

Question Drawer. K

Insect on Norway Spruce.

953. SIR,—I send you sample of insect attacking Norway Spruce. They number thousands, though mostly in chrysalis state yet (May 28th). What will kill them, and not the hedge?

ADAM DUNN, *Galt.*

Reply by Dr. Fletcher, Ottawa.

The spruce twigs from Mr. A. Dunn, of Galt, came safely to hand. The insects are the same species as was very abundant on a spruce hedge belonging to Dr. Smale, of Wroxeter. It is a species of *Retinia*, and as the moths are just now issuing, the remedy which suggests itself is to spray the hedge at once with kerosene emulsion, which will destroy many of the moths and prevent them laying their eggs again on the same hedge. This moth is well known, but it is only occasionally that it is so troublesome as you describe.

Hog Refuse for Fertilizer.

954. SIR,—Please give me recipe for preparing a mixture of hog refuse, blood, bones and hair, for a fertilizer.

D. BOLDEN, *Collingwood.*

Reply by R. Harcourt, Assistant Chemist,

O. A. C., Guelph.

The best way to prepare a mixture of hog refuse, blood, bones and hair, for a fertilizer, is to thoroughly dry them and then grind to a fine powder. This will bring the whole mass into a convenient form for handling, and, at the same time, render more available the various fertilizing constituents which it contains, especially the phosphoric acid of bone.

This method may be impracticable for the farmer or fruit grower who wishes to

make use of these crude materials. Good results have been obtained by breaking up the bone as finely as possible, by use of mallet or otherwise, and mixing it with the hog refuse, blood, etc., and composting with stable manure. Where a large amount of bone is to be treated, this method may not give the best results, as phosphoric acid of bones would be but slowly rendered available. A good plan for dissolving bones is to mix them with wood ashes and place in a tight box, covering the whole mass with damp earth to prevent loss of nitrogen, which will be liberated from the bones by the action of the lime in the ashes.

Gooseberries.

955. SIR,—What do you consider the best Red English Gooseberry? Also, the best White or Yellow? What is the average yield per tree, when not troubled by mildew? Mildew is unknown here. What is the general price obtained for ripe English Gooseberries? Can English Gooseberries be made a success on light sandy soil? Downing, Houghton, Smith's Improved and other American varieties yield well here, when manured, as does also the Industry; but the Industry is a very feeble grower, seeming to put all its vigor in fruit. Red Jacket is a rampant grower, but a shy bearer of late, poor-flavored berries.

D. J. STEWART,
Aitken's Ferry, P.E.I.

We would like some of our gooseberry growers to reply. At Maplehurst we have thus far grown only the American varieties, such as Houghton, Downing, Smith and Pearl. Recently we have added about fifty English sorts, which are not yet in bearing, excepting Industry and Whitesmith, the latter of which mildews considerably. We have always looked upon Whitesmith as the best white, and Crown Bob as the best red for growing in Canada.