

Sow *spinach* before the end of this month, remembering that growth will be made during winter. Choose a well-drained plot, and, if it can be managed, let it be a plot that was well manured for a previous crop rather than dig in strong manure now, as this would tend to make the soil cold in winter by holding water. The soil will be fairly rich—if it has been well manured recently, so as to ensure sufficient humus—and a dressing of bonemeal will be sufficient now. The plants should be thinned to 9 in. or 10 in. apart at an early stage.

*Tomato-plants* require constant attention in respect to keeping away waste growth and tying to their supports. In the matter of tying there is a right and a wrong way to do it. The wrong way leads frequently to chafing against stakes, or cutting through the stem; the right way prevents both evils. The raphia may be passed first round the stake or wire, or round the stem of the plant: sometimes one way comes handiest, sometimes the other. Supposing it goes first round the stake, you put the strand round the back of the stake—that is, the side farthest from yourself and the plant or stem to be tied, the two ends being towards you; cross these, transferring the end in your left hand to your right, and *vice versa*; now bring the two ends round the stem and tie at the back—that is to say, the outer side. It will be found that the tying-material now forms a figure 8; the strands cross between stake and plant, which are thus kept apart. Moreover, there is some room for play under the influence of wind—a great safeguard. The plants are then much more secure from damage than if tied tight and immovable. This is the proper tie for all kinds of plants, and is particularly useful for securing such brittle subjects as *chrysanthemums*.

*Winter Rhubarb*.—In the last issue the sowing of seed of winter rhubarb was advised. If seed was put in it should now be up and making plants. Thin out so that no two plants stand together, and leave a space of 12 in. between the plants. This space will not allow for full development, but is sufficient at first. The first lot of stalks should be available for use in about twelve weeks from sowing. That is my experience. After a few weeks the plants will want more room. Each other one may be then either lifted and planted elsewhere or cut out and destroyed. In the meantime they will have given some stalks for use. This class of rhubarb may be regarded as of very special value in a country garden, as it supplies fruit for pies or stewing all the year round. The term “winter” is somewhat of a misnomer; it would be more properly described if called “All-the-year-round” or “Evergreen.” It is quite distinct from the ordinary type, which is dormant in winter. No systematic experiments have to my knowledge yet been made in its cultivation, but it is easily seen that the proper