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Questions and Answers, Miscellaneous.

Handling a Crop of Sorghum.

Will sorghum spoil if put in the silo? Would salt prevent it from spoiling? I have a field of sorghum which is badly frozen. Would there be much danger of the cattle bloating if they were turned in the field to eat it off? **A. C. A.**

Ans.—Sorghum is not a good crop to ensile. It contains such a high percentage of saccharine matter that the proper fermentations relative to preservation do not take place. We doubt the advisability of using salt. There would not be much danger of the cattle bloating if turned in a field of sorghum where the moisture is largely gone from the leaves, owing to frost. We believe a more profitable way of handling the crop would be to cut it and allow it to dry in the field and then store it in the barn to be used as fodder for stock in the early part of the winter.

Warts.

I have a heifer coming two years old which is developing a number of rough warts, mostly on her neck. There are a few on other parts of her body. What is the cause and how can they be removed? **R. L.**

Ans.—Warts are epithelial excrescences and some animals are particularly predisposed to them. In some cases they appear without any apparent cause; in fact the appearance of the growths cannot be prevented. The daily application of butter of antimony or other caustic may eventually remove them. Those with constricted necks may be cut off with a knife or pair of shears and the raw surface dressed with an antiseptic until healed. Where the warts attain a considerable size they may be dissected out and the wound dressed until healed with a five per cent. solution of carbolic acid. Some claim that the daily application of castor oil will result in their removal.

Tussock Moth.

Under separate cover I am sending two moths which I found eating the leaves of my apple trees. Can you name them? What are their habits? When is the proper time to spray for them? Are they a pest? **C. H.**

Ans.—The correspondent speaks of enclosing a few moths found eating the leaves of the apple trees. I suppose he means of course a few larvae. The parcel forwarded when it reached me had only two cocoons containing pupae, the larvae having pupated on the way.

From an examination of these pupae it is almost certain that the insects were the common hairy caterpillars which are being found all over the Province this fall. There are several species of this. One is grayish or nearly white, with a row of black, short tufts of hair down the back. This is usually called the Hickory Tussock Moth Caterpillar. Another one is pale yellow, or better, olive color. This is the most common species this year. This species may be called the Olive Tussock because of its olive-colored hair, if one wishes. I believe there is no well-known common name for it. There is a third one known as the Spotted Tussock, which has conspicuous, bright yellow hair on most of the body and black areas or tufts especially along the back and at each end. All three of these species of caterpillars are characterized by having, especially at each end, long, thin tufts or pencils of hairs. From this fact they get the name "Tussock", because the word Tussock means "tufted"; but none of them are the true Tussock Moths whose larvae trouble the city trees so much. The latter have long disappeared, in fact, they practically disappeared by the end of August, whereas the caterpillars of these three species which I have just described are still to be found in considerable numbers.

The fact that these hairy caterpillars occur so late in the year prevents their doing much damage. They may eat a great deal of foliage, it is true, but the foliage is usually nearly ready to drop or would in any case soon be killed by the frost. I do not consider that spraying would pay. In the case of flowers, the caterpillars might be hand picked. It is quite probable that these pests will not be troublesome again next year, as the natural enemies which have hitherto kept them in check will likely be sufficiently strong to do so again next year.

L. CAESAR.