

PRECEDING CROP.

The consensus of opinion throughout the Province favors clover sod, and this seems to be substantiated by the experience of United States growers, and, speaking in general, the best crops seen this summer were produced on clover sod. However, the choice of the tomato ground to a considerable extent depends upon the rotation of crops in vogue, and one cannot always sow on prepared clover sod. Whilst tomatoes have been grown successfully year after year on the same soil, and I have seen occasional fair crops so produced this summer, the practice is not to be commended, nor is the practice advisable of growing tomatoes on land which was in potatoes the year before, because both these crops are heavy consumers of potash, and considerably reduce the immediately available amount of that element in the soil. Failing a clover sod, the next best will be the second crop after clover, and of the other preceding crops those of a leguminous nature are to be preferred.

CHOICE AND PREPARATION OF THE SOIL.

The best soil is a deep, rich, light loam, over a well drained subsoil. Such a soil gives chances for a maximum yield at a minimum expense, for it contains the necessary fertilizing elements in a readily available state, will drain and warm up quickly after rains, and being light can be cheaply worked, no small consideration in a crop demanding so much labor, and moreover is not so apt to puddle under the frequent cultivations as is a clay. The fault to be found with many growers is that when they are forced to select a soil not as favorable to tomato production as might be desired, they do not attempt to offset the disadvantage by seeking to improve its physical condition, and therefore its available fertility to better meet the requirements of the crop. Good crops can be produced on almost all kinds of soil—but these soils must have good tilth, fertility and drainage conditions, and no matter what the soil, whether light, medium or heavy, unless these conditions exist a large yield will not be obtained. The growers do not study sufficiently the plant they are growing. They do not know its characteristics. The roots of the tomato plant are very short and abundant, and can only gather the essential plant food and water from a very limited area. In contrast, the bean plant, while much smaller than the tomato plant, has an extensive root system, and thus a greater area from which to draw its nutriment. In addition to their shortness, tomato roots are exceedingly tender, and incapable of penetrating a soil in any way hard or compact. A knowledge of these characteristics shows us how essential to success is the proper treatment and preparation of the soil. Avoid soils with much clay in their make-up; unless thoroughly underdrained, they are sure to be cold. I have seen fields of tomatoes which wouldn't begin to pay for the picking—the soils were clayey, poorly underdrained, and heavy rains early in the season had left the young plants standing for