

IMPORTANCE OF SPRAYING AND WHEN TO DO IT

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ONE might suppose that farmers and fruit growers would spray their trees as a matter of course, just as they plough and cultivate their fields, since the advantages of spraying have been so well proven and demonstrated during the past 13 or 14 years by the best fruit growers of Canada and by men employed by the government to do this work. Unfortunately, there is yet a very large proportion of the men engaged in fruit growing who do not spray.

Some men spray their trees but are not satisfied with the results, the reason being that the mixture is not properly made, the trees are not sprayed thoroughly, or the spraying is not done at the proper time. Spraying is an expensive operation, and it is surprising that fruit growers continue to waste hard earned money by not doing the work properly.

The early sprayings are the important ones, and these are too often neglected on account of press of other work. When the spraying is done it is often too late to be of much service. A spraying calendar, with directions for making the different mixtures and solutions, will be sent free, on application to the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. A certain number of sprayings are suggested in the calendar and the times when they should be made.

It should be impressed on those who spray that if heavy rain occurs before the mixture has dried on the trees it will be washed off and the work must be done over again. The neglect of this is probably one of the chief causes of poor success in spraying.

THOROUGHNESS IS REQUIRED.

Spraying should be done thoroughly and the underside of the leaves should receive as much of the spray, if possible, as the upper

sides. Every leaf or fruit, or every part of leaf or fruit, missed means a possible foothold for disease or insect pests. The spraying should be done as nearly as possible at the times mentioned in the spraying calendar. A delay of a few days may mean the loss of practically all the mixture or solution used, as there might be no beneficial results.

At the Central Experimental Farm this spring the first spraying will be made during the last few days of April, depending on how far the season is advanced. The aim is to spray the apple trees just as the buds are breaking or have broken. The poisoned Bordeaux mixture (4 pounds copper sulphate, 4 pounds unslaked lime, 4 ounces paris green to 40 gallons of water) is used at that time. The object of this spraying is to prevent the spread of the Apple Spot Fungus and to kill any leaf eating insects.

The first spraying at this season was begun a few years ago when the Tent Caterpillars were very bad, as it was found that the young caterpillars began to work just as the buds were breaking, and could be easily killed at that time.

SECOND AND THIRD SPRAYINGS.

The second spraying will be made just before the flower buds open, which at Ottawa will be about two and a half weeks after the first application, the poisoned Bordeaux mixture again being used. This is to destroy leaf eating insects also, such as the bud moths and Tent Caterpillars, and prevent the spread of the Apple Spot Fungus. A third spraying with poisoned Bordeaux mixture will be made within a week after the blossoms fall.

The two first sprayings are important, but this third spraying is even more important still, as at this spraying the poison is applied