

TOMATOES.

A correspondent of the *Genesee Farmer* gives his mode of growing tomatoes. He forwards his plants in a hot bed or green house, and grows them in pots until they are a foot or a foot and a half high, turning them out about the second week in May. He plants them three feet apart in rows. When planted he drives down a few stakes, six or eight feet apart, leaving them about four feet high the whole length of the rows, and nailing a strip of wood all along the tops, and tying one or two lower down the stakes, to make a trellis. The ground should be dug deep and made rich with manure, and a spoonful of guano mixed with the soil around each root. We quote:—

"When they have grown sufficiently long to tie to the trellis, I select two or three of the longest shoots and tie them loosely to the trellis cutting away all other small laterals which may grow on the main branches. I let these main branches grow until they have come in flower and set the first bunch of fruit; then I pinch out the top, one joint above the fruit, leaving the leaf entire. I then allow it to go on again until it has flowered and set another bunch of fruit, when the top is pinched out one leaf above the bunch, the same as the first, and so on of all the rest, taking care to cut all the laterals which may grow on the main branches down to the axles of the leaves, as often as they are produced, but leaving the leaves entire. If any one will take this little extra trouble, he will be amply repaid and absolutely astonished at the immense clusters of fine large tomatoes he will have. If planted in a favourable situation, they will ripen at least as early as those grown in any other way out of doors, and frequently three days or a week earlier. When ripe they will hang longer on the vines without decaying. The situation can hardly be too sunny. Deep, light, loamy soil suits them best."

LABELS FOR FRUIT TREES.

The following simple but ingenious mode of preserving labels, may be worth trying by those cultivating several varieties of fruits:—

"Purchase by the gross small vials, short-necked, and about two inches long; write the number of trees, name of varieties, and direction of trees in the row, on a piece of parchment rolled round a small piece of wood, or a piece of shingle written on with a black lead pencil. Cut with four sides in the following manner: on one side write Twenty; next side, Flemish, next, Beauty, next, South—which reads thus; 20 Flemish Beauty, South to next label. The pieces of shingle must be cut the length and width of the vial, and then shove them in through the neck of the vial, and cork tightly and cut the cork off even with the glass mouth, and putty the whole well and smoothly over. Suspend them from a limb of the tree with copper wire twisted round the neck of the vial and the limb of the tree. You will then have a label which will give you no trouble in future to find the varieties of fruit you have in cultivation. If a tree dies in the row, you can easily replace it by finding the name of variety from the label contained in the vial on the first tree in the row, and thus the number will always continue complete."

THE DIOSCOREA IN GERMANY.—Messrs. Editors,—In regard to the *dioscorea batatas* and its success here, I have made inquiries in various places, and always with the same results. Prof. Smith of Heidelberg, Prof. of Botany and director of the Botanical Gardens, says that the experiments in both the scientific and horticultural departments of the gardens, produced no such brilliant results as those that were heralded in France, in fact nothing approaching them. He was inclined to think that the enthusiasm which generally attends new discoveries in France, if it had not magnified the *Dioscorea*, had magnified its uses. He thought it would not prove of any considerable practical value in Germany.

Prof. Von Martius of this city, one of the most celebrated botanists of Europe, tells me of the same want of success in the botanical gardens here, and is equally skeptical of the great practical value of the new stranger.

As far as I have heard, this has been the case also in other botanical gardens of Germany.—*Munich Bavaria.—Cor. Country Gentleman.*