

The Importance of Careful and Thorough Spraying

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As the time for spraying is near at hand, perhaps it may not be out of the way to urge on orchardists the importance of early and careful

No matter what the nature of the season, from the commencement of growth until midsummer, we must be prepared to "watch and work," not

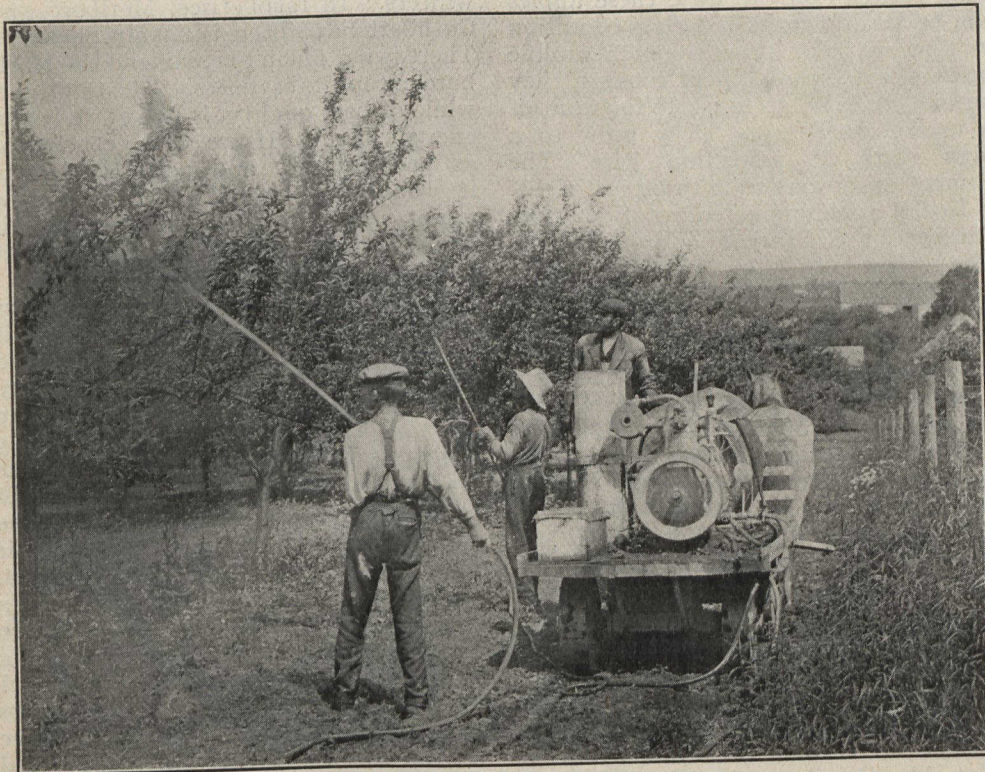
and foliage, the commencement of which we cannot see, but with results plainly evident.

If it were possible to have every fruit tree, in every orchard, carefully and thoroughly sprayed from the ground upward, and all diseased leaves and fruit lying on the ground destroyed, or covered with earth, before or just as the growth of the spores had commenced, we might have some hope of stamping out several of the worst of those pests. This is hopeless, however, unless we get perfect cooperation over a large section of country.

There is an old, frequently quoted adage that will apply to this operation of spraying very forcibly: "That which is worth doing is worth doing well." There is no work on the farm or orchard that requires more care, skill, and closer attention to details than the preparation, straining, and final mixing of spraying solutions in the cask or tank, ready for application, also keeping pump, agitator, hose, extension rods, nozzles, and so forth, in perfect condition all the time, so that the work may be well and economically done without loss of time or waste of material. It matters not whether the hand pump or the power sprayer is used, the same care and close supervision of the work and the same attention to detail is necessary.

MANNER OF SPRAYING

We must have force enough behind the pump to drive the liquid through the nozzles in the finest possible spray. A spray that will float in the air like a



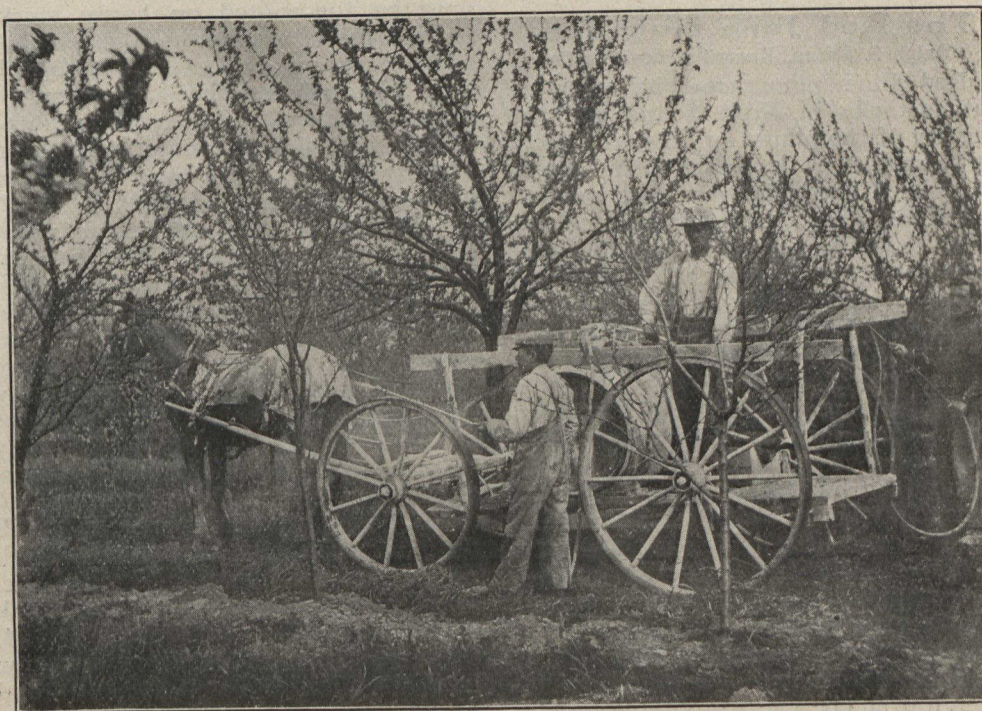
Spraying in a Nova Scotia Orchard

This cut and the one on the front cover of this issue illustrate a power sprayer at work in the orchard of Mr. W. M. Black, Wolfville, N.S. Note the low trucks.

work in this department. It is well that every man should study his own especial wants in this matter. He should know by the past year's observation what variety of insect pest will be most likely to trouble him during the coming season, and be prepared to attack them at the most vulnerable time in their life cycle, not allowing them to get so far ahead as to damage either foliage or fruit, or get so strong as to be difficult to destroy. It will be time well spent if the orchardist will devote some careful study to the life-history of the insects that are troubling him, so that he may take the best means and the proper season to attack and destroy them.

Then we must combat those fungous diseases which have been so destructive to most varieties of fruits during the past two years. These can only be kept under control by careful and continuous spraying with the Bordeaux mixture, or some other preparation of copper carbonate, and at the same time by closely watching the climatic conditions. It is well known that warm, cloudy or foggy weather is a strong incentive to the propagation and growth of fungous spores, and that under such conditions, our precautions should be redoubled.

only to control the insect pests that we can see, but the far more insidious and dangerous fungous diseases of both fruit



A Sprayer at Work in the Orchard of R. S. Eaton, Kentville