

Scientific.**Some Noxious Insects.**

Within the past few years there has been a very notable increase in the numbers of certain insects, whose depredations to a farm crop tend greatly to decrease the profits accruing from the farmer's labors. Several insects which formerly were present only in small numbers and whose ravages were inappreciable, have increased so as to present in many cases a serious obstacle for the producer of the affected crop to overcome. It is only a few years since the potato bug made its appearance and greatly increased the cost of that popular tuber. Several years ago clover seed was a staple crop in some sections, where to-day the seed is rarely produced on account of the visits of the tiny, yet mighty, clover midge. These changes have in some cases been brought about by foreign insects coming to our shores in ships, as did the Hessian fly, and also by some natural agent which facilitated the multiplication of the pests.

Below will be found a short list of some of the most common insect pests of the farm, with the most popular and practical remedy with which to meet their attacks. In all cases it is well to apply the remedies as soon as the injury is detected rather than to delay the operation and give the insects time to become numerous.

The Onion Maggot.—The mature insect is a little two winged fly, which early in summer lays her eggs on the leaves of the young onion close to the ground. In a short time the egg becomes hatched into yellowish white maggots, tapering in shape and without legs. These maggots, or larvæ, soon eat their way into the bulb of the onion at the lower part and their presence then may be easily detected by the sickly appearance and yellowish tinge of the plant. They feed on the onion for about two weeks when they enter the earth and become changed to the form of a pupa, a small oval body, with a brown exterior, in which state they remain torpid for about twenty days, when they emerge in the form of a

mature insect and at once commence laying eggs for a second generation. It will thus be seen how rapidly they multiply. In dealing with this insect, two preventive measures are recommended: don't plant in the same ground succeeding years, and in planting the onion, if in sets, plant deeply so that the fly cannot deposit her eggs near the root. Another efficient remedy is in spreading about the onion plot a substance, the smell of which is objectionable to the fly. A preparation made by boiling two quarts of soft soap in rain water until dissolved and mix with a pint of crude carbolic acid, when ready to apply mix one part of this with fifty parts of water and sprinkle the plants. When the plant is seen to be affected burn it out at once. If allowed to remain it will soon become a mass of maggots which will threaten the whole crop.

The Squash Bug.—This creature is well known to every grower of squashes. As soon in spring as the young squash plants become large enough, the female, a six-legged, triangular headed insect, with a very objectionable smell deposits her eggs on the under side of the leaf, to which she usually adheres. This is done usually in July and in a short time the little bugs make their appearance and commence their work. Like all bugs, they live by suction, having a long slender beak which they thrust through the skin of the leaf and pump out the sap. It will readily be seen what a vast amount of damage may be done by a horde of such insects in a short time. As they are found mostly on the under side of the leaves they may be removed by hand picking and by crushing the eggs. Where the plant is cultivated on a large scale this is impracticable. A mixture which has been found to be exceptionally useful on a large scale is that of two quarts of plaster of Paris and about a tablespoonful of lamp oil. This placed about the plants will drive the bugs off. If one application is not sufficient repeat the dose. It is safer than Paris green and is equally good for the attacks on melons and cucumbers.

The Lint Caterpillar.—Every orchardist has noticed the webs of this insect

and how soon a small arm of caterpillars which emerged from its exterior would devastate the leaves and twigs in the vicinity. There are two insects bearing this name, but having slightly different habits. One makes its web on trees in cultivation, while the other attacks trees and bushes in the woods. The eggs may be detected in the winter or when the tree is destitute of foliage and no little trouble will be obviated if all that are seen are destroyed. In the spring they hatch and at once commence the building of the lini-like webs. The larvæ are when full grown about an inch long, very hairy and having running the entire length of their backs a white streak. In the forest variety this streak is broken into dots. The remedy consists mainly in removal. When the tints are discovered the knife should be used and the twig or branch cut off and burned. In this case, as in others, if a concerted action were taken by all orchardists, and these pests destroyed as far as possible, a visible decrease would soon be apparent.

Homestead Stock Farm.

I HAVE FOR SALE

**A NUMBER OF FIRST CLASS
PERCHERON HORSES,**

Both sexes, imported and home bred ranging from sucklings to five year olds. These horses are as good as the best and are of the very choicest breeding, most all being grand children of the Great Brilliant 755 which won a world-wide reputation. At the exhibitions of 1889, he won honors never before accorded to any sire in the annals of live stock breeding at the Great Show of the Society Hippique Percheron of France where ninety prizes were awarded every first prize animal in every class was of Brilliant blood. Brilliant XXII, 14729 French S. B., 11097 American S. B. A magnificent black stands at the head of my stud. As a stock getter he has more than met our highest expectation. In both grand and thorough-bred classes wherever shown his colts have stood first.

I have selected my own horses from the best and most reliable breeders in France and will guarantee every animal sold.

Correspondence solicited, inspection invited and visitors always welcome.

FRANK H. BLACK, Amherst, N. S.

**Subscribe For
The MARITIME AGRICULTURIST**