

Concentrated Lime-Sulphur Endorsed

A. P. Lummie, Welland Co., Ont.

Why do the most successful fruit growers of British Columbia and the United States use commercial lime-sulphur in preference to any other spray? In the Wenatchee Valley of Oregon they last year produced 49,027 car loads of apples. Although this valley has an acreage approximately the same as Prince Edward county, 30,000 acres, every acre of land in the Valley exclusive of the residential sections has an average value of \$2,500. This high valuation comes as a result of the profits that these growers are making from the production of high quality fancy apples. And in all that district, lime-sulphur is the spray universally used. There is not a barrel of home made lime-sulphur to be found in the Valley.

These growers use commercial lime-sulphur because they have found it convenient, economical and effective. They realize that this is an age of specialization. They would no more attempt to make their own concentrated lime-sulphur than they would to make their own clothes, wagons, machinery, etc., or to grind their own wheat into flour. They recognize that the commercial solution, prepared as it is in immense quantities and under the direction of expert chemists, is much to be preferred to any solution that they can themselves make.

Many fruit growers in Ontario are beginning to look on commercial lime-sulphur favorably. We ourselves have used it, and would not for any money go back to the old system of boiling it at home. For our ten-acre orchard the expense and trouble connected with home boiling would buy all of the commercial preparation that we need; and we get a better article to boot.

Points on Pear Culture

John Beemer, Brant Co., Ont.

My pear orchard is one of the most profitable parts of my farm, yielding returns in the neighborhood of \$200 an acre. My soil is a heavy clay loam. Each spring we plan to have a cover crop on the land to plow down for the sake of the humus that is formed. The crop usually sown is rye, but this is varied every two or three years with common red clover or hairy vetch. The land is plowed as early in the spring as possible and thoroughly cultivated up to the middle of July when the cover crop is seeded.

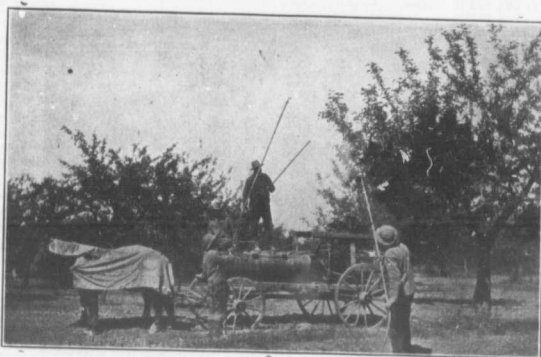
Every third or fourth year I apply 60 to 70 bushels of good unleached wood ashes to the acre, or muriate of potash containing an equivalent amount of potash fertilizer. I do not favor barn yard manure for the pear orchard, as it causes excessive wood growth. I find that my pears do not blight badly when manure is used sparingly.

CUT OUT ONE-THIRD NEW WOOD

I start to prune about March 1st and cut away one-third of the new growth if the trees are making 12 to 15 inches of new wood. In the Koefer's I thin out the fruit spurs as this saves a lot of thinning of the fruit and helps to keep up the vitality of the tree. When such thinning is practiced the fruit is more uniform in size and better flavored.

Two other points of importance are spraying

and thinning the fruit. We spray with lime sulphur and lead arsenate for the curculio and pear slug. If the trees are heavily loaded the fruit is thinned to from four to six inches apart on the tree. I have nearly all No. 1 fruit as a result of this practice and more baskets than if no thinning was done. I consider that the time



An Outfit such as This Ensures the best of Work at Minimum Expense.

The power sprayer is coming into almost universal use in fruit growing districts. Growers with large orchards can afford to have one of their own. Growers with only a small area in for them. The power machine ensures a better application of the spray solution and enables the grower to spray a large orchard at just that period of growth when it is most needed. The power sprayer here shown is owned by S. C. Parker, Kings Co., N.S.

spent in thinning is more than repaid at picking time.

Coal ashes while not containing any real fertilizing ingredients, will greatly improve the texture



Low-headed Trees are Gaining in Favor

Low headed trees are the common thing in British Columbia, where they are preferred because of the ease with which they may be pruned, sprayed and the crop harvested. Eastern growers are now adopting this system of heading. The illustration shows a couple of apple trees set last spring in the orchard of Mr. Jno. Beemer, Brant Co., Ont. Neither of the trees would be considered high headed and one has a trunk only a foot long. Mr. Beemer is one of our many fruit growers who is coming to favor low headed trees.

—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

of a heavy soil, making it lighter and warmer. Coal ashes will act in the opposite way on a light, sandy soil, by consolidating it and making it more able to retain moisture.—A. L. Colman, Halton Co., Ont.

Pruning the old Apple Orchard

J. C. Harris, Oxford Co., Ont.

To prune a neglected apple orchard we cannot put down any hard and fast rule, as varieties differ in their growth and require different care. A Spy tree for instance requires a good deal off the outside as this variety thickens very much at the end of the limbs. The R. I. Greening on the other hand can be pruned mostly from the inside of the tree. A few general principles, however, should always be before the operator.

Heavy pruning in any one season is a severe shock to a tree and will in many cases injure its bearing qualities for several years. It is better to take at least two seasons for this operation. Fruit grown on very high trees is difficult and expensive to spray, thin and harvest, and is not usually well done. Encourage fruit spurs all over the inside of the trees. It is well to remember that a sucker left two or three years becomes a fruit spur and produces the finest of apples. Instead of cutting it off we cut it back one half. Try it and see what it will do for you in a year or two. We never leave long bare limbs

inside of our tree. We cut back some of the suckers and have them growing apples.

TO PRODUCE HIGH COLOR

Sunshine makes color. We trim to have every apple share its rays. And last, but not least, we believe it better to trim too little than too much. We don't cut off a limb unless we know why we are cutting it. If a tree is very thick we would only cut out the dead and cross limbs the first season. The second season we would lower the highest portions, always cutting back to where another limb starts. We cut close and never leave stubs. It is well to make cuts perpendicular to shed the rain and cover large wounds with white paint.

An ideal tree should be symmetrical and open to allow sunlight and air to all its parts. A tree once in shape should be gone over annually, cutting out any cross limbs and suckers where not required. This, with occasionally a little thinning from the outside, is all that is required. A tree kept in this shape will be a pleasure and a profit to its owner for many years to come.

An Important Point in Spraying

Newton H. Brown, Norfolk Co., Ont.

Thorough spraying is of particular value when we have dry, hot weather at blossoming time. In the spring of 1911 much of the fruit in Western Ontario did not set, although the blossoming was heavy. When we went into our own orchard we found the blossoms were wilted and apparently dead from the heat. I decided that it would be wasted effort to spray these trees, as we would not have a crop anyway. Having some spraying material left in the tank, however, we used it on a few trees on one side of the orchard. And even then we were careless and did not spray thoroughly.

From those few sprayed trees we harvested the heaviest crop we have had in years, while the rest of the crop was a failure. It was a costly lesson for us, but we will not forget it in a hurry.