The Little Peach Disease

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During a recent trip to the peach districts of Michigan to investigate the disease known as Little Peach the writer gained the following information:

Little Peach is a very destructive disease; and in the opinion of the majority of Michigan growers is several times more destructive than Peach Yellows. Wherever affected trees have been allowed to remain the whole orchard, as a rule, has become hopelessly diseased in four or five years. An expert grower stated that he had himself seen more than 100 orchards thus destroyed.

So far as known, no variety of peach tree is exempt. Japanese plums are subject to the disease. The writer saw three plum orchards with several of the trees attacked by Little Peach.

Little Peach attacks trees from two years of age upwards. (This is also true of Yellows.) The disease has been successfully controlled in Michigan and other places, but only by the removal each year, as soon as possible, of all clearly diseased trees and also all suspected ones. It is absolutely necessary to remove the suspicious cases as well as the clearly diseased. Co-operation in control measures is necessary, and, where orchards are close together as in Ontario peach districts, is imperative. No person can thoroughly control the disease in his own orchard by the removal of diseased trees if his neighbor only a few rods away fails to remove his. If, however, the orchards are half a mile or more apart one may hope to be able to keep his own orchard fairly free from the disease even independent of his neighbors. Where trees have been removed because of the disease young trees may, if desired, be set in the same place next spring. Such trees are not any more subject to Little Peach and Yellows than any other trees in the orchard. (Prof. Waite of Washington, D. C..Prof. Blake of New Jersey, and several others agree with this statement.)

CAUSE UNKNOWN

The cause of Little Peach (or of Yellows) is not yet discovered. It is not definitely known in how many ways the disease may be spread. It is probably first brought into a district on nursery stock and once in the orchard it spreads from one tree to another, but just how no one knows. Many think that the time of infection is during the blossoming season.

The disease can be propagated by budding, as has been proven by Dr. Smith and Prof. Waite in the case of Yellows. Mr. Horace Welch, who is said to be the best expert on the disease in the State, took more than 200 buds from trees showing symptoms of Little Peach, and inserted some in young seedlings and others in healthy trees, but in every case the disease developed, but not until the second year, and in some cases the third year.

Whether the pits from Little Peach will grow and produce the disease is not yet proven. (Prof. Philips of Virginia, believes a small percentage of them will do so.) The ordinary system of inspection for Yellows (as practised in Ontario) is not sufficient for Little Peach, as this disease often does not show in trees until the latter part of September. Therefore, inspection work should continue up to the coloring of the leaves by frost. It is not an infrequent occurrence to find trees with all the symptoms of Little Peach except that the fruit ripens somewhat prematurely or at latest at the normal time. Such fruit shows no sign of Yellows. This is possibly an abnormal case of Little Peach and Yellows attacking the tree at the same time. Whatever be the cause these trees must be destroyed just as if they had typical Little Peach or Yellows.

In some districts in Ontario Little Peach has already caused the loss of several orchards and of many trees in nearby orchards. No chance should be given it to make further progress; therefore, every grower is urged to destroy AT ONCE every tree marked by the inspector and every suspected tree. It is very important not to let them remain in the orchard till next spring. There is no use in hoping for the recovery of trees; they never recover from this disease.

Shrub Hedges

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The best of the garden is what you put into it rather than what comes out of it. It is the satisfaction of your tastes and the bettering of them, the thought and sentiment you express in planting and gathering, the innocence and quiet of mind that you take to the seeding, trimming and watering that are the real rewards.

The winter is the season to take stock of your yard conditions, the reflecting period when your plans are matured for its improvement in the spring. Have you thought of planting any ornamental shrubs? Do so now—let me recommend from personal experience the despised and neglected snowball, the guelder-rose (Viburn Opulus) with its globose clusters of white sterile flowers, said to be a cultivated variety of high cranberry. It is very hardy, does well enough in any soil and under all conditions, but plant it—attend to it—prune it—feed it, and love it, and the beautiful display of bloom it will in gratitude return will be a source of wonder, pleasure and delight.

Have you a place where a hedge effect is desirable, then alternate with the best known honeysuckle, the Tartarian from Russia—feed and prune them with care and in a few years nothing will surpass the fragrant loveliness of these shrubs in flowers:

> "How sweetly smell the honeysuckle
> In the hush'd night, as if the world were one
> Of utter peace and love and gentleness."
> —*Tennyson (Gareth and Lynette.)*

I have also found the lilac or pipe tree and particularly the Persian lilac (S. Persica) an excellent hedge to divide the vegetable garden from the front. The lilac is a widely cultivated ornamental Old World shrub of the genus Syringa of the olive family (Oleaceæ), but notwithstanding its ancestry, how do we find it in Ontario? Everywhere sadly neglected, untidy, scraggy, its suckers occupying and spoiling the ground for some feet around the bushes. Try this method, plant a lilac hedge—feed it—prune it for form and flowers—cut out the suckers, and note the great panicles of fragrant bloom it will produce in quantity and quality. I challenge all exotics to excel these flowers in pleasing perfume.

A Portion of a Prize Winning Garden in the Earl Grey Garden Competition, Ottawa

The illustration shows a Tartarian honeysuckle and Snowball Hedge in the grounds of Newton J. Kerr, City Engineer, Ottawa.