

QUESTION AND ANSWER DEPARTMENT

Beetle on Cherry Trees

I am sending for identification a specimen of a beetle that has been attacking cherry and peach trees and defoliating them.—E. W., Kings Co., N.S.

The specimen sent for identification is a leaf-eating beetle, *Galerucella cavicollis*, belonging to the same family as the potato and cucumber beetles, etc. This insect is about one-quarter of an inch long, oval in shape, brownish-red in color, shining but not highly polished. It feeds usually on the foliage of wild cherry and is only occasionally found on the cultivated varieties. Some other members of this genus are very injurious to the foliage of various fruit-trees. Spraying with Paris green or arsenate of lead would no doubt destroy the insects.—Prof. Charles J. S. Bethune, Ontario Agricultural College.

Winter Injury to Peach Trees

What is the matter with some of our peach trees? They were rather severely damaged by winter killing of wood and in May we cut back very hard. They have made large, new growth, but part of the trees have a yellowish leaf, whilst other parts of same tree are normal dark green. In summer of 1908, no yellow leaves appeared, after a very mild winter. Slight appearance of yellow leaf appeared in 1907 after a hard winter. The soil is a gravelly one, and trees are three and four years old. The soil has not been cover-cropped. The snow lies very badly on it. One or two other growers have the same thing, but only in light soils and after winter injury. The trees have all made from three to five feet of strong new wood.—L. Bros., Nahun, B.C.

It is impossible to say with certainty what is causing the yellowing of the leaves of your peach trees without examination, but it would appear that the yellowing of the leaves is an indication of the winter injury which you refer to and which in some cases was sufficiently bad to cause the death of the limbs. Sometimes after winter injury the tissues seem to become disorganized and the branch remains unhealthy for some time without actually dying.—W. T. Macoun, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

The Grimsby District

1. Is Grimsby a good fruit-growing district?
2. What is the average yield per tree of peaches, plums and pears?
3. Can \$1,200 yearly be realized from a fruit farm consisting of 200 peach trees, 150 plum trees, 40 pear trees, 500 grape vines and one quarter of an acre of strawberries?
4. What is the price per acre for land in Grimsby?—B.H.E., Toronto.
1. While there are some districts just

as good as Grimsby for fruit growing, there are none better, except for apples. No district in Canada produces a greater number of kinds and varieties of fruits and is more free from frosts.

2. The average yield per tree is a hard question to answer, as there are so many different varieties and they do not all bear every year. It is presumed that "B. H. E." refers to full-grown trees. We have known plum trees in that district to have from twenty-five to forty baskets on in one year and so with pears, and peaches have been known to yield fifteen to twenty-five baskets per tree in one year, but not every year in any of the cases. The average for one year with another, taking different varieties into consideration, is about six baskets per tree for peaches, plums and pears.

3. A fruit farm containing the number of trees mentioned would only be about four acres. You could not average \$1200 a year from it. If the trees all had an average crop on them with high prices, it might be realized, but not every year.

4. Land in the Grimsby district is very high, good land selling from \$500 an acre and more. We heard of one grower who refused \$1500 an acre this spring. Orchards were sold this season for over \$1,000 an acre.

Fumigation with Cyanide

What is the best method of using cyanide of potassium in greenhouses?—M. A. R., Halifax.

Fumigation with cyanide of potassium is one of the most effective methods of destroying the white-fly, but it should be used with the greatest caution as the fumes are fatal to all animal life. Every precaution should be taken against the possibility of anyone entering the house where the gas is being used until it has been dissipated. The house should be tight and so arranged that the ventilators can be raised without entering the house. The gas is produced by the action of sulphuric acid upon cyanide of potassium in the presence of water. One ounce chemically pure potassium cyanide (98 per cent.) one and one-quarter ounces of commercial sulphuric acid and two ounces of water can be used for each 1,000 cubic feet of space.

At intervals of from 30 to 40 feet place on the walk a two-gallon earthen jar; thus, for a house 100 feet long, three jars would be required. In each jar place a proportionate part of the water required for the house and then carefully add an equal amount of sulphuric acid. (Care should be taken not to allow any of

the acid to come in contact with the clothing). The amount of cyanide for each jar should be weighed out and placed in paper bags. Screw-eyes are then fastened in the wood work directly over each jar and through these stout cords are run to the end of the house near the door where they are fastened. To the ends over the jars tie the bags of cyanide so that on the ends of the strings at the doors being released they will drop into the jars. When all is ready close the ventilators; pass to the end of the house and carefully lower the bags into the jars and close the doors. After 25 minutes open the house for at least half an hour before entering.—Tennyson D. Jarvis, Ontario Agricultural College.

English Lavender

Early in the spring, I planted seeds of English lavender. They were very slow in germinating. In June, I transplanted the small plants to a larger box. They are not more than one and one half inches high now (July 23.) I have transplanted them again to the open ground. Can you prescribe for them?—Mrs. W. H. J., Madoc, Ont.

The English lavender does not propagate very readily from seeds. Seedling plants are very slow growing. The plants will probably do better now that you have planted them in the open ground. If you have several of them, it might be as well to put one or two, singly, in three- or four-inch pots, in good potting soil. The pots should then be planted or sunk in the garden and the plants kept well watered. The plants could then be lifted out and taken into the window in the fall.

Drying Ginseng Roots

Is it a difficