

Get After the Roadside Weeds

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Chicory and Sweet Clover are two very aggressive roadside weeds; their constituency is increasing every year. They are most persistent in their growth. They need cutting twice in the season, and sometimes three times, to prevent them going to seed.

Besides these, in some localities we find blue-weed, ribgrass, burrs, perennial sow thistle, rag-weed, slacampagne, milkweed and teasel in varying quantities. Some places one only finds one or two in other places half a dozen kinds.

It is refreshing to see that the mower is being used on the roadsides in many places. It isn't used half enough however. With a little work the roadsides could be levelled enough to use it to a great deal more. It is a rapid and easy way to do most of the work. Why doesn't the municipality see that one is used in each of their jurisdictions? If the onus is on the pathmasters to look after the weeds, the municipal authorities should see that the work is done. A mower sent out often enough over the municipality would go a long way in alleviating the nuisance and danger.

Farmers complain that they have so much to do and cannot get help at the time such work should be done. Why not commute enough of the statute labor to see that these roadside enemies are looked after? Let us get busy; farmers, and see what we can do yet. It isn't too late yet for ragweed, chicory and sweet clover.

The Railroad Worm or Apple Maggot

L. Cacer, Dept. of Entomology, O.A.C.

Apples infested by the Railroad Worm or Apple Maggot, as we should call it, have either been sent to the writer from the following Ontario counties or have been found by him in them:—Prince Edward, Northumberland, Durham, Ontario and Lincoln. In the last named county only one infested tree has been found so far as known. In the other counties with the possible exception of certain parts of Prince Edward only a few orchards are attacked and in some of these orchards only a few trees.

The insect does not spread of its own accord rapidly but is conveyed from place to place by the shipment of infested apples. It is just possible, however, that in some districts it has been present for years, feeding upon haws,—its original food so far as known,—and has for some unknown reason transferred itself from these to the apple, as the Lesser Apple Worm sometimes does.

As an enemy of the apple in Ontario it is not new, for Dr. Jas. Fletcher reported its presence 14 years ago and it is known to have been in Prince Edward County for about 10 years.

DETECTING ITS PRESENCE

Apples attacked by the Apple Maggot are not easily detected from the external appearance until one becomes very familiar with the insect's work. There are, however, the following characteristics which are usually quickly learned by any one who has had experience with infested fruit: (1) Small depressions about the diameter of the head of a pin but not so deep and to be seen where the eggs were laid. Often the centre of these cavities are whitish and show a slight sign of injury. (2) If the maggot tunneled just inside the skin, the part immediately above is more highly colored than normal. (3) Badly attacked fruit becomes much deformed and irregular in appearance. But it is where we cut through the apple that we can most readily detect the work of the insect; for infested apples have small brown tunnels or streaks about the thickness of a small knitting needle running here and there through the flesh.

Care must be taken to distinguish these brown areas from what is called fruit pit, a trouble which apples are sometimes subject to. Fruit pit areas however, are usually larger and are quite isolated, not running here and there con-

tinuously through the fruit the way the tunnels of the Apple Maggot do.

THE INJURY IT WORKS

An apple may contain from one to 12 or more maggots with a proportionate number of the brown streaks or tunnels in it. Badly attacked apples lose their crisp, juicy character and become insipid and woody. Such fruit is not fit for the market.

The maggots themselves are rather difficult to find chiefly because of their small size and of their color. They are about one quarter of an inch long, white, rather slender and taper towards the front end, where there are two tiny black holes that take the place of jaws and rasp the pulp to free the juice on which the maggots live. This pulp then turns brown and makes the streaks or tunnels. The adult insects are two winged flies like the House Fly somewhat, but a little smaller and much prettier. They can readily be distinguished, as they sluggishly remain on an apple or a leaf, by the green eyes, dark body with a small white spot near the centre of the back, three or four narrow white bands or lines across their abdomen and alternating light and dark



Silo Filling at MacDonald College

This illustration depicts a scene which will be common for the next two weeks in all the corn-growing sections of Canada. All stockmen, and dairymen in particular, know well that the silo gives them an opportunity to preserve the corn crop in a state that is palatable to the animal, and is sure to bring good profits to themselves. Such silos as those shown should be found on every large dairy farm in the country. There is hardly a dairy farm so small but that a silo of some size would be a profitable investment.—Courtesy MacDonald College Magazine.

bands across the wings.

