

TOMATO PLANTS DEMAND WARMTH

Early Ripening Can Be Secured in Most Sections Only by Starting Indoors.

KEEP MODERATELY WATERED

Just Such Soil as Will Grow Crop of Corn or Potatoes is Recommended—Little Well-Rotted Manure Will Help.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

There is perhaps no product of the garden that is so refreshing or palatable as well-ripened, fresh tomatoes, and they can be used in such a variety of ways. While fresh tomatoes are preferable to canned ones they lose very little flavor or quality in the canning and good canned tomatoes add very materially to the food supply of the winter months.

To Get Early Tomatoes. Early ripening adds greatly to the value of the tomato crop and early tomatoes can be secured in most sec-



Hardy Tomato Plant Started in Pot.

tions only by starting the plants indoors. Garden specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture say it is easy to grow plants indoors by sowing a small packet of tomato seed in a cigar box filled with mellow soil about six or eight weeks before the usual time of the last killing frost in spring. The seeds should be covered about one-quarter inch and the soil kept moderately watered and the plants will generally come up in less than a week after planting the seeds. Keep the box near a window where it will get plenty of sunlight, and turn it around each day to make the plants grow straight.

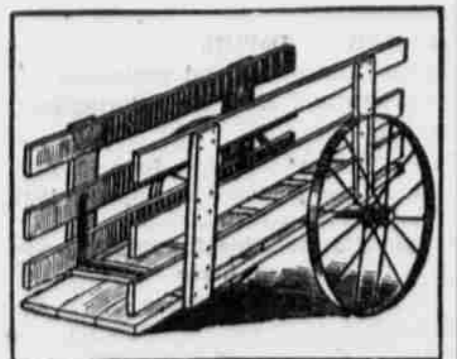
When the plants begin to crowd each other, which will be in about 15 days after they come up, secure a large, flat box, say three inches deep and just long enough to fit into the window, fill it with rich, sifted soil and transplant, giving each plant about two inches of space. With proper care to turn the box from time to time and also to keep the soil moderately watered the plants will be about four inches high, strong, and stocky when the weather has warmed enough to make it safe to set them in the garden.

Warmth is Required. Tomatoes naturally grow in a warm climate and require plenty of warmth from the start. The plants should be kept at about a living-room temperature until a few days before they are to be set in the garden; then they should be gradually exposed to outdoor conditions to harden them. After they are set in the garden it may be necessary to cover them for a few nights with several thicknesses of

CHUTE FOR HANDLING STOCK

Comparatively Easy Matter to Construct Device as Illustrated—Old Wheels Useful.

Farmers who ship many hogs, sheep and calves during the year know the value of a movable chute for loading



Loading Chute on Wheels. and unloading live stock. Make the chute as shown. A pair of old buggy or cultivator wheels make it easy to handle.

newspaper to protect them from the cold.

Tomatoes require a moderately rich soil, not too rich, but just such soil as will grow a good crop of corn or potatoes. A little well-rotted manure can be worked into the spot where each plant is to be set and a table-spoonful of high-grade fertilizer sprinkled over a space about one foot in diameter and mixed with the soil will aid in giving the plant a good start. Planting distances will depend upon whether the plants are to be pruned to a single stem and trained to stakes or are to be allowed to grow according to their natural habit of spreading over the ground. If the plants are to be trained they may be set in rows as close as three feet, and spaced 18 inches in the row. If they are not to be trained the plants should be set three to four feet apart in each direction.

TO WAGE HARD FIGHT AGAINST CORN BORER

Steps Taken to Prevent Spread of Insect Pest.

Specialists in Charge of Work Have Completed Plans for Carrying on Work—Infested Area Borders on Lake Erie.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Suppressive measures against the European corn borer are to be applied vigorously this spring in the western part of New York state to test the possibility of preventing the natural spread of this pest. Specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture in charge of the work have completed their plans, which will be carried out in co-operation with state agencies.

The infested area where the experiment is to be tried out borders on Lake Erie and partly on that section of Canada where the corn borer made its appearance last year. The fight is to be carried against the insect while in its winter quarters. The corn stubble and refuse that have been lying in the fields since last year's harvest will be cleaned up and burned.

