

## THE FARM GARDEN.

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RHUBARB is frequently a much ill-used crop ; its chief value is when it is available for use early in spring—the period preceding gooseberries. It is only by correct management that it can be had at that time. Some places are not suitable for the growth of the plant. It is important that there should be sufficient moisture at the roots in dry weather to support the succulent growth, a deeply cultivated soil, and plenty of humus. There must be sufficient drainage to prevent the roots becoming waterlogged in winter, or the crowns will suffer. The lines of treatment to follow are : there should be nothing pulled the first season after planting ; the plants should be left entire, in order that they may be well established. The second season, if all goes well, strong stalks should be ready in the spring ; then, when pulling, each clump should be stripped as wanted. The second growth is quickly made, and a second crop can be usually secured. Pulling must cease by the end of January, as the last crop should be left to mature, its function being to build up a crown, in order to ensure an early crop in the following season. Each plantation should give good stalks during two years pulling—that is to say, the life of a bed is three years from planting. The following winter the clumps should be taken up and divided, pieces with one, two, or three crowns being taken for replanting. It will be necessary to have two beds planted in different years to keep up an unbroken supply. It is not uncommon for the autumn crop to be used for making jam or wine. Where this is done, however, there is never any spring rhubarb, for though the crowns may survive the winter, they are too weak to give good stalks—they must then perform in spring the building-up process that should have been done in autumn. Consequently, it will be mid-summer before usable stalks will appear. The only time when the late crop should be used is the last season of pulling before transplanting. Only a portion of the crowns will be required for dividing. Unless there is to be extension of the bed the area it is calculated will not be required may be pulled from as long as there is anything on it.

Tomato-plants should be established by now. The only attention they will require for a time is to remove side shoots. Determine the mode of training to be adopted—whether one, two, or three main stems. Pinch off all others as soon as they show, care being taken, however, not