

## About the Tomato.

The tomato is one of the most popular of all vegetables, or rather fruits. Botanically, of course, it is a fruit, but, from the gardener's standpoint, neither one nor the other. It is prized greatly in the kitchen; and of recent years has been presented at dessert, even in little punnets with other fruits at the great railway stations. The taste for a raw tomato is, in a large measure, acquired; but once the palate has got accustomed to its peculiar flavour, few fruits are more pleasant.

### MILDEW-DISEASED TOMATOES.

The tomato is more apt to get diseased than any other fruit, and "mildew" is as common as any of the plagues that infest it. It is a virulent fungoid onslaught, distinguished in some books as *Cladosporium fulvum*. The scientific name of the pest is given as a guide to my readers. The disease spreads with great rapidity, and, if checked, death ensues. Brown patches on the undersides of the leaves are the first signs, and then dust liberally with flower of sulphur. But find out also the cause, which is generally a very close atmosphere and too much moisture. Damp and want of air are certain to promote this insidious enemy. Go over affected plants carefully, dust with sulphur as advised, and remove all decaying leaves. Never propagate from infested tomatoes, even by seed, as one is never certain that the disease will not reveal itself in the offspring.

### A DISEASE LIKE THAT ATTACKING POTATOES.

The tomato is also subject to a disease like that injuring potatoes. It makes itself known by brown blotches and streaks on the foliage. Radical measures must be adopted at once. Destroy infested plants, burning them to prevent the disease spreading, and re-plant, or, if such destruction is too painful an undertaking, syringe with Bouillie Bordelaise, a preparation of sulphate of copper and lime. If the plants are in a house this disease is sometimes engendered by leaky roots.

### THE DROOPS.

This is a rather common disease of the tomato, and unfortunately works quick destruction, sweeping away acres of plants in a very short time. The first sign of its

presence is wilting of the leaves, hence one hears the disease called the "droops." A writer in *Gardening Illustrated*, and one of the best authorities on the tomato, says of this disease: As a rule there is no other disease or appearance of any kind to account for the failure, the roots being generally plentiful and healthy; but usually there is a tendency to emit air roots just above the surface of the soil, often some distance up the stem. If these can be induced to push into some fresh, sweet, sandy soil placed for the purpose, the plant may sometimes be saved if the mischief has not gone too far.

## Toilet Hints.

Bathing the eyes several times a day in cold water makes them bright.

Beeswax dissolved in sweet oil will cure chapped hands and lips.

Wash the hair once a month in warm water and castile soap, rinsing it for the last time in cold water.

To obtain a sweet breath, rinse the mouth every morning in water, having a little borax, myrrh, or camphor in it.

Clean stains from the fingers with salt and lemon-juice, rubbed on the spots until they disappear, and then wash with clean water.

Rub vaseline on thin eyebrows every night smoothing them in the shape of an arch from the nose upwards.

A good dentifrice is made of half an ounce of camphor and 8 ounces of precipitated chalk.

A good tonic for thickening the hair is composed of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  drachm of tincture of cantharides, 20 drops of tincture of capsicum,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce of glycerine, and 5 ounces of Cologne water.

Three-quarters of an ounce each of glycerine and borax, and 12 ounces of rose water will whiten and soften the face.

Half an ounce of cantharides to one quart of bay rum makes an excellent hair tonic.

For removing dandruff try 2 drachms of borax,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  drachm of glycerine, and 8 ounces of soft water, rubbing in the scalp daily for a month after giving the hair a good brushing.

NANCY COIR.