

SAVING TOMATO-SEED.

A. B., Waimate :—

Kindly let me know the best way to save and separate tomato-seeds.

The Horticulture Division :—

When a small quantity of seed is required the best way is to spread the seeds with a knife on a sheet of newspaper ; sufficient pulp will go with the seed to cause them to stick. Pin the papers to a wall, and when dry they can be rolled up till sowing-time. The seed may then be scraped off, or the papers can be cut to the size of the box and seed sown as it is, in which case the paper should be just covered with soil. When the seeds come up the paper will be found to have disappeared. If larger quantities of seed are required they should be washed through a fine riddle and dried.

STARTING A PLANTATION OF EUCALYPTS.

H. A. NEVINS, Annedale, Tinui :—

Will you let me know where I can get gum-seed for sowing ; also how much seed would be required to sow an acre, as I intend to sow on ploughed ground where the trees are to remain ? What is the best time to sow ? We get frost in the winter.

The Horticulture Division :—

Seed of various gums can be procured on application to the Superintending Nurseryman of the State plantations, Whakarewarewa. The seed of the different varieties of eucalypts varies in weight. You do not state the variety you intend to grow. One ounce of blue-gum seed will produce approximately nine thousand plants. The number of trees required for an acre, at 5 ft. apart, is 1,742. For particulars of how and when to start a plantation see article on eucalypts in the April issue of the *Journal*, page 275.

FROST-PREVENTION METHODS.

J. F. WALCOTT, Clyde :—

I desire to take frost-preventing methods with a few early tomatoes and potatoes. Are alarm thermometers reliable, and, if so, where are they to be obtained, and their approximate cost ? I have heard that tomatoes, &c., if watered with a watering-can on a frosty morning before the sun strikes them are not likely to be frosted. Is that correct ? If so, what is the most suitable temperature for the water ? I intend to use smoke fires, but the watering method, if reliable, would be a further safeguard.

The Horticulture Division :—

Alarm thermometers are in general use and are considered quite reliable. They were procurable from G. W. Wilton and Co., Wellington, price 15s. 6d. each ; but at the present time there are none in stock, and it is doubtful if any are procurable in the country. Watering potatoes, tomatoes, &c., to prevent frost damage is a common practice ; but it is of little value, and applies only in cases of light frost. Water used for this purpose is not heated, and is applied before sunrise.

SAND-CRACK IN HORSES.

E. J. PEACH, Port Levy :—

Would you kindly tell me the best cure for quarter cracks in horses' feet. The horse that I am riding has one on each fore foot ; both are on the inside and are very bad. I have been putting mutton-fat on the cracks, but it is not a success.

The Live-stock Division :—

The following treatment can be adopted : Pressure must be taken off the shoe immediately below the crack by paring away the wall of the toe and the hoof. Get your blacksmith to fire the hoof by making an iron the same shape and size as a gouge-chisel, only fairly blunt. After making red-hot, apply to the hoof. The