

use. To fit the screen in position, place it on the ground upside-down and lift the hive into it. Where the screen is neat-fitting the weight of the hive is usually sufficient to hold it secure, otherwise metal clips should be fitted to hold the lid tightly enough to the hive to prevent the escape of the bees. Hives shifted in this way are merely

lifted out of the screens and placed on floor boards on arrival at their destination. This method of closing hives for short distance removals is quick and causes a minimum of disturbance, which is very desirable.

—T. S. WINTER, *Senior Apiary Instructor, Wellington.*

#### RAISING TOMATO PLANTS.—Continued from page 63.

may be purchased in small quantities from most of the leading seedsmen.

#### *Sterilised Soil*

If the soil to be sterilised is dry, it should be thoroughly drenched with a dilution of 1 part formalin to 99 parts water. With moist soil, however, the dilution is preferably 1 in 49. In the event of the dry soil not absorbing the liquid quickly, give half at the first application and the remainder after half an hour. Immediately the soil has been treated, cover it with bags moistened with the mixture, and leave for 48 hours. After removing the covering, the soil should be stirred daily until all the fumes of the formalin have disappeared. Fourteen days after treatment the seed may be sown.

In warm localities the seed, particularly for a main crop, may be sown

in prepared beds under a glass frame. Generally, a seedling box 3 inches deep, which may be made from an apple case, will be found more convenient. A glasshouse, however small, is an acquisition to any garden, and is invaluable for growing early plants.

The seedling box should be filled with a good friable soil which has been put through a sieve, the meshes of which do not exceed  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch, or crushed fine between the hands. The soil should be pressed well down along the sides, and particularly at the corners, not omitting the centre. When the soil has been levelled off on top of the box, the seed may be broadcast thinly and lightly covered with soil which has been passed through a very fine sieve and to which has been added about one-third coarse sand. To assist germination, press the contents

of the box down firmly with a piece of dressed timber. If the box is situated in a sunny position, cover it with a piece of light-coloured paper and a sheet of glass, which must be removed as soon as germination begins. The box should be placed in the warmest position possible, and if neither a glasshouse, a hotbed, nor a coldframe is available, a glassed-in porch or verandah will be the most suitable.

From this early sowing, but depending on the method of growing, the seedlings should be ready for "pricking out" or transplanting to other boxes in about 21 to 25 days.

#### *Transplanting*

The main object of transplanting is to assist the plants to proper development and to encourage greater root production, and it is therefore necessary to space the seedlings 3 inches apart each way. When transplanting, hold the young plants by the leaves. The seedlings must never be removed by pulling, but should be eased from the bottom of the box with the small dibber which is being used for transplanting.

—D. K. PRITCHARD, *Instructor in Vegetable Culture, Wellington.*



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