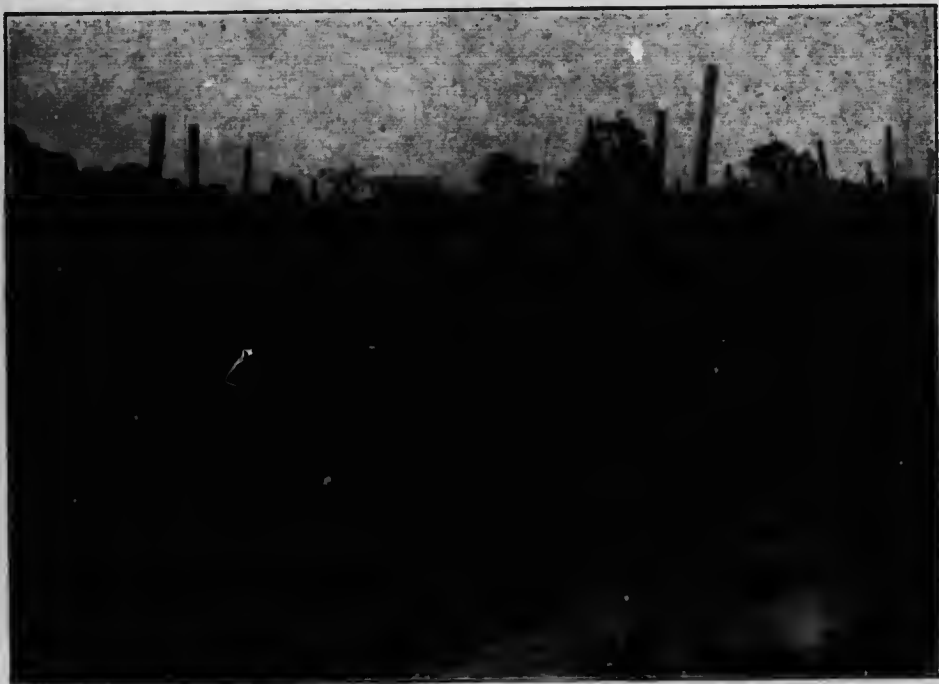


**TRAINING AND PRUNING.**—As soon as the plants grow sufficiently they should be tied to the stakes or wires by means of raffia, or string, or pieces of cotton. The tie should be made under a leaf stem to give as much support as possible to the plant. As the plants are being grown very close together and early fruit is being sought after, the plants must be pruned so as to give every chance to the fruit on the main stem. For this reason all side shoots which commence to grow in the axles of leaves should be pressed off with the thumb. This part of the producing end should be carefully looked after. Three to four ties will be found sufficient to hold up the plant, and the estimated cost of staking, pruning and tying per plant per season is between five and ten cents per plant.



Staking tomatoes produces early fruit of superior quality.

This method should be at least tried out by all progressive vegetable growers on a small scale to decide its merits, and all kitchen garden tomatoes grown on a small scale on a small piece of land should be grown in this manner.

**CULTIVATION.**—Tomatoes in the field should be cultivated thoroughly with horse cultivator both ways of the fields. This should be done after every rain and at least once a week until the growth of vines prohibits.

**HARVESTING AND MARKETING.**—Tomatoes are usually sold in local markets in boxes or baskets. Shipping is almost entirely done in 11-quart baskets with a netting cover. When the tomatoes are to be shipped, they should be picked when they show a yellowish color. For immediate sale should be fairly ripe. A great deal could be done toward improving the quality of tomatoes both shipped and sold locally. A basket or box of clean uniform fruit will always sell better than unclean cracked fruit simply thrown into the carrier. The tomato grower who wishes to establish a reputation for himself should grade his fruit carefully. Competent men should do this grading in the packing-house. Grading cannot be suc-