

RESULTS FROM POWER SPRAYING

"THE power sprayer I purchased last April," said Mr. R. H. Lewis, of Hamilton, to a representative of The Horticulturist, "has given me excellent satisfaction. With it I spray over 6000 trees and 4000 grape vines. Previous to last spring I had done the spraying for four years with a hand sprayer. These hand sprayers should be called 'man killers,' they are so hard on the people who operate them. Three men were required to use the hand sprayer. To spray three acres of solid fruit required seven days, during which we usually had plenty of breakdowns. Using the power sprayer last year only two and a half to three days were required and the work was much better done.

"With the hand sprayer I found it impossible to apply the spray thoroughly, as the force was not sufficient to send the spray to all portions of the trees, especially the large ones. This meant that in the case of plums the center of the trees were frequently not reached by the spray and the fruit was usually badly damaged. With the power sprayer the spray penetrated to every part of the tree and consequently the results were better than those obtained with the old hand pump.

"My sprayer obtains its power from the hind axle. I drive between the rows of trees with a man on each side of the sprayer, each man spraying the trees on his side. Six and sometimes eight nozzles are used. In this way the work is done rapidly and thoroughly. It is possible for one man to drive the team and spray the trees on one side, but it is hard work unless the trees are very small.

A SAVING IS MADE.

"In addition to the saving of time that is made when the power sprayer is used there is a big saving in material. Formerly I used to apply 250 pounds of vitriol, while this year I only used 100 pounds, but I used 50 pounds of caustic soda in addition. I

am a strong believer in the caustic soda and sulphur wash used before the buds appear and while the wood is dormant. It is, however, a mixture that has to be used very carefully. The caustic soda cleans the trees of every kind of fungus and rids them of all insects, giving the trees a very nice gloss. Cherry trees, after the mixture is applied, look as if they had been polished. This mixture can be applied too strongly, however, in which case the trees will be injured, but the use of reasonable proportions gives good results. I use 15 to 17 pounds of caustic soda to 100 gallons of water. I have had no experience in San Jose scale, but believe that this mixture would be an effectual remedy for the scale.

"I generally spray twice, before and after the buds appear, and plums, pears and grapes four times. For the plums and pears I use the Bordeaux mixture except for the first application, when caustic soda is used. Peaches are first sprayed with the caustic soda and sulphur solution in the proportion of 30 to 35 pounds of sulphur mixed with 15 to 17 gallons of water. The second application is made with the Bordeaux mixture. Last year I applied the caustic soda mixture to part of my trees. The trees on which it was used produced peaches, but those on which I had put the Bordeaux mixture both times did not yield. This year I intend to use the caustic soda application on all my trees.

"I have about 135 cherry trees of the Early Richmond and Large Montmorency varieties. I sprayed three times with Bordeaux mixture, there being five to seven days between each application. It requires about one hour each time to spray these trees. The total cost, including the time, labor and value of the mixture amounted to about \$3. As a result of the spraying I secured over 700 baskets of cherries. I sold the crop for 85 cents to \$1 per basket, and it netted me nearly \$700. One of my