

and naturally in such cases ventilation should be almost entirely from the top. With unheated houses the position is quite different. It is not so much increased heat that is sought for as protection from the inclemencies of the weather, and consequently a more equable temperature. Extremes in temperature should be avoided, and at times this will require all the ventilation that can be applied. Not only is free ventilation safe, it is very beneficial to the plants, giving them solidity of substance and rendering them blight-resistant. If the atmosphere is kept moderately dry, air can be allowed to pass freely through the plants, and they will benefit by it; but this would not be safe with a wet house, a state which I say should not exist.

WATERING.

With a view to preventing a great change of temperature in the soil, which would cause a check, watering should be done when the soil is at its coldest, and naturally this will be early in the morning. The soil will then have the benefit of increasing sun-heat, will gradually warm up, and most of the evaporation will be over before closing-time. The house can then be closed in a fairly dry state, will retain warmth longer, and the atmosphere will remain moderately dry through the night. However dry the house may be, a certain amount of moisture is bound to gather during the night; it will, in fact, never be absolutely dry. The amount of water necessary is a much-debated phase of tomato-culture, but, as already indicated, I have no hesitation in saying that in general practice far too much is given. Experimental work has proved that the tomato thrives in very dry soil, and is then quite free from blight. The plants should never be syringed except for the purpose of applying insecticides or fungicides.

FERTILIZING THE FLOWERS.

An overmoist atmosphere prevents the dispersal of pollen. It should be remembered that house plants are practically deprived of the aid of wind and insects, which are the chief pollen-carriers in open-air culture, where also the pollen is dry the greater part of the time. The atmosphere of a house should be dry during the greater part of the day, so that the pollen may be easily dispersed. This process is assisted by a slight agitation of the plants, to be effected in a simple manner by smartly rapping them with a light cane, or by drawing the cane quickly along the rows of twine, precisely as is done in vineries to help shy setters. The time to carry out this operation is the middle of a fine day.