

ARSENITE OF SODA A SUBSTITUTE FOR PARIS GREEN.



THE Ohio Experimental Station at Worcester, has published a bulletin advising the use of soluble arsenic in place of Paris green. As shown in the following selection, Paris green is a good insecticide, but is somewhat troublesome to use in liquid form, as it does not dissolve readily, and needs constant agitation to keep it from settling.

If allowed to settle at all the distribution is not uniform, and injury is likely to result to the foliage of some plants, while the insects on other plants escape. Moreover, it is unduly expensive, whether used dry or in the form of a spray.

White arsenic, in soluble form, costs about one-third as much as Paris green and gives no trouble in the way of settling.

Dissolve two pounds of commercial white arsenic and four pounds of carbonate of soda (washing soda) in two gallons of water and use one and one-half pints to a barrel of Bordeaux mixture (50 gallons).

The easiest way to make the solution is to put both the white arsenic and carbonate of soda in a gallon of boiling water and keep boiling about fifteen minutes, or until a clear liquid is formed, and then dilute to two gallons.

One and one-half pints of this solution to each barrel of Bordeaux mixture is sufficient to use when spraying for potato blight and potato bugs, for apple scab and apple worms, or for any other purpose where a combination mixture for fungi and insects is required.

This combination has been fully tested at the Ohio Experiment Station

and found to be quite as effective as the Paris green and Bordeaux mixture combination, and for the reasons given above is much to be preferred.

This arsenic and soda solution, or arsenite of soda, is more safely used in combination with Bordeaux mixture than alone, as when in combination it will not injure the foliage, but alone it is liable to burn the leaves. The same objection holds good, however, with reference to Paris green and London purple.

It is better, however, in almost every case, to use the combination mixture as fungi are nearly always present and unless they are kept in check there is but little use of fighting insects.

Specific directions for making and using Bordeaux mixture, as well as how to control various insect pests, can be found in a spray calendar issued by the Ohio Experiment Station.

The arsenite of soda may be prepared in any quantity desired, but being almost a clear liquid is somewhat dangerous to keep on hand. The danger may be obviated, to some extent, by coloring the liquid with some cheap aniline dye, using enough of the latter simply to give sufficient color so that no one would mistake the solution for an inoffensive drink.

It takes but a short time, however, to prepare sufficient for a day's spraying, which is, perhaps, the least dangerous method. It is a rank poison and should be properly labeled and carefully guarded, the same as all other poisons. Insects may be the means of spreading fungous diseases and fungi may so enfeeble plants as to make them an easy prey to insects.