

selection of an almost perfect tomato from a plant varying considerably in size and perfection is not advisable. The fruits selected should be large, but not abnormally so, the earliest to mature, smooth and well shaped. When the fruit is thoroughly ripe, but not till then, it should be picked and the seed extracted as follows:—

Cut the tomatoes in two crosswise; slip out the seed-pulp into a pail or tub; let the pulp stand twenty-four hours, then put in plenty of clean water; stir and break up the sour pulp until all the good seed will settle to the bottom, when left to stand a minute; pour off the top, then put in more water, going through the same operation again and again until the seeds settle in nearly clean water. Now drain off all the water you can; place the seed in a towel, and press out the surplus water; they are then ready to spread out in the sun or some warm place to dry. Stir them up occasionally until they are thoroughly dried. In putting them away see that they are in a place safe from mice. Label the seed plainly, recording the day of the month and the year when it was saved, and moreover, keep the seed from each plant entirely separate.

Supposing that five plants were selected. The following spring the young plants raised from the seed thus saved should be set out on a well prepared piece of ground, kept entirely separate from the main crop, taking care to keep the progeny of each plant separate and to set it in separate blocks. Label these blocks plainly, and as the plants grow compare them with the original plant from which they come and with the type in view. Select that block in which all the plants come nearest to the desired type, and which show the least variation. From that block the best plants are selected, discarding for further selection purposes all the other plants in the whole breeding patch. Such a course of selection should not be hard to carry out, and if judiciously and carefully done should in from three to five years result in strains of seed greatly superior and better adapted to one's own conditions than any which it is possible to purchase. The seed from the discarded plants may be used for the main crop, as it will be of a superior nature to that purchased.

PRODUCING THE YOUNG PLANTS.

This is where one of the biggest causes of failure lies. When the plants are grown by professional growers they are often held back or suddenly forced to meet the grower's requirements, and through rush of business and lack of space are not properly hardened off. Where one grower is raising two hundred thousand or two hundred and fifty thousand plants, the space and appliances at his disposal are too often inadequate, and the attention which would be given to a smaller number is not applied, with the result that the plants are not as hardy or stocky as they should be. Many farmers are starting their own plants successfully, but in too many cases there is great room for improvement in the construction and make up of the hot beds and cold beds, and also in the management of the growing plants. I should like to be able to give