Meanwhile, as another method of attack, thousands of cocoons of a small, wasp-like insect whose grub has been found to be a parasitic enemy of the corn borer are being sent to the United States by a representative of the department who is in southern France studying the enemies of the pest. Thus far about 5,000 cocoons have been received at the Boston office of the department, where they are hatched out and the winged insects liberated in hundreds in infested fields. The European corn borer, which has been known in this country but a few years, is looked upon as one of the most dangerous insect pests that have made their appearance in the United States. Some fears are entertained that it will eventually make its way to the corn belt. Infestations of the pest occur in sections of New York and Massachusetts, where federal quarantine to check the spread of the insect are in force.

CATER TO MARKET DEMANDS

Shipment of Unsatisfactory Stock by Growers Seriously Affects Prices Offered.

Shippers of potatoes would profit by heeding market demands and preferences, say specialists of the bureau of markets, United States Department of Agriculture. Dealers and consumers, they find, do not desire badly cut, mashed, frosted, or decayed potatoes, or those damaged by sunburn, blight, dry rot, or an excess of scab or second growth. Markets frequently are overloaded, it is said, prices seriously affected, and unnecessary losses suffered by growers because of the shipment of such unsatisfactory stock.

CARE OF LAWN IS IMPORTANT

Mowing, Rolling, Fertilizing and Watering Have Tendency to Exclude Noxious Plants.

The general care of the lawn is important in controlling all lawn weeds, including crab grass, United States Department of Agriculture experts say. Mowing, rolling, fertilizing, and watering, in other words, everything which contributes to the growth of the desired grasses, will tend to exclude weeds. Purchased manure, because of the seeds contained, is a frequent source of weed infestation in lawns. In sowing, the seed used should be as pure as can be obtained.

Arranging Garden Plants. Garden plants which grow high and shade the ground should not be planted where they will interfere with sun-loving small plants.

More Corn on Rich Soils. On rich soils you get more corn with the same labor.



THE SAUCY CLOUDS.

ONE night as Mr. Moon-man looked over the tops of the trees and mountains he saw a number of fleecy little clouds scudding about.

"O dear!" sighed Mr. Moon-man. "I am afraid I shall have trouble tonight with those saucy little clouds. I was hoping as I came up that they would be in another part of the sky instead of right in the place where I want to shine."

Mr. Moon-man was right; he was to have trouble with the saucy, fleecy little clouds, and just as his bright face peeped over the treetops all the little fleecy clouds scudded right into his face.

Mr. Moon-man ducked and dodged until at last he found a space between



the saucy little clouds to shine upon the earth below, but no sooner had he done so than the little clouds danced and frolicked in front of him until he was quite hidden again.

Mr. Moon-man is a very nice old fellow, so he said very pleasantly: "Go along with you and play in another part of the sky. There is plenty of room without getting right in front of me so the Earth folk can't see my light."

But the saucy little clouds were bent on having fun, and fun they intended to have, and all at poor Mr. Moon-man's discomfort.

He had just found a nice big place to shine through when all those saucy little clouds began to dance right in front of him again. First, they would hide his bright face completely, and

then they would scud away and let him shine a minute, only to scud in front of him again.

At last the old man lost his patience and sent a message by a star for the old Sky Witch. "Tell her to hurry," he told the little messenger, "for I have lost a great deal of time now."

Old Sky Witch came hurrying along on her broomstick, her long black cape floating behind her like a big cloud.

"Well, here I am," she said, "what can I do for you?"

"Hurry as fast as ever you can to the four corners of the Earth and tell the winds to come here quickly; or I shall not be able to shine at all tonight," said Mr. Moon-man.

Old Sky Witch did not stop even to ask what was the matter, but off she flew and was soon out of sight, and all the time the saucy little clouds kept on bothering Mr. Moon-man.

He did not have to wait long, for as soon as the winds got the message from the Witch they blew quickly to help Mr. Moon-man out of his trouble.

"Away with you, you little tormentors!" called the winds, as they blew from north, south, east and west, and scudding away as fast as they could the saucy little clouds were soon in a faroff part of the sky and old Moon-man sent his bright beams on the earth without being disturbed.

"Thank you," said Mr. Moon-man; "sorry to call on you at this time in the night, but those saucy clouds were pestering me beyond endurance."

"Oh, that's all right," answered the winds; "we are always glad to help a friend," and away they blew and left the night all still, but the big Earth was bright with the happy smile of Mr. Moon-man.

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Mary Miles Minter



This is charming Mary Miles Minter, the winsome and famous film favorite, photographed as she sailed for Europe. Miss Minter goes abroad to rest and see the sights.



THE WORD "RUBBER."

