

CUTWORMS.



MOTH.



LARVA.

Cutworms, or Surface Caterpillars, the larvæ of Noctuid or Owlet Moths, are reported from all parts of the Province, especially destructive to garden and root crops, but also attacking fruit trees and plants and grain crops.

There are many different species of this family, and the parent moths vary greatly in size, form and colouring. Most of them are dull coloured, with obscure markings, and fly at night. The caterpillars of the different species vary also in their habits, but on the whole are very similar, being smooth, almost naked, grayish or brownish caterpillars, of some dull shade of colour similar to the ground in which they usually hide during the day. They are commonly night feeders, and not to be found during the daytime unless disturbed; but some species when they occur in large numbers, a periodic event, change their habits and feed by day as well, and when this is the case will often be found distributed all over the plants upon which they are living, or in holes which they have eaten in tomatoes, carrots, cabbages, etc.

The eggs from which cutworms hatch are laid by some species in autumn, by others in spring or summer, so that caterpillars of all ages and sizes are found at the same time.

Some of the species develop climbing habits to such an extent that fruit trees and bushes are attacked in their young shoots, foliage and fruit.

The following methods and remedies are recommended against these destructive pests, but judgment must be used in choosing those most adapted to the particular form of attack in any instance of their occurrence:

- (1.) Preventive measures.—Clean culture by which all vegetation possible is removed upon which the caterpillars could feed in the autumn or which would attract the moths when they are egg-laying.
- (2.) The banding or wrapping of the stems of freshly set out plants with rings of heavy paper or tin, as cutworms are unable to climb over smooth surfaces.
- (3.) Poisoning the caterpillars with the following mixture is an excellent way of dealing with them in spring and early summer: One pound of Paris green to 50 lbs. of bran. In making the mixture it is advisable to dampen the bran slightly with water containing a little sugar, adding the Paris green gradually and stirring thoroughly together. If it is desired to use the mixture wet add more sugar and water, but better results are obtained when it is just moist enough for the Paris green to adhere to the particles of bran. Small quantities of the mixture should be placed at the base of the plants to be protected or along the rows. A convenient way of distributing this poisoned bran amongst crops which are grown in drills, is by means of a combined hand wheel hoe and seed drill. The seed-box should be filled with the mixture and lines of it dropped along the rows, close to the crop to be protected, in shallow furrows. Strange as it may seem this mixture appears to be preferred by the cutworms to living plants.
- (4.) When cutworms appear in vast numbers, as they do periodically, and have assumed the day-feeding habit and are found distributed over the surface of plants indiscriminately, the