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Nothing too old, small, large or hard for us to tackle.  
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**TOMATO IS POPULAR**

POINTS TO SECURE SUCCESSFUL PRODUCTION.  
Wide Range of Choice Both With Reference to Soils and Fertilizers — Pruning and Harvesting.  
(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

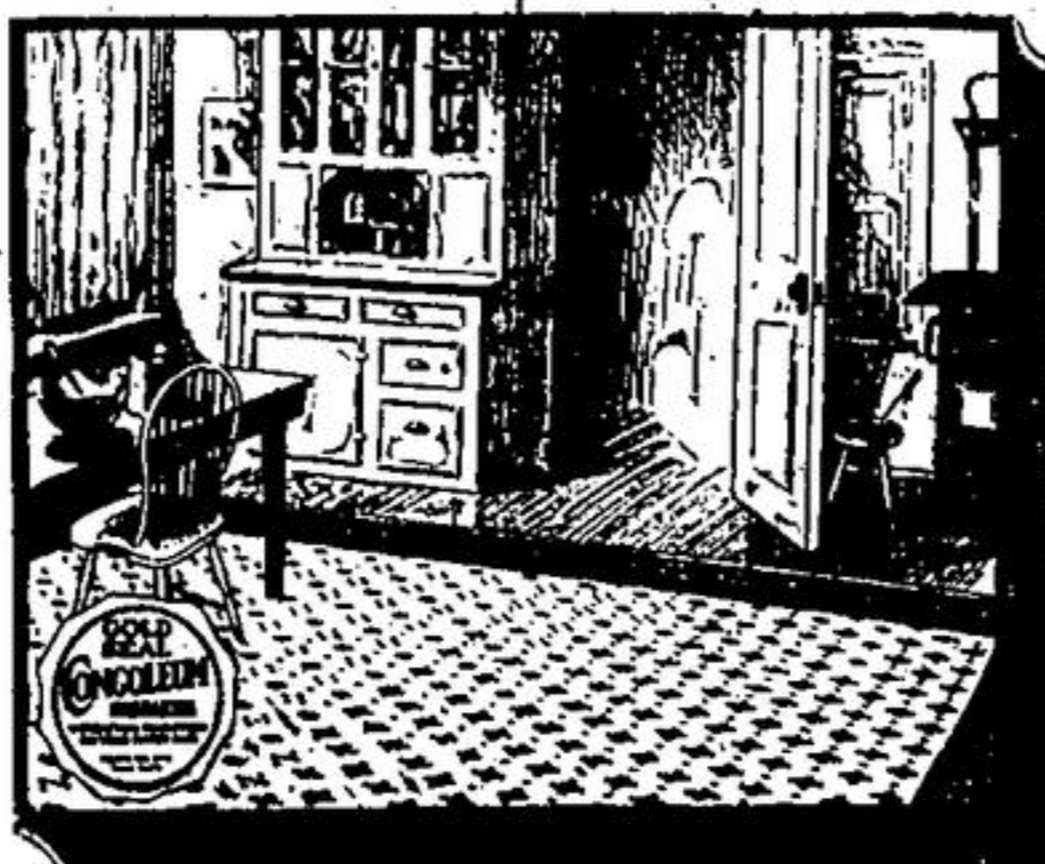
Tomatoes are grown extensively as a truck crop, as a market garden crop in the home garden. The field acreage grown for canning in Ontario has reached many thousand acres. Soils: The tomato does well on a wide range of soils. However, for the early crop light sandy or gravelly loams are preferred, while for a heavy yield, later crop, the rich sandy loams or clay loams are preferred. Fertilizers and Manures: General recommendations at best can only be a guide for the use of fertilizers and manures with this crop. The character and treatment of the soil, along with what may be the ultimate use of the crop, together with the length of season for the district, all help to suggest what treatment is needed. It is generally recognized that the tomato crop requires a soil in a high state of fertility. Fresh manure should not be applied just previous to the setting of the plants, far better if applied the previous autumn, or with the previous crop. Tomatoes will do well following clover, ploughed under the previous autumn. Of the commercial fertilizers those bearing relatively high quantities of available phosphorus are most generally satisfactory. Sometimes a light application of sulfate of soda applied when early plants are getting a start is useful to help them on after the shock of transplanting from frame to field. Since early fruiting and ripening is important with this crop, too much nitrogen will prolong the growth at the expense of early fruiting. Planting: Tomato plants are tender and should not be set out into the field until after danger from frost is over. Previous to setting out they should be well watered and as much of the soil and roots be moved with the plant as possible. It is well to choose a dull day or clear day planting until late afternoon. The usual distance of setting the plants is four by four feet. Various methods are used to facilitate the work of setting — some growers plough the rows and mark their fields and dig the holes, while the most common method with the small grower is to use a wheelbarrow in setting the plants. It is good practice to set plants somewhat deeper than they were growing in the pot or box. Firm the soil well around the roots of the plant, this is important. Cultivation: Cultivation should be frequent. Keep all weed growth down. As the plants develop the tillage should become more shallow and finally cease when injury to the roots is noticed. Growing Staked Tomatoes: Many commercial growers produce a crop of tomatoes from plants supported by stakes and pruned to a single stem. This is an excellent way to grow the home garden crop. Training: Plants may be set from twelve to eighteen inches apart in rows that are three or four feet apart. Individual stakes of wood or iron may be used to support the plants or such may be supported by lines to wires. Rains is the most satisfactory tying material, used as a loop around the plant stem and attached to the support. Pruning: In order to produce a single stem plant, all side shoots and suckers must be pinched off as soon as they appear. Harvesting: Tomatoes allowed to ripen on the vine have a superior flavor, so fully colored fruits only should be pulled. The eleven-quart basket is the most popular marketing package used in Ontario at the present time. Firm, sound, well graded, clean fruits only should be packed for market. — Dept. of Horticulture, O. A. College.

