

cut-worms. Hawks and owls also consume a considerable number of insects, and their ceaseless pursuit of mice more than counterbalances the evil of their occasional visit to the chicken run. The second class of allies in the war against insects consists of the various insects beneficial to the farmer, and these may be roughly divided into predaceous and parasitic forms. We should in every possible way encourage and protect these friends, and it is highly important that we should endeavor to discriminate between friend and foe. It is too frequently the practice of the farmer to kill ruthlessly every "bug" he comes across, and too often he murders a humble instrument of good.

The predaceous insects are those which seize and devour their prey, such as hornets, wasps, ladybirds, and other beetles. A notable instance is the Fiery Ground beetle, which confines himself almost exclusively to a diet of cut-worms. The parasitic insects include an immense number of species, such as the ichneumon flies, etc. Many of these flies pierce the skin of their victim (usually the larva of some beetle or butterfly), and lay, some species one or two, some over one hundred, eggs therein. In due course the eggs hatch into small maggots or grubs, which live on the fatty portions of their host's body, and eventually destroy him.

(To be continued.)

FOR FARMING.

Tomatoes for Home Use.

By JAMES SHEPPARD, Queenston.

The tomato is naturally a plant that requires a warm temperature to mature its crop, and, to succeed with it, we must help it artificially as far as possible.

The first principle of successful tomato-growing is good plants. About two or three dozen is all that is required for family use, and more satisfaction can be got out of two dozen good plants that will ripen a crop than out of two hundred that will grow a lot of fruit only to be frozen on the vines.

About the first of March sow the seed in a box, and keep near a sunny window, where the temperature does not get too cool at night.

When the plants are about an inch high, pick out until they are about an inch apart, and set down to the second leaf. Keep them growing slowly until about the fifteenth of April, then move them out into a cold frame five or six

inches apart, giving them all the air possible, and as much water as is necessary. When all danger of frost is over, the plants ought to be eight or twelve inches high, and stocky.

Soak the ground well, and move the plants with as much earth as possible. If the plants are very long lay them down flat, like a tree blown out by the root, and cover up to within five or six inches of the top.

Plant on a different piece of ground every year. Do not manure too heavily, but use ashes to each plant, or a handful of some good fertilizer, well mixed with the soil.

After a sufficient amount of fruit has set, a judicious trimming will hasten ripening, and, to a certain extent, prevent rot.

For the first early crop, Atlantic Prize, and for the main crop Livingstone Favorite or Royal Red will be found to give good satisfaction.

Currant Culture.

Inquirer: What is the best method of cultivation for currant bushes?

ANS.—First, procure the bushes from a nurseryman; or, as the process is simple and easy, raise them yourself. Get slips or cuttings of about a foot in length, and plant them in the autumn or early spring, wherever convenient, in the open garden. They will take root very readily. In the fall have that part of the garden which you intend to devote permanently to the currants carefully dug up, drained, and fertilized. Next spring transplant the currant bushes there, at intervals of four or five feet. Keep the bushes always in the form of trees, a single stem rising from the ground. This is important, because any suckers coming from below the surface will surely bring forth inferior fruit, and you will have great difficulty in preventing grass and weeds from growing up about the base of the plant. The method of cultivation must be the same for both black and red varieties. Once the bushes begin to bear fruit, all the care necessary is to keep the ground free from weeds, cultivated and manured, to thin out every winter the superfluous wood, and, if you want larger fruit, to pinch off, about the middle of June, the ends of the more vigorous shoots. Early in June, also, be watchful that worms do not attack the leaves of the red currant. The black currant has ample protection against insect enemies in its powerful odor. Wherever worms appear, a sprinkling of hellebore will quickly destroy them.