

TOMATO CULTURE FOR THE AMATEUR GARDNER

Every amateur gardener now endeavors to grow a crop of this popular fruit, either under glass or out of doors. The outdoor crops, however, cannot always be relied on, as they are at the mercy of the weather, so that it is advisable to grow a few plants under glass for use before those grown outside are fit.

The tomato is not unworthy of a place in the greenhouse, or even conservatory, for a healthy plant, when in fruit, is highly ornamental, the comparatively small fruited varieties in particular, and these are considered by some to be better flavored than the larger ones. The larger varieties as a rule are the most profitable, and of these there are several of superior merit.

Where there are facilities in the shape of a hothouse of any description, the right temperature of which is maintained at about 50 deg., with an increase of 10 deg. or more in the daytime, by sowing seed at once, and growing the plants obtained briskly on, ripe fruit can easily be had during June. If kept a little cooler the plants will be ready for their fruiting quarters by the time the summer bedding plants are, or ought to be, out of the way—say, the third week in May.

Those for the outside crop should also be raised at once, and the plants grown steadily on, bearing in mind that the stouter and stronger they are when put out of doors the sooner will they produce fruit.

It is the coddling in heat that causes many young plants to become weakly and leggy, and this causes trouble from the very start.

Method of Growing

When sowing the seed, use well-drained 6-in. pots or pans and fine soil; sow thinly and cover lightly,

water through a fine rose-can, covering the top of the pots with paper, and either plunge in a gentle hot-bed or place on a staging very near to the hot water pipes.

The seed will soon germinate if kept shaded and moistened, but not saturated; and to keep the seedlings sturdy afterwards they should be placed near the light. When well into leaf, pot off rather more of the best of them than is required, singly in 4-in. pots (large 60's), using light and moderately fine soil. Crock the pots lightly, putting a little rough material over the crocks; then place the plant in the centre, and fill in carefully, so as nearly to bury the stem up to the seed leaves, by these means accelerating root action, and also tending to strengthen and shorten the plant.

Return to heat; water if the soil is dry; and shade from bright sunshine until established; then transfer to shelves fully exposed to the sun, and give plenty of air in sunshine. In about three weeks they will be ready for their final move.

Use wood boxes—deep empty ones can be readily procured at the grocers. Tomatoes succeed admirably when fruited in these boxes and placed on staging near the light. Each box should contain two plants, which may be planted near the centre and staked.

Those intended for the cool houses may be raised and eventually potted or boxed off in the same manner as for the earliest crop, and wherever grown they should be kept in single stems, have their side shoots closely rubbed off, and receive liberal supplies of water, varied with liquid manure, when perfecting their crops. No stimulants, however, should be given during the young stages of the plants, neither should there be any crude manure in the compact.

A little cocoanut fibre mixed with the latter, is a useful addition, as it controls the moisture. Shading is not needed at this stage.

SUFFER TO BE FREE

How much longer are women to be tortured, martyred, for their political faith, asks a writer in the Suffragette, the organ of the Women's Social and Political Union. The prejudiced and unthinking rail against the violence of the militant women, but let them remember this: The violence of the women has always been directed against mere property and not against human beings. This violence was not committed until fifty years of peaceful agitation and seven years of moderate militancy had failed to win the vote. The government's refusal to obey the dictates of reason and justice, and their treacherous conduct have literally driven militants to violence.

The government's violence differs from women's violence because it is directed against human beings and because it is used to defend gross tyranny.

The members of this government began their use of violence by procuring the forcible ejection of women who questioned them at public meetings. Violence has over and over again been used against the women who went in deputation to ask the prime minister for the vote. On Black Friday women were treated with hideous brutality in Parliament Square. Describing what took place Lord Robert Cecil has said that for several hours the women suffered every species of indignity and violence. In some cases their arms and their fingers were twisted. In others they were struck in the face and beaten. Several of them were thrown to the ground and some were kicked.

The government have assaulted women in prison by feeding them by violence, a process which eminent doctors, and even a recorder, in sentencing a suffragette, have described as torture. Only the other day Miss Lillian Lenton was by forcible feeding brought to the point of death, and many other women

after forcible feeding have been released in a perilous state of health.

Owing to the example set by cabinet ministers the baser part of the population has also made brutal attacks upon suffragettes. The savagery with which women are ejected from cabinet ministers' meetings is a public scandal. The outrage at Llanystumdwy will not soon be forgotten. There, in the presence of a cabinet minister women were beaten, their hair dragged from them. They were indecently assaulted and they were trampled on the ground. Even now the militant women are being told that if they will not submit they will be mauled to death by public hooliganism.

All this rather than votes for women! The Liberal government is evidently bent upon teaching women that they must suffer to be free!

THE SUFFRAGE WAR.

Mr. J. W. Bengough, who is well known in Vancouver, has contributed the following letter to the Globe:

To the Editor of the Globe: On the Woman's Page of your Saturday issue I find, in "A Gentlewoman's Opinion on a Sex War," a nobly-worded and effective rejoinder to some politician who, "carried away by his indignation at the last stupid and wicked outrage on the part of the militant suffragettes," offers the monstrous suggestion of a formal declaration of war by men against women. The writer in question is strongly against the militant policy and denounces that section of the suffrage army in good set terms, but she rightly thinks that in view of the splendid work woman is doing in the world in a thousand forms this is no time to talk of a sex war (if indeed there ever could be a time when it would be other than idiotic). "Rather," she concludes, "is it a period when both sexes should join hands in the promotion of all objects to elevate and dignify our national life." This is sound sense, of course, but it

seems clear to me that, as a preliminary to any effective joining of hands, it is up to man, as the sole wielder of governmental powers, to first elevate and dignify woman by frankly taking her into equal partnership in the affairs of state. The present agitation, whether in Great Britain or elsewhere, can be instantly ended by an act of simple justice on the part of male rulers and their male supporters. And until that step is taken, the blame and shame of the fight woman is making, with its occasional "stupid and wicked" extremes, is wholly man's. I for one protest against any denunciation of Mrs. Pankhurst that does not include at least an equal condemnation of Mr. Asquith, who persists in furnishing the excuse if not the justification for everything she has done or may do.—J. W. Bengough.

STRANGE DOG.

While going along a country road the driver of an automobile saw ahead of him an old farmer walking by the roadside, also a dog. The dog was not content to remain on the side, but kept crossing the road, and was caught by the car and instantly killed.

The driver turned the car as quickly as possible and went back to see what damage had been done and found the farmer gazing scornfully at the remains of the dog. The driver took out his pocketbook and handed the farmer \$10, asking if that would pay for the dog. The farmer said it would, so the other got in the car and went away.

The farmer watched the car till it was lost to view, then, taking off his hat he said, "I wonder who owned that dog?"

THERE'S THE RUB.

Wife (bitterly)—When you married me you didn't marry a cook. Husband—Well, you needn't rub it in.—Boston Transcript.

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