

weeks earlier than usual, by setting the plants on the tops of sharp hills. The hills should be about fifteen inches high and three feet diameter at the base. Water the plants only when first set, and dust the plant and whole hill frequently with plaster. The tomato coming from a hot and dry country, will endure a drouth that would prove fatal to less hardy plants. What it needs most is heat, and this is secured by planting on steep hills, on which the sun's rays strike less obliquely than on flat surfaces. Land should not be over rich for the tomato, very fertile soils producing too great a growth of vine. The vines should be "punched in" and the blossoms removed after the first settings have attained the size of marbles; but in any case the vines should be permitted to fall directly on the ground, that the fruit may have the full benefit of the heat of the sun and the warmth refracted from the earth. By saving the first well-formed ripe tomato for seed, for several successive years, a variety may be obtained that for earliness, will be far superior to the original stock.

PLANTING FRUIT TREES.

The sale of fruit trees at the nurseries commenced at least two weeks earlier this year than last, and a large trade is expected. The sooner the trees are got into the ground the better, provided the soil has been well prepared. When trees are planted early, the roots have time to take hold of the soil and get a good stand before the drouth of Summersets in. Trees of medium size are much better for planting out than very large or very small ones. The roots extend about as far as the branches, and in taking up large trees, the roots are generally very much mutilated, and the trees receive very severe check. Small or medium sized trees may be taken up without much damage to the roots. The ground for an orchard should be deeply tilled and thoroughly drained. Holes for fruit trees should be wide, but not very deep, they should be filled up with rich soil to within six inches of the ground-level, the soil being packed to prevent it from settling too much. The trees should be planted not much deeper than they stood in the nursery. The roots should be spread out evenly and covered with rich mellow soil. The best varieties should be selected. If the trees are purchased at a respectable nursery,

they will be true to name. If they are procured from transient, irresponsible peddlers, they cannot be relied on, although there may be exceptions to this rule. Manures specially adapted for fruit trees should be applied to the soil at the time of planting.

WORK IN THE GARDEN.

If the soil of the garden was spaded or plowed in the Fall, and has been lying in fallow during the Winter, it is now mellow and friable, and will be easily prepared for the seed. It is not advisable to put seeds into the ground too early in the Spring, before the soil is warm enough to promote vegetation. The soil should not be stirred by the plow, cultivator, harrow, roller, spade, hoe, rake, or any other implement, while it is wet. When frost has disappeared, and the weather is mild and open, the seeds of early vegetables may be sown. Vegetables which bear transplanting should be raised in hot-beds, and allowed to grow strong and stocky before they are set out in the open ground. If plants are too much crowded in hot-beds, they will grow weak and spindling, and unfit for use. In order to prevent this, the strongest plants should be set out in the open ground as soon as the soil is prepared, and the weather favorable for transplanting. If the soil is wet and cold, and the weather unfavorable, the beds may be thinned by "pricking out" the plants into cold frames. Pruning of all sorts of fruit trees, bushes, canes, ornamental shrubs, etc., should now be completed; cions and cuttings procured; grapevines, roses, etc., tied on their trellises or arbors; bean-poles, flower-stakes, and pea-brush provided; borders of every kind trimmed. Grass-plots and borders may be made at any time during the month.

ADVICE OF A GARDENER TO HIS SON.

Always cultivate with your eyes turned toward the nearest market. This ought to be the first rule for a farmer, for, without conveniences to sell your products at fair prices, and get your manures easily and cheap, farming will not pay well, if it pays at all.

"*Rise early in the morning,*" and have your eye on everything. A good start is worth many an hour of labor through the day.