

“going off” quickly. A thorough clean-up before the new crop is put away will enable it to be held in condition longer—often a distinct advantage—and raise the reputation of the produce among the buyers. A clean store that is cool and well ventilated will give excellent service.

#### TOMATO-CULTURE AND ROTATIONAL PRACTICE.

The outside tomato crop will now be well into the harvesting-period. If the plants are at all backward a dressing of soluble fertilizers hoed in when rain is threatening will be of benefit.

The question will soon arise as to the best crop for following on. Too often the ground is neglected for quite a period, which is very undesirable. Much better is it to clean up and burn the old plants and sow a cover-crop, and so get the advantage of the remainder of the growing-season and the considerable amount of manure which remains in the ground. Some growers give the land a good dressing of manure and work the land up for crops of cabbage, lettuce, &c., for early spring cutting. This is a satisfactory succession, except sometimes where a tomato crop is to follow again next season, when the usual heavy manuring again given frequently tells to its disadvantage. The average grower has very generous sentiments as regards expenditure on manures for the land, which is admirable indeed, but evidence is now showing that not only is there an economy but also a benefit to some crops from a more prudent expenditure in this direction.

Regarding the case in question, the cabbage crop probably makes good use of all the manures that are applied, but to follow on with the usual application of fertilizers for the succeeding tomato crop sometimes results in a rank plant that is subject to disease and demands much extra attention. There can rarely be a routine laid down in the matter of applying fertilizers where miscellaneous crops are grown and heavy doses are administered. Careful consideration must be given to the condition of the land from previous dressings and the requirements and peculiarities of the succeeding crop. One of the most urgent problems of the present day in horticulture is to deal effectively and cheaply with land that has been heavily manured and cropped with little or no rotation. To sterilize out the noxious fungi and insect pests is an expensive operation.

One excellent practice observed recently was to sow down the area in tomatoes with grass and clover seed in the month of March, and soon after the plants had finished cropping and had been cleaned up there was an excellent pasture for stock. The property was divided up for this purpose, each section in turn being laid down in grass for three years, giving the land time to recuperate and cleanse itself naturally.

#### SMALL-FRUITS.

Growers purposing to plant out passion-fruit should sow the seed now, selecting for the seed-bed a piece of good land in a warm, sheltered locality. Thin the seedlings, when they appear, to about 6 in. apart, so that sturdy plants may be available for planting into permanent quarters in the spring.

Some growers of Cape gooseberries prefer to sow seed now, and so have large and early plants for putting out in spring. They will need the protection of a frame during the winter.