

Ontario Department of Agriculture

ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Lime-Sulphur Wash.

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INTRODUCTION.

The Lime-sulphur wash has been used in Ontario for about twelve years, and, although it is a disagreeable material to work with, it has proven to be so useful that it has steadily gained in popularity, until to-day it is the standard remedy for the San José scale. The wash is also useful in destroying other scale insects, and, furthermore, it is recognized as a valuable and efficient fungicide. In fact it is without doubt one of the best all-round spraying materials at the disposal of the fruit grower at the present time.

This valuable spraying mixture was first used by the California fruit growers, who accidentally found that the Lime-sulphur sheep dip of Australia would destroy the San José scale. When the scale spread to the Eastern part of the Continent, the California remedy, or Lime-sulphur wash, quickly followed it. At first it was used entirely to control the ravages of the San José scale, but it was soon found to destroy the Oyster Shell Bark Louse and other forms of scale insects, and, quite accidentally, it was discovered that it controlled the Peach Leaf Curl. This suggested that the Lime-sulphur wash had fungicidal value. Up to this time the wash had always been used on trees in the winter or early spring, and was of a strength only suitable for use on the wood in the dormant condition. If, however, the mixture was to be useful as a fungicide for more than the Peach Leaf Curl, it must be sprayed on the trees during the growing season.