

HOW TO RIPEN TOMATOES

Way to Get Big Crop of Fine Fruit Told by Prof. Bouquet, of the O. A. C.

O. A. C., CORVALLIS, ORE., June 29.—"Considerable trouble has been experienced in the past in the ripening of the tomato crop," said Prof. A. G. B. Bouquet, vegetable garden expert of the Oregon Agricultural College, recently. "One of the greatest drawbacks has been in the dropping of blossoms in the early summer, with a resultant meagre setting of fruit. Instead, therefore, of having ripe tomatoes the last of July and middle of August, many vines do not begin to set fruit early enough to permit ripening before the fall. As a result there is much loss either by the cracking of the fruit by rains, or frosted vines.

"The make-up of the tomato flower is such as to make it necessary often to pollenate the blossoms artificially. The trouble of poor setting of fruits is nothing more or less than non-fertilization of the female organs of the flower. If this organ is not properly pollinated, the flower will fall, breaking off at the first joint below.

"Tomato blossoms remain open several days, and pollination can be aided greatly by the gardener. On bright, sunny days the pollen in the flower will scatter readily if the vine is shaken or tapped with a stick or lead pencil. A high temperature, such as that between ten and two o'clock, will cause the pollen to scatter much more freely and be caught by the pistil, the female organ. I would suggest that some plants be kept as checks and not shaken, to compare results.

"If pruning or staking of the vines is desired the plants should be put closer together in the row, 2 1/2 or 3 feet. They should be pruned to a single stem by removing all the laterals at the axils of the leaves. They should be supported with a stake and cut off when six feet high. Otherwise they should be planted four feet apart in the garden or field.

Report of Public Schools

Report of the schools of Polk County for the school year ending June 15, 1912.

Number of schools reporting to this office	66
Total number of pupils registered during year	3474
Number of days taught	144.19
Number of days attendance	411,139.5
Number of days absence	17,408.5
Number of times late	3,367
Number of pupils neither absent or late for year	189
Average number of pupils belonging	2972.1
Average daily attendance	2,851.3
Per cent of attendance for the year	95.9
Number of visits by parents	900
Number of visits by members of school boards	363

The following schools have received certificates of honor for having made an average per cent of 95 or more in attendance for the year: Zena, Dallas, Smithfield, Pedee, Red Prairie, Lewisville, Ballston, Salt Creek, Monmouth, Orchards, Airlie, Bethel, Ward, Perrydale, Fairview, Rickreall, Gooseneck, Oak Point, Elkins, Independence, Antioch, Brush College, West Salem, Buena Vista, Spring Valley, Harmony, Upper Salt Creek, Montgomery, Lincoln (99.5 per cent), North Dallas, Enterprise, Suver, Crowley, McTimmonds, Greenwood, Fir Grove, Sunny Slope, Concord, Oakdale, McCoy, Guthrie, Powell's Camp (99 per cent), Liberty, Falls City, Black Rock, Pioneer, Cherry Grove, Oakhurst, Mountain View, Rock Creek, Hopville, Mistletoe, Maple Grove.

The following schools have had no tardies during the entire year:

Ward, Spring Valley, Lincoln, Crowley.

The following schools have become Standard during the year: Spring Valley, North Dallas, Buena Vista, Lincoln, Oakhurst, Orchards, Ward, West Salem, Oak Point, Mistletoe, Liberty, Mountain View, Guthrie, Lewisville, Perrydale, Bethel, Brush College, Hopville, Airlie, Fir Grove, Red Prairie, Dallas Public School, Independence Public School, Ballston, Fairview, Antioch, Independence High School, Dallas High School, Falls City, Monmouth Public School, Monmouth High School.

The following schools have gained ten of the eleven points necessary to become a Standard School: Polk Station, Gooseneck, Rickreall, Suver, Concord, McCoy, Rogue River.

H. C. SEYMOUR,
School Supt.

A Poetic Effusion.

The following poem came to us through an exchange which failed to give its source, and we reproduce it because of its quaintness:

"I would flee from the city's rule and law—from its fashions and forms cut loose—and go where the strawberry grows on its straw, and the gooseberry grows on its goose; where the catnip tree is climbed by the cat as she clutches for her prey, the guileless and unsuspecting rat on the rattan bush at play. I will watch at ease the saffron cow and the cowlet in their glee, as they leap in joy from bough to bough on top of a cowslip tree; and list while the pheasant drums his drum, and the woodchuck chucks his wood, and the dog devours the dogwood plum in the primitive solitude. O, let me drink from the moss-grown pump that was hewn from a pumpkin tree! Eat mush and milk from a rural stump, from form and fashion free! New-garnered mush from the mushroom vine and milk from the milkweed sweet—with luscious pineapples from the pine—such food as the gods might eat! And then to the white-washed dairy I'll turn, where the dairy maid hastening hies, her golden yellow butter to churn from the milk of her butterflies; and I'll rise at morn with the earliest bird, to the fragrant farm-yard pass, and watch while the farmer turns his herd of grasshoppers out to grass.

Another Paper at Independence.

The information reached us this week that Independence, our sister city, is soon to have a second newspaper published there. The information is in effect that G. A. Hurley and Ham Kautzman, from Vale, Oregon, have been looking the field over and concluded to take possession and have ordered their plant shipped there from Vale. Since writing the above, Mr. Hurley visited the HERALD office and confirmed the information. Mr. Hurley is a former resident of Independence and a graduate of the Oregon Normal school, of Monmouth.

Free Demonstration.

A free demonstration of the famous Wear-Ever Aluminum Cooking Utensils will be given in the sample room near the meat market, Monmouth, Tuesday, at 2 o'clock p. m., July 9.

A cordial invitation is extended to all. Lunch will be served.

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Church Directory.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH

W. A. GUEFFROY, Pastor.

Morning service at 11:00 o'clock
Evening service at 7:30 o'clock
Sunday School at 10:00 a. m.
Y. P. A. Meeting at 6:30 p. m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday evening.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

W. A. WOOD, Pastor.

Morning Service at 11 a. m.
Evening Service at 7:30 p. m.
Sunday School 9:45 a. m.
Y. P. S. C. E. 6:30 p. m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 7:30 p. m.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

Preaching Service, 11:00 a. m.
Sunday School, 10:00 a. m.
B. Y. P. Union, at 6:30

W. C. T. U.

Local Union meets every second and fourth Friday in the Evangelical church at 2:30 p. m.

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Laura Price, M. D.

Office in B. F. Baker's Residence

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