ITS LIFE HISTORY

The life history of the insect is briefly as follows: About the middle of July (this year July 15th) the adult flies begin to appear and may be found up to about the end of August, during all of which time eggs are being laid. A single female may lay as many as 300 eggs. These are laid just under the skin. The maggots on hatching feed in the juice of the apple, working their way here and there throughout it. They are believed in almost every case to remain in the fruit until it falls. After this they come out, enter the ground half an inch or more, and remain here until they emerge as flies in July or August of the next year.

MEANS OF CONTROL

We know of no spray mixture up to the present that is of any practical value in controlling this insect. This is chiefly because the habits of the insects make it impossible to reach them in any stage with a spray. In some districts where it has been given a good trial, thorough cultivation, using the disc and harrow frequently, from the time the land is fit to go on in the spring up to the middle or end of June, has given good results and very few pupae have been able to transform into flies.

The cultivation is of course an excellent thing for the orchard. The best results are to-day being obtained by the destruction of all the fallen fruit

each day after the first of August or the latter part of July. Sheep, hogs and calves are usually employed for this purpose. The fruit of course may be gathered by hand and fed to cattle or hogs or destroyed in some other way.

The writer would moreover strongly recommend any person who has only a few infested trees to shake every apple off the trees a week or two before they are ripe in the case of early apples and not later than September 10th in the case of later varieties and gather them all up and feed them to his stock or destroy them in some other reliable way.

This done one may hope to annihilate the insect before it gets very abundant and thus save much trouble and loss later. Do not allow this pest to increase at its own pleasure year by year! It is being controlled by those who really try.

Increase the Value of Corn

N. B. Stuart, Orford Co., Ont.

Corn, even when it is fed dry is the most economical fodder that can be grown. It is quite possible however to add at least 15 per cent. to its feeding value and reduce the work of feeding it in the winter time by more than one-half by preserving it in the form of silage. The greatest objection we had to the corn crop before we established our silo was the work of bringing in the fodder from the fields when there were two feet or more of snow on the ground. Now all that we have to do is to climb into the silo with a large fork, throw out two or three inches of silage and the work is done.

We have also found that the milk flow can be kept up in the winter time with plenty of ensilage in a way which was impossible when we only had corn fodder. The silo makes winter dairying profitable; in our experience more profitable than summer dairying. Since silos have become common in this section the amount of milk sent to the creamery through the winter has more than doubled. The prosperous farmers are the ones who are making proper use of corn silage.

Some of our neighbors had to sow their corn twice last spring and even then got a poor stand on account of poor seed. If we are going to get the most out of this crop we should select well matured ears of proper shape this fall and lay aside for seed next year. This is the only way in which we can hope to get a first-class stand.

Kill Weeds by Fall Cultivation

J. R. Westlake, Carleton Co., Ont.

Summer fallowing is not necessary for the eradication of noxious weeds such as mustard, Canada thistle, curled dock and so forth. By plowing as early as possible after the crop is removed and cultivating frequently until the ground freezes, it is quite possible to free land from the weeds mentioned.

The farm of one of our neighbors was badly infested with mustard. The former occupant (who had merely rented the farm) had failed to keep this pest in control and it had practically driven him off the farm. When his successor and present owner (an Englishman by the way) took the farm, we were all very interested in knowing how he would make out in the struggle for existence with the weeds.

A BAD LOOKING FIELD

His first grain crop could not be seen for mustard. This crop was not allowed to ripen but was cut when green and with careful curing made very fair winter feed. The land was

plowed immediately or so, was mustard this year these were thoroughly a

The next He followed plowing as By followi tation which and roots, h weeds.

Nor was th the only be cultivation. shape for nex cultivation at supply of pl vegetable mat nder, growth in the soil w farmers who are hopeless strugg follow the exa do more fall acreage of h

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R. F. L.

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