

days in inches of water, spelling sure ruin to the crop. The plants thus treated make very little subsequent growth, and their fruits are very small and rot while still green.

### CULTIVATION.

Here again, is where a number of growers fall down. The best growers all emphasize the necessity for frequent cultivation, and this necessity can be readily understood when we realize that the period of the active life of the tomato root is short. The young plants, on account of their coarse, open cellular structure, are at first capable of transmitting plant food and water very rapidly, but these transmitting media very soon clog up and lose their activity, hence the necessity for frequent cultivation in the early stages of growth. The most successful growers cultivate four or five times each way during the season, and aim to keep the surface soil in loose friable condition as long as possible. The more cultivation during the two weeks following the setting of the plants the better the results. Since the task of planting out must needs result in compacting the soil to a considerable extent, the first cultivation should take place the next day and be deep and thorough. I have been through field after field of tomatoes where the soil of a clayey nature has been very hard, and consequently the plants were sickly-looking, stunted things.

### THE SEED, ITS SOURCE, CONTROL AND SELECTION.

**SOURCE:** The bulk of the seed comes from the United States. A number of growers select their own seed in a more or less indifferent way. Only two men growing tomatoes for the seed value of the crop were met, Mr. G. H. Clark, at Leamington, and Mr. Maginnis, at London.

The price paid for the imported seed runs from \$1 to as high as \$10 per pound, the general price being about \$3, the duty being 25c. per pound. From two and a half to four dollars per pound should secure good, reliable stock tomato seed. The higher prices are as a rule paid only for the extensive use of printer's ink in vividly portraying their imaginary qualities. Beyond keeping the varieties pure by growing them in separate blocks after a certain standard is reached, no special effort appears to be made by the seed firms with a view to improving and perpetuating their desirable points by selection. A rough estimate places the amount of tomato seed used annually in Ontario at from eight to twelve hundred pounds; thus the market for seed here is very small, and accounts for the importation. . . . . Bolgiano & Son, of Baltimore, The Livingstone Seed Co., of Columbus, Ohio, The Burpee Company, the Wm. Henry Maule, Henry A. Dreer, and W. P. Stokes Companies, of Philadelphia, are some of the bigger firms from whom the seed is imported.