

I. INTRODUCTION

(A) NURSERY TECHNIQUES

S U M M A R Y

(1) In Temperate Regions

The paper presents the results of an investigation into some aspects of nursery and field techniques commonly involved in Trinidad dry season tomato cultivation.

The object of the work was to examine and extend particular aspects of earlier investigations on this subject.

Current methods of plant raising and field cultivations are described briefly and their underlying principles discussed theoretically.

Exploratory trials with various new potting composts and also with modifications to the peasant-type outdoor seedbed revealed promising improvements in these important branches of nursery technique. A worthwhile potting compost was evolved using easily obtainable materials, and the lines of future investigation into seedbed improvement were to some extent defined.

A field experiment has established the technical superiority, as judged by fruit yield, of the pot-raising over the seedbed-raising method; similarly, the yield limitations imposed by ridge planting as compared with flat planting alone, or with flat planting followed by moulding cultivations, have been confirmed.

The results are discussed separately under their relevant sections, and a special recommendation follows the general paper.