

SPRAYING PEACH TREES FOR PEACH CURL.

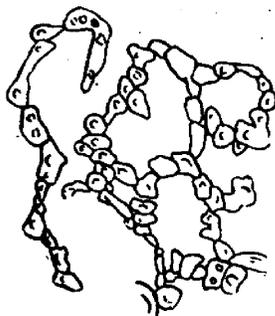


FIG. 1365.—Leaf Curl, filaments magnified.

Orr, provincial inspector of spraying, has been faithfully spraying his peach trees since the first opening of the leaf, with Bordeaux mixture.

On the 24th of May the writer visited the orchard for the purpose of noting the result, and found that while orchards on each side of his were affected to an alarming extent with curl leaf, Mr. Orr's were almost free. We further noticed that certain rows had been whitewashed by means of a spray pump in the winter season, the whole tree being thoroughly whitened. The object of

this was in part to test the effect in delaying the opening of the buds until danger of frosts was over; but it seemed to have a special effect also upon the fungus under consideration, for on those rows the foliage was still less affected.

EXPERIMENTAL SPRAYING of apple trees is being again pushed forward most vigorously by Mr. W. M. Orr, the Provincial Director. The province is divided into three divisions, the Central, Eastern and Western, and ten points in each are selected for the experimental work. The apple trees in each are selected in some orchard where a good assortment of varieties can be found, and these are treated with six different applications of the Bordeaux mixture. The results in some cases have been simply surprising, the trees being not only free from scab and codling moth, but also from canker worm, bud moth, tent-caterpillar and many other insects. No doubt Mr. Orr's next report will be of still greater interest than his last one.

THE SEASON AT ITHACA.

The season here, in common with most other parts of the Eastern United States and I suppose Western Canada, has been abnormal in many respects. At first—about the middle of March—it gave promise of unusual earliness. The peach buds swelled, here and there and apricot showed its blossoms, but the cold weather of April retarded vegetation wonderfully and was the means of saving the crop in many parts of the State from the damaging effects of some late April frosts. The prospects are at the present time most favorable for an abundant crop of all kinds of fruit. Peaches will be rather light in some places, but the crop generally bids fair to be above the average. Curl leaf has, however, made its appearance and may lessen the prospective yield. Dwarf pears and Japan plums have set very fully in the Experiment Station grounds. The blossoming period of fruits and ornamental shrubs was wonderfully prolonged by the cold weather of April. For instance, Forsythea began blossoming March 28th, was in full bloom on April 10th, and only lost its last flowers about a week ago; just now quinces are in full bloom and very striking with their beautiful white terminal tips.

A careful study is being made this year of the phenomena attending the pollination of orchard fruits. This field appears to grow wider the farther it is explored and important results are expected to follow the investigations of this season. Insects are abundant, tent caterpillar everywhere and aphides already beginning a vigorous campaign on the snowball. Apropos of this I may say that Mr. Slingerland is following his interesting bulletin on the codling moth with another equally interesting, describing insects injurious to the quince, I am glad to learn that it seems probable Mr. Slingerland will succeed the late Dr. Lintner, as State Entomologist. Such an appointment would certainly meet with the hearty approval of nurserymen and fruit growers. As an economic entomologist Mr. Slingerland stands in the first rank of workers in this branch.

I may say in closing this hasty note that the HORTICULTURIST is much appreciated by the members of the University Horticultural Club.

JOHN CRAIG.

Cornell University, May 23, '98.