

Fire Pots as a Protection Against Frost in Orchards

(By M. B. Davis, B. S. A., Assistant to the Dominion Horticulturist)

The question of protection against late Spring frosts is one that has had the attention of nearly every grower of fruits and vegetables which are subject to its ravages.

Of the various methods devised only one seems worthy of consideration and that is the method of raising the temperature of the surrounding air by the use of orchard heaters or fire pots.

TYPE OF HEATER USED

Although there are many types of heaters on the market, only one was used at the Central Farm owing to the inability of several manufacturers to supply their heater at short notice.

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LIGHTING AND CARE OF HEATERS WHILE IN USE

As the oil used in these heaters is very crude and unrefined it has a very high flashing point or in other words will not ignite readily.

FUEL

The fuel used in these heaters is what is known as fuel oil and can be procured from any of the leading oil companies of Canada.

per gallon or less, F. O. B. Ottawa, and in barrel lots at 11 cents F. O. B.

NUMBER OF HEATERS PER ACRE

The number of heaters required per acre will depend upon the degree of frost to combat. For ordinary purposes, such as a frost of 5 or 6 degrees, 100 heaters per acre should be ample.

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to a torch. If gasoline, which is a very combustible product, is applied to the surface of the liquid the heaters, and a lighted match torch is then applied, the gasoline will ignite and burn and by the time it has burned out it will have raised the temperature of the oil to its flashing point and ignition will take place.

EXTINGUISHING.

The fire or flame in the heaters may readily be extinguished by simply placing the cover on the heater. The flame may smoulder for a few minutes but will soon be extinguished after the cover is placed in position.

SOME RESULTS FROM USING FIRE POTS.

As no frosts were experienced in the late Spring it was decided to test out these orchard heaters in the early Fall. On the night of September 28, the heaters were lighted. On this night the frost came very early and the thermometer had fallen to 32 degrees before there was any person in the vicinity of the alarm.

REFILLING.

Whether or not the heaters require to be refilled while a frost is in duration will depend upon the length of the frost period.

COST

Whether or not it is an economical method will depend to a very large extent on the margin of profit of the crop in question, although it must be borne in mind that a frost may mean the difference between a shade failure and success.

A FROST ALARM SYSTEM

Many nights during early Spring threaten frosts which do not actually arrive or if they do, only come in local areas, and it is very difficult for any person to forget whether a frost will actually come or not.

ATTEND YOUR CONFERENCE

urges you to attend as many of these Conferences as possible, also to watch for other information on the subject that will be given in other announcements in this newspaper.

always be made for refilling and barrels of oil should be distributed throughout the area to be heated so as to facilitate the operation of refilling as much as possible.

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PATRIOTISM and PRODUCTION

The Empire's Call to Farmers

"Approximately twenty million men have been mobilized in Europe. A large proportion of these have been withdrawn from the farms of the countries at war. Even in neutral countries large numbers of food producers have been called from the land to be ready for emergencies. It is difficult for us to realize what will be the effect on food production through the withdrawal of several million men from all the great agricultural countries of Europe. These millions cease to be producers, they have become consumers, - worse still, they have become destroyers of food."

HON. MARTIN BURRELL, Minister of Agriculture.

Britain must have food—food this year, and food next year. Britain is looking to Canada to supply most of that food. We are sending our surplus now, but we must prepare for a larger surplus this year and next year. Patriotism and Production must go hand in hand

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Put Energy into Production of Staple Foods

The Government does not ask farmers to work harder, so much as it urges them to make their work more productive, and to produce those staple foods that the Empire most needs and that can be most easily stored and transported.

Poultry and eggs. Vegetables, such as potatoes, onions, and turnips. The larger the yield of these staple food products, the greater the service to the Empire. Germany in the last ten years has doubled the average yield of the majority of her field crops largely through better seed, thorough cultivation and use of fertilizer.

tural methods for the Empire's advantage. The Government urges farmers, stockmen, dairymen and other producers to make a wider use of the Free Bulletins issued by the Canadian Department of Agriculture. Clip out, fill in and mail the coupon below and get a list of these bulletins. Then select the bulletins that will be of value to you. Mail your coupon right now. Do not put a stamp on the envelope. Your coupon will be "On His Majesty's Service."

Canadian Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Canada

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