

## RIPENING TOMATOES.

**I**N the opinion of Mr. Eli Minch, tomatoes ripen earlier and are better in quality when kept from the ground. He trains to good stout brush, sharpened at one end, and cut off square foot or two long. These stuck around the plant make a level, even-topped support for the vines. He also advises twisting or splitting the vines between the fruit and the root, thus forcing the fruit to early ripening.

A few years ago Prof. Bailey, then in Michigan, recommended a rack for the market plantation which he described as follows: About every six or eight feet a stout stake was driven on either side of the row and 15 inches from the plant, the stakes when firmly driven standing over a foot high. A strip of old boards was nailed near the tops of the posts along on either side of the row. Then edgings were tacked across from one side to the other, four about each plant and a foot apart. Upon this rack the tomatoes needed no tying or training, and they spread themselves freely to the sunlight. The circulation of air under the racks was so free that there was no unusual danger of rot. This is decidedly the best rack which we have tried. We noticed, also, that the fruit ripened more uniformly here than on the plants which were tied to stakes. We shall try other methods of training next year. It appears advisable to try but a very few sorts each year in order that they can be tested upon a larger scale,

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**THE EMERALD GEM MUSK MELON.**—We like melons, especially good and spicy ones, such as for instance the emerald Gem, the superior of which in flavor we have never met. Some of our neighbors grow Hackensack, and similar sorts for market. We find most of these ordinary sorts too late for our climate and grounds, unless started early under glass and transplanted. But we do not see what we could gain by growing these later sorts merely to get size and insipidity when we can plant the Emerald Gem in open ground in its proper season, and get quality, sweetness and spiciness.

The Emerald Gem is early, consequently we can plant it confidently expecting a long season of the most luscious melons imaginable. And this variety well deserves even a little extra painstaking to make it earlier. Our way is to dig a hole for each hill and fill it with a mixture of sand, rotted manure and loam, and plant the seed in this. Some of the hills are started even before the time for general planting, and covered with a little frame with a pane or two of glass on top.

If you have never tried the Emerald Gem, it is time you should. If planted in June they will still give you ripe melons before frost, even in a locality with as short seasons as ours.—*Exchange.*