**ALPALFA.**  
Food Reserve and Ability to Withstand the Winter.  
Chemical analyses of the roots of alfalfa plants, from which the hay was cut when all plants were in full bloom, have been made to determine the amount of carbohydrates and both soluble and insoluble nitrogen present. The roots of plants that were allowed to come to full bloom showed more than twice as much reserve food as did the roots of plants that were cut in the bud or one-tenth bloom stage. It has also been noted that plants that are harvested when the bloom is full come through the winter with less loss. The more vigorous condition of the root, as indicated by chemical analysis, for the plant that is allowed to come to full bloom and harvested only twice in the season, is a big factor in carrying the plants over winter. Many alfalfa fields are ruined by late September and October cutting — the roots are left in a too weakened condition to stand the rigors of winter. — L. Stevenson, Director of Extension, O. A. College.

A fourth laboratory analysis and field test of the commercial product known as "Belliger" at the O. A. College by special request. The results of this test tallied with those that were previously reported by the Department, and were to the effect that this product, which retails at six dollars per gallon, is of no benefit to crops on ordinary soil.

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all you have to do is to write a short composition on

**Pearl Soap**



Describe its value in the home! Describe the new wrapper with the RED BAND!

**READ THE FULL PARTICULARS**

We have recently changed the wrapper on Pearl Soap, printing it in blue with a Red Band, making it more distinctive. In order to make sure that Pearl Soap in its new wrapper is well known in this locality, we are offering substantial cash prizes for a short composition, open to the boys and girls in the homes of the readers of this paper. This composition will describe the new Red Band wrapper, and tell about the uses of Pearl Soap in the home.

1st Prize \$25.00 in cash, 2nd Prize \$15.00 in Cash, 3rd Prize \$5.00 in Cash. And a Prize for everyone who enters.

Conditions of this Contest  
Open to boys and girls of 15 and under school grade and name of school who attend school.  
Composition to be not more than 100 words in length.  
Composition is to describe the new Red Band wrapper of Pearl Soap, also what Pearl Soap is used for in the home and with what results.  
Entrants will mention their name, age, school grade and name of school in composition.  
Each entrant must send in five new Red Band Pearl Soap wrappers with composition.  
Parents may give suggestions, but compositions must be in the handwriting and position must be in the handwriting and date mentioned below.  
Composition must be in our hands by June 1st.

Pearl Soap is one of the highest quality and best known Naphtha Soaps in Canada. It is made by the makers of Comfort Soap, the most popular laundry soap in the Dominion.  
If you require any further information, ask your grocer or write us.  
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**3 Good Cash Prizes**  
The above is the Date by which your Composition must be sent to us  
Tuesday JUNE 1ST

**PREPARE YOUR GARDEN**

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR SOIL TREATMENT.  
A Small Vegetable Garden on the Farm or the Back Yard Will More Than Repay Time and Trouble.  
(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

