

❧ Question Drawer. ❧

Apple Trees Dying.

1101. SIR,—I would like to have your advice as to what to do for my apple trees. The leaves are all turning brown and they are dying by the dozen. Most of them were planted four years ago and have done well: they are mostly Yellow Transparents and healthy. Duchess and crab apples are not affected so bad. I thought the leaves faded off a little unnatural last fall, they have not looked very healthy all spring: the weakest of them dying first. Now the whole orchard of 150 trees has a dusty brown shade, with the leaves curling up. I thought possibly it was the wet season, as part of the orchard is rather wet clay, but the trees on the dry light soil are going now as well as the others. A few of them have bark loosening on the south side from sun scald, but most of them have real healthy trunks. I have not done any spraying. What do you think is causing it, and what remedy can I apply?

L LOVE.

Port Sandfield, Muskoka.

We fear there is no remedy for the trouble affecting your apple trees. The sample sent us has the appearance of apple twig blight, which has been a very wide scourge this season. It may, however, be the result of the recent severe winter which has injured the roots of orchard trees, especially of the peach trees, in such a large area. Strange to say, the vitality stored up in the tree enables it to put forth leaves in the spring, and even form some fruit, but alas, in time the enfeebled condition of the roots soon begins to show itself in a dead or sickly top, and the tree is past recovery. If the evil is wide spread, this latter would be the explan-

ation; if only a few trees, it is probably twig blight.

Fruit in Cape Breton.

1102. SIR,—I am sending you herewith, by parcel post, a box containing two Northern Spy apples; a small vial containing beetles which I picked off my pears last autumn, and a few withered fruit spurs from a pear tree—the latter I took off the tree to-day. When the blossoms dropped off the tree the leaves on the fruit spurs withered up and are still clinging to the twig, while the other leaves on the tree seem to be perfectly healthy.

Will you kindly say what you think of the quality of the apples? What are the beetles? Are they injurious to the pear? And what is the trouble with the pear tree?

Plums will be a good crop here; apples fair only. The late cold weather of May and June probably was the cause of the fruit not setting well.

Referring to a recent article in the HORTICULTURIST regarding *Prunus pissardi*, I have one ten years planted which is beginning to show signs of failing health and is becoming rather unsightly, but it was a beautiful tree for several years.

D. S. McDONALD.

Glendyer Mills, C.B.

We should suppose from your description that your trees are affected with the pear blight, which often begins with the fruit twigs.

The samples of Spy apples are in a wonderfully good state of preservation, and if they have only had ordinary storage, their condition would go to show that apples with our correspondent are better keepers than those grown in Ontario.

