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THE BLACK ROT OF GRAPES IN OHIO

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AT the request of the Minister of Agriculture, I recently visited the grape districts of northern Ohio to ascertain the best methods of dealing with the black rot of grapes. In Ontario, in the Essex district, black rot has been more or less prevalent for some years, but no sustained effort was made to check the progress of the disease. The result was that fruit growers of that district found it necessary to pull out the vines and plant to other uses. Many of the old vineyards which were objects of pride five or six years ago along the Detroit river have now disappeared. In the Niagara region, where the grape industry is developing on a commercial basis, the black rot is beginning to be felt, and grape growers fear they will suffer the same fate as the Essex growers if they do not try to combat the attacks of the fungus.

Through the kindness of Prof. Selby, of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station at Wooster, I was directed through the vineyards along Lake Erie from Unionville on the east to Sandusky on the west. Besides, he gave me letters of reference to many of the prominent owners of vineyards in the Cleveland district, with whom I consulted regarding their methods of treatment. The results of the experiments these growers have conducted have been very gratifying. They were conducted on the cooperative

plan, that is, the owners and the Experiment Station worked together to control the disease.

Six sprayings are recommended by Prof. Selby for the Delawares, seven for Catawbas, and eight for the Concords. He states that the Catawbas and Niagaras are the most susceptible to rot; the Delawares quite resistant; and the Concords not so susceptible as the Niagaras, but less resistant than the Delawares. He does not believe that early sprayings are of much use, and he bases his belief on the results of sprayings carried on for three years.

WHEN SPRAYINGS SHOULD BE DONE.

The first spraying is given when the new shoots are from one to two feet in length, which in the Ohio district is about June 1; the second spraying is applied about July 1 in an ordinary season. These two sprayings are considered the two most important, inasmuch as they come immediately before and after blossoming. Many of the grape growers told me that if they failed to spray on or about July 4 they almost invariably lost their grapes. The subsequent sprayings are given at intervals of a week or ten days, and the last for the Delawares is usually applied about August 1. The first four applications are made with Bordeaux mixture, and the remainder with either ammonia-carbonate solution or soda-bordeaux.