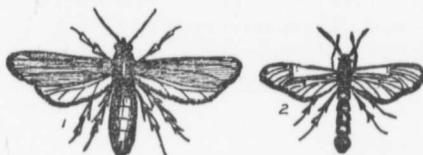


THE PEACH TREE BORER.

(Egeria exitiosa.)

This pest, so destructive to peach orchards, is very widely disseminated. The moth appears from about the first of June to the middle of September. The female deposits her eggs in the bark of the tree at the surface of the ground. They are very small, oval in form, slightly flattened and of a dull yellowish color. They are deposited singly and are fastened to the bark by a gummy secretion. As soon as the worm is hatched, it works downward in the bark of the root, forming a small winding channel, which soon becomes filled with gum. As it increases in size it devours the bark and sap wood, and causes a copious exudation of gum, which eventually forms a thick mass around the base of the tree, intermingled with the castings of the worm. When full grown the worm measures over half an inch in length and about a quarter of an inch in diameter. It is a naked, soft, round grub, of a pale whitish color, with a reddish horny looking head, and black jaws. In badly infested trees the whole of the bark at the base of the tree is sometimes consumed for an inch or two below the surface. Nor does the insect always confine itself to the base of the tree. It occasionally attacks the trunk further up, and sometimes the forks of the limbs. But exuding gum invariably points out the spot where the enemy is at work. Its operations are not always confined to the peach; it also works on the plum.

REMEDIES.

Several remedies have been proposed to meet this evil. Where the borers are present they are easily detected in consequence of the exudation of gum. Hence, early in the spring the trees should be examined, a little of the earth removed from about the base of the tree, and if masses of gum are found, the grub should be searched for and destroyed. Hot water has been found very effectual in killing them. It should be used boiling hot, and after the earth has been removed from about the base of the tree.

Among the preventive measures much has been written in favor of mounding the trees, banking the earth up around the trunk to the height of a foot or more, and pressing it firmly about the tree. Some allow the mounds to remain permanently, but the better way is to mound up late in the spring, and level off the ground again in September, after egg laying has ceased and the moth has disappeared. Another preventive, which we regard as much better

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