

BLISTER BEETLES.

There are a few kinds of blister beetles which almost every year cause considerable anxiety to farmers and gardeners from their habit of appearing suddenly, in large numbers, and feeding on potatoes, beans, beets, carrots, corn, tomatoes and other vegetables, and ornamental plants, such as asters, clematis, zinnia, chrysanthemum, etc. In Eastern Canada the Black Blister Beetle, *Epicauta pennsylvanica* DeG., the Ash-gray Blister Beetle, *Macrobasis unicolor* Kirby, and the Gray Blister Beetle *Epicauta cinerea* Forst, are the better-known species. All are soft-bodied insects; in shape they are slender and cylindrical, and about one-half an inch in length. In the prairie provinces the Western Blister Beetle, *Cantharis nuttalli* Say, is decidedly destructive, and in British Columbia, the Spotted Blister Beetle, *Epicauta maculata* Say, is the one most frequently complained of.

Remedies.—Paris green or arsenate of lead as recommended for the potato beetle (page 13) will control blister beetles, but in some outbreaks it may be necessary to repeat the application as the beetles which are killed are soon replaced by others. In gardens many of the insects may be destroyed by beating them from the plants into a pan containing water with a little coal oil on the surface. As blister beetles are easily disturbed a remedy which has been successfully employed is for two or three boys, or more if necessary, to walk through an infested plot or field and wave from side to side boughs of spruce, or other branches. Such an operation will drive the beetles ahead of them and when the insects come to the edge of the crop they will disperse and seldom return.

RED SPIDER.

Several kinds of small mites, which, of course, are not insects, known collectively as Red Spider, are commonly found on a great variety of garden plants, particularly during hot dry seasons. The presence of these small creatures on the plants is indicated by the leaves losing their colour, having a whitish, bleached appearance and becoming stunted, resulting from the juice having been sucked out.

Remedies.—One of the best remedies for these mites is to spray the plants with a sulphur-soap mixture (page 8). As the mites feed chiefly on the undersides of the leaves the spray should be forced well up among the foliage. The free use of water alone as a spray is also useful. Remnants of crops or flowering plants should be promptly removed and burned so as to prevent the spread of the mites.

SNAILS AND SLUGS.

Very often these soft-bodied molluscs are decidedly destructive in vegetable and flower gardens attacking many different kinds of plants. They are often complained of by tomato growers. They are nocturnal in habit, hiding during the day beneath stones, clods of earth, etc.

Remedies.—As they come out to feed in the evening an excellent remedy is to broadcast lightly over the soil, before nightfall, freshly slaked lime. This adheres to their bodies and soon kills them. Three applications on consecutive evenings are advisable. Shingles placed here and there throughout an infested garden and under low growing plants will attract many slugs, forming as they do suitable shelters for these creatures. If the shingles are turned over in the morning the slugs there hiding may be easily destroyed by scraping them off and crushing them with the foot.