

at maturity, and change to the pupa state, fig 5, and in from fifteen or twenty days more emerge the perfect fly, fully prepared to accomplish their depredations by depositing their eggs upon the more healthy plants. As many as from one to five of the larvæ were frequently to be met with on a single plant.

The perfect insect is about half the size of the common house-fly, with a few thinly scattered hairs covering the surface of the body. It is of an ash-gray color, the males being distinguished by a series of dark stripes upon the back. The head is marked with a brownish spot upon its apex. The wings are exceedingly transparent, exhibiting beautiful iridescent reflections from their surfaces, the shoulders of which are of an ochery-brown color, and the veins of brownish yellow.

This fly may not unfrequently be met with in the spring of the year, basking in the sunshine about the windows of the neighboring dwellings. And from the circumstance of finding their larvæ in the greatest profusion, committing their depredations in the middle and latter parts of August, we are inclined to believe that they pass through several generations in a season, and that they probably make use of the seed of the plant, on which to deposit the egg for the larvæ of the ensuing spring. If this be so, steeping the seeds in brine, before sowing, we should suppose would be the proper remedy; if otherwise, the process will not materially affect their germination. They appear to show a distinct predilection for the white onion, in preference to that of any other color.

This insect it is exceedingly difficult to destroy. Strewing the earth with ashes has proved of little avail; powdered charcoal answers a much better purpose, and is generally in use in this section of country, but it should only be thrown over about two thirds of the bed, so as to leave a portion of the plants for them to resort to on being brought to the perfect state, and driven from their original resting-place. When they have been converted to the larvæ state and commenced their depredations, these plants should be pulled up and consumed by fire.

It has been recommended to prepare the beds as early in the spring as convenient, and suffer them to remain eight or ten days for the noxious plants to vegetate, then to cover them with straw to the depth of ten inches, and burn them over; after which, plant the seeds for the ensuing crop immediately. This process, it is stated, has proved perfectly successful in driving away the insects and insuring good crops, and in addition to this has furnished a capital top-dressing to the soil. Onion-beds prepared from the hearthst upon which charcoal has been burned, have likewise been mentioned as producing the perfect vegetable, entirely free from the attacks of the fly.

Should the charcoal method here mentioned, be universally adopted, we have little doubt but that this insect depredator will in a short time become greatly reduced in number if not entirely destroyed, and afford a much better chance for a more healthful crop of the onion plants hereafter.

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