of large plants. Probably this is a mistaken idea, and accounts for so many tomatoes being frozen in the fall when a fairly early frost catches them. Just a little more care in the handling of the young plants will be likely to offset this loss. Men growing for the canning factory trade should not buy the cheapest grade of plants they can, for the plants that are large, fewer in the flat, and those that have been given the most care, and returns from the better class of tomato plants are greatly superior in proportion to the price paid for cheaper ones.



A handy marker for laying off proper distances for transplanting tomatoes.

SOIL.—Sandy loam, well-drained and well-manured, makes the best soil for any crop of tomatoes. For the extra early crop they should be planted in a sunny, warm location, facing the south and protected from severe winds. A clover sod makes the best land on which to grow the main crop of tomatoes. Land which will produce a good crop of corn will almost invariably give a good yield of tomatoes.

MANURING.—Liberal applications of manure should be given the land for tomato growing. Many intensive growers use twenty-five two-horse loads per acre. This should be applied preferably in the fall and winter. Fresh manure should not be used immediately before planting as a general rule, although many growers have immense yields from this method. Some soils respond readily to fresh manure and give heavy yields of fruit, while others give a heavy vine and a small yield of fruit from the same treatment. The manure in any case should be thoroughly incorporated in the soil, and when a sufficient supply is available it should be broadcasted, and when the supply is limited, well-rotted manure should be placed in the furrows where the plants are to be set.

PLANTING.—For the main crop of tomatoes in the majority of sections in the Province should be set four by four feet. For the early crop they can be set somewhat closer, in many cases three by three feet, or three and a half by three and a half feet.