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## The Apple Orchard During August

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August is a month during which little orchard work can be done to advantage by the apple grower. The time for clean cultivation, spraying and summer pruning is past, the thinning season is about over, except where trees of winter varieties are heavily laden, and neither should cover crops be sown this month where orchards are carrying fruit.

This breathing spell, however, affords the orchardist an opportunity to do one or two things that are generally, and I may say sometimes unwisely overlooked in orchard practice. Suckers that have grown from around the root crowns of the trees should be removed and branches diseased with the blight should be cut and destroyed. The handiest tools for accomplishing the former work, are a mallet, a two-inch chisel and a spade. Roots that are sources of suckers are bared with the spade and the suckers are removed close to the roots with the chisel.

In August blighted portions of the trees are readily discernible. The diseased leaves and branches have a wilted and fire-fanged appearance and in some cases the branches are devoid of leaves. Also, the bark appears shrivelled and cracked, and is darker in color than healthy stock.

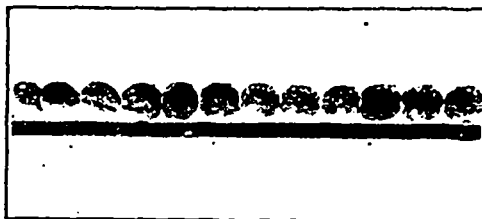
If removed now these infectious portions will not act as a source of contamination to the rest of the orchard next spring, nor during the winter pruning operations. There is always danger of carrying the disease germs in the saw, consequently it is furthermore advisable to disinfect the saw each time it cuts a diseased branch. A ten per cent. formalin solution gives satisfaction and does not corrode nor in any way injure the tools. This disinfecting material is most readily carried in a bottle. A swab is made by pushing a wire through the cork into the bottle and cotton wrapped around the wire.

### HOW TO OPERATE.

In every case the incision should be made at least from six to twelve inches below the diseased parts of the branch, so as to insure the removal of it all. All these prunings should be destroyed at once by burning. If allowed to lie around the orchard, borers, especially the shot-hole borer, will work in them and consequently carry the disease to the trees

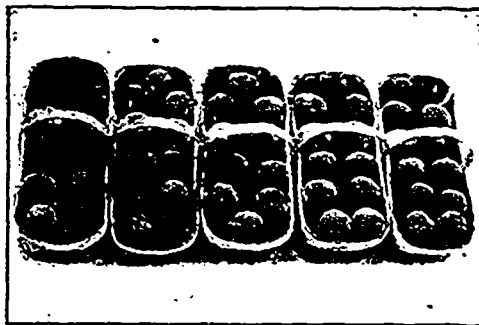
again. Thus it is very important that the prunings be burned.

When cultivation is discontinued at the beginning of August, the result is greater maturity, both in young wood and the fruit. The trees suffer less winter injury from frosts and a more highly



A Yard of Louth-Clinton Peaches

colored, better quality of fruit is obtained. Scientists develop this still further by maintaining that it checks the hibernation of plant food. This, they claim, becomes available to plants indirectly as a result of cultivation. It is soluble in water and thus washes away rapidly with rain when the trees are not in a condition to utilize it. In short, August and



Five Baskets of Louth-Clinton Peaches

fall cultivation of the orchard and summer-fallowing the land for winter wheat are considered at par as practices that impoverish a soil.

### THIN WHERE NEEDED

There is still time to thin apples on trees of winter varieties, where they are carrying a heavy set of fruit. They have before them yet quite a lapse of time in which to mature so that the remaining apples, if the apples are thinned now, will have an opportunity to develop into number ones. If thinning is done, it is advisable to remove all sun-blistered fruit—the result of excessive July heat. These apples can never hope to be any-

thing better than culls or number threes, and thus will be worth but little. These sun-injured apples are located chiefly at the western quarter of the tree, and in exposed positions and can be readily recognized.

### DO NOT SOW COVER CROPS

Cover crops should not be sown in orchards bearing apples during August. This statement is the result of experience among apple growers. Leguminous crops, such as clovers, vetches and so forth, if sown this late cannot get growth enough to be of any material advantage to the orchard, while it is conceded out of the question to sow cereals, including rye, wheat, and so forth, and also field peas, during August. They attain too much growth, and thus act as a veritable nuisance during the apple harvest, while moving about the orchard with the ladders and other appliances.

### Louth-Clinton Peaches

The peaches shown in the accompanying illustrations were found in the No. 1 and "Fancy" grades being packed by their grower, Mr. S. H. Rittenhouse, of Jordan Harbor, in the Louth-Clinton peach area, Ontario. They show Elbertas among which few No. 2s were found. The three-foot-of-peach samples were taken from the center one of the five baskets of Louth-Clinton peaches.

Mr. Rittenhouse practises severe heading-in of young trees until they begin to bear fruit when this is not so necessary excepting after a season during which a greater portion of the strength of the tree may have gone to wood because of a light fruit crop. The proper amount of fruit for each tree to mature is controlled chiefly by judicious pruning, hand thinning being resorted to only when conditions demand it on varieties which commonly set too heavily.

### LIBERAL FERTILIZATION

Mr. Rittenhouse is a firm believer in the old, reliable barnyard manure for a general feeder and uses it liberally. Hairy vetch and red-top clover are used for cover crops and to augment the supply of nitrogenous matter and commercial fertilizers when necessary to furnish a greater amount of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash, all of these being discovered by a close study of the requis-