TOMATOES AS A WINTER CROP.

The winter forcing of tomatoes is one of the most interesting, satisfactory and often most profitable operations of the gardener. The most important conditions are a warm, light house—a two-thirds span, facing south, being preferable—strong bottom heat, rich soil, careful training, uniform temperature, care in watering and pollinating, constant watchfulness and good judgment. We plan for two crops each season. The first is started by July 1 to 15. Place them on the fruiting benches in September, and the crop is in its prime at the holiday season, but lasts into February. The second crop, started in October, takes the place of the other in February. On the fruiting benches, four plants are grown in a box 18 in. square and 1 ft. deep. Each plant is trained to a single stem, and occupies 1½ sq. ft. of floor space. Strong flax cord—the size of wool twine—extends from the base of each plant to the roof. The plant is secured to it by raffia bands. From much study I am convinced that failure to fruit well is often due to insufficiency of pollen on the stigma. The only attention we have found necessary to remedy this is, on bright days, when the atmosphere is relatively dry, to give to each plant two or three sharp taps with a padded stick. The most satisfactory varieties for forcing are Lorillard, Ithaca, Chemin Market, Optimus and Golden Queen. The average crop with us has been about 1 $\frac{7}{10}$ lbs. per sq. ft. of floor space, which at 50c. pays well.—PROF. W. W. MUNSON to Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Fertilizers for Various Fruits.—Professor Fields, of the Pennsylvania Experiment Station, is reported to give the amount of various ingredients removed from the soil by certain fruit crops as follows: "An acre of apples producing 360 bushels removes from the soil 24 pounds of nitrogen, 2 pounds of phosphoric acid and 34 pounds of potash, all valued at $5.74. An acre of pears yielding 335 bushels removes 16 pounds nitrogen, 5 pounds phosphoric acid and 14 pounds of potash, total value $3.60. Grapes harvesting 8,160 pounds per acre contain 13 pounds nitrogen, 4 pounds of phosphoric acid, 22 pounds potash, worth $3.61. Peaches yielding 335 bushels per acre remove 3 pounds of phosphoric acid and 10 pounds of potash.

The amount of nitrogen required by the above yield of peaches was not given.

Flowering Shrubs in Winter.—One of the most charming flower displays in winter is secured by boxing a few of our prettier but common shrubs, such as lilacs, deutzias, syringas and spireas. Small lilacs should be grown stocky in our gardens for this special service. Dig them in the fall and place in the cellar for a few weeks. Remove to a warm room about two weeks before flowers are needed. In this way you may have a succession of lilacs all winter. The fragrance fills the house. A very easy shrub to force is the yellow flowering current. This is also very fragrant, No special care is needed in forcing shrubs except to keep them watered.—Amer. Agriculturist.