THE material which we now know as "rubber" was formerly called elastic gum. One of the earliest uses of this gum had been to erase marks on paper, and the chemist, Priestly, in about 1770, suggested that the material which erased or "rubbed" so effectively should be called "India rubber." His suggestion was adopted, and the name soon became universal.

(Copyright.)

The Right Thing at the Right Time

By MARY MARSHALL DUFFEE

IN A STRANGE TOWN.

"I am not a Virginian—but an American."—Patrick Henry.

IT IS always a bad idea to knock another man's home town. Especially poor policy is it when you are making your living there. Yet there are always young men—and women, too—who seem to take peculiar satisfaction in passing uncomplimentary comments on the city or town of their adoption. They don't seem to remember that the man or woman who is at home in that town is in a position of host and that to make scathing remarks about the town is almost as rude as to make scathing remarks about the house of the man whose guest you are. Especially is this so when the town is small. The stranger in a town like New York or Chicago really harms no one but himself when he continues to pour forth his disgruntlement over the city of his temporary sojourn. No one takes offense. At most they are bored or amused. But when a stranger in a small town assures the natives that it is away behind the times, that the buildings are atrocious, the streets the worst paved in the country, the restaurants and hotels the worst run, the women the plainest and the movies the oldest he is giving real offense, besides, of course, making himself very unpopular.

It really indicates nothing more than

a person's own narrowness to "knock" another town in this way. If the man from a large city goes to a small one he should take it for granted that things would be different. If a Northerner goes South he should bear in mind that Southern climates make people more indolent and he should remember that if he remains there long enough he, too, will possess something of that indolence. And if a Southerner goes North he should remember that the natives of the northern cities have really nothing to do with the raw climate and that the very progressiveness which has brought him North to do business robs daily intercourse of some of the charming courtesies that makes Southern life so different.

The real man of the world soon forgets any local prejudices he may have, or rather he is wise and well bred enough to forget them. He realizes that it is through no fault of the natives of the town where he sojourns that he has to remain among them and that theoretically at least he is free to leave the town if he does not like it. Just at present there are a good many shifts in business and industry. The end of the war and demobilization of the soldiers and the closing of certain war industries and the beginning of other peace industries have made it inevitable that a good many young men should find themselves in a new environment. City men find themselves in the country or village, and country and village men find themselves for the first time in the big cities; Easterners find themselves in the West, Westerners find themselves East, Northerners awake to the fact that great opportunities await in the land of cotton and Southerners on disembarking in the northern ports discover that there are opportunities for them there that they have not at home. If you are one of these young men in a new environment show your good sense and good breeding by not knocking the town of your sojourning.

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"What's in a Name?"

By MILDRED MARSHALL

Facts about your name, its history, meaning; whence it was derived; significance; your lucky day and lucky jewel.

ALICIA.

THIS name is derived from the same root as Alice, and represents an attempt at greater euphony. The curious part of it is that the name, in its original form, is really not that of a woman at all, but of a man. It is derived from the Anglo-Saxon Adelgis of which the feminine form was Adelgisa, but was not frequently given to women. Instead it was sacred to the sons of the house, principally among the nobility. The name itself means noble, in both its masculine and feminine forms.

The name is purely English, having, however, a slight Teutonic flavor. An argument is put forward by some experts that the name is derived from the Frankish Adalbert or Adelcheu, meaning "daughter." Allx or Alisa in Lombardy was naturalized in England

when Alix la Belle married Henry I.

The name, originally masculine, according to the best authorities, however, represents Adelgis and not Adelgisa, making the proper feminine form Aliza. Some believe that Eliza, generally believed to be a derivative of Elizabeth is this missing form. For proof of Aliza as the representative of Adelgisa, the Liber Vitae of Durham records the changes in Adelgisa from the first noble lady of that name, who laid her gifts upon the altar. By contraction it became Adeliza and Aliza.

The talismanic stone of Alicia is the Alexandrite, a Russian gem. It is found in the emerald mines of that nation, being of a beautiful green shade which changes to columbine red. The Russians believe it brings great good fortune. When the subject of its favorite's dream it signifies hope. Monday is Alicia's lucky day and seven her lucky number. Her flower is the white hawthorne, a beautiful bud.

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Metamorphosis. "This is a fine picture. It was painted as 'Still Life,' exhibited as a landscape—and sold as a portrait."—From Die Musquete, Vienna.



SOMETHING IN THAT

Why do you always buy your clothes on the installment plan?

They try to give me stuff that will last until the installments are all paid.