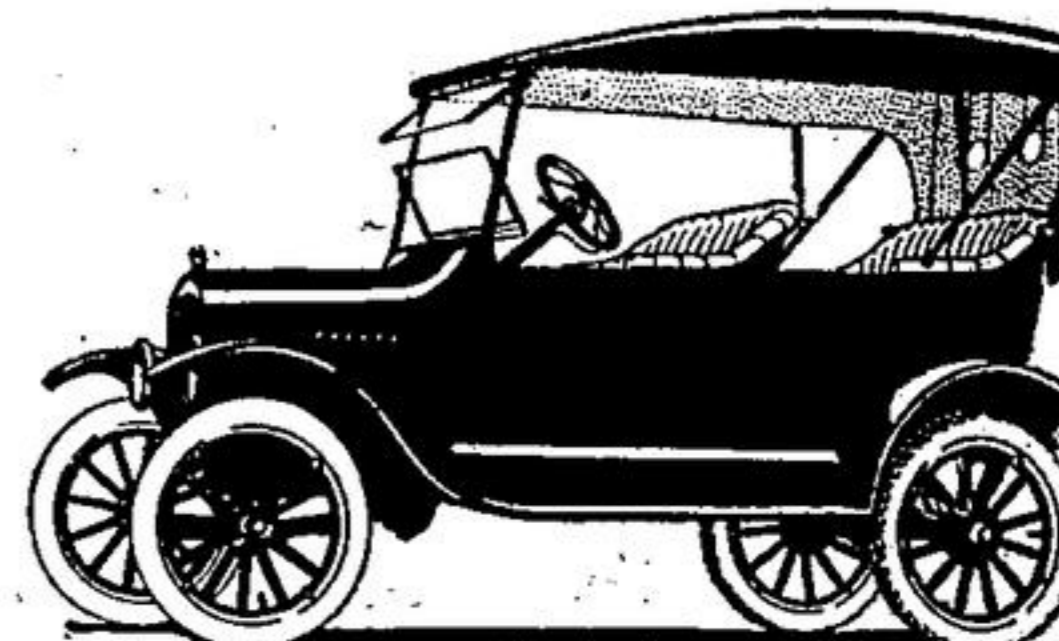
The soils preferred for vegetable production are sandy, sandy loam, clay loam, silt and loam. A sandy loam is probably the most popular, but each type has its limitations, and some crops are better suited to one than another.  
Soils of a sandy nature are early sets, because they dry out and warm up early in the spring. They are not suited to late growing crops. In general sand soils are low in fertility and must be manured heavily that plant food and moisture may be available to the growing crop.  
Clay loams retain moisture longer than sands or sand loams and they are also richer. However, such soils are not so well suited to the growth requirements of early crops. Crops grown during the drier part of the season find more moisture in this type of soil and hence we find such crops as late cabbage, late cauliflower, late potatoes, canning factory sweet corn and tomatoes grown on such land.  
Muck soils on account of their high organic content, their moisture holding character and the ease with which such soils can be worked, are considered the best for celery, lettuce, and onions. Muck soils are somewhat heavy and hence we find such crops as late cabbage, late cauliflower and spinach. Muck soils are not suited to early crops or long season tender crops.  
Soil Preparation: Thorough soil preparation is necessary to insure worth while crops.  
Drainage: The first step in preparing the heavier types of over moist soils. Open ditches — the drains and high bedding soon pay for the labor and material cost. The better aeration, increased available food and early warmth make good drainage well worth while.  
Digging: Deep soils are needed by the vegetable crops. The deeper the soil the more moisture it will hold and the greater will be the feeding area offered the roots. Plough or dig deep. If the surface soil is shallow go down a little deeper each year. Autumn ploughing is generally desirable on all soils, especially the clay and sand. If ploughing is done in the spring earliness is important. Clay soils may puddle and bake. Sequence a handful of soil, and then release the pressure, if the soil gradually crumbles and breaks it is in good condition to dig or plough.  
Harrowing: This operation should be performed as early in the spring as the ground is fit. The hand cultivator, rake and hoe, are the small gardeners implements for surface tillage. For heavy soils and for soil, the disc harrow is invaluable. It should be followed by the spike tooth harrow which reduces the soil surface to a state of fineness and smoothness. The muck or vegetable harrow is a very useful implement with which to finish a smooth area previous to planting.  
Manures and Fertilizers: Stable manure is the best all-around fertilizer for the garden. It supplies both plant food and a mechanical condition that favors the retention of moisture. Applications up to 40 tons per acre are made on gardens, when obtainable. But owing to the general scarcity of stable manure, chemical fertilizers are now largely used in conjunction with the more bulky stable product. Stable manure is deficient in phosphorus, so this element should be added in the form of acid phosphate at the rate of four hundred pounds per acre. Poultry manure is valuable, particularly for the leaf crops. Care must be used in its application to soils growing delicate foliage plants like the tomato. Heavy applications will stimulate too much leaf growth on most soils. Coarse fresh manure should be applied in the autumn, and well rotted manure in the spring.  
Commercial Fertilizers: Commercial fertilizers may be used successfully to supplement a scant supply of stable manure and to make up the required quantities of the different elements which are needed by particular crops. For general use in a small garden a complete fertilizer, that is one ready mixed, containing about four per cent nitrogen, eight per cent of phosphorus and four per cent of potash, should be fairly satisfactory, when used at the rate of two pounds for each 100 square feet of surface.  
Nitrogen: The effect of nitrogen on the growth of the plant is noted in the development of the leafy parts, the deep green color being particularly noticeable in vegetables succulence is a highly desired quality and nitrogen tends to produce this.  
Phosphorus: The soil given to phosphorus in plant growth is that it hastens maturity, increases root development, especially the fibrous roots, improves the quality of the crop and increases the resistance of the plant to disease.  
Potash: The third of the elements is essential to starch formation and in its subsequent transfer within the plant itself. Sandy soils and muck soils are usually poor in potash. The addition of potash except in small quantities is usually not profitable, excepting for such crops as the potato. Send for Bulletin 314 and get the rest of the story. — Dept. of Horticulture, O. A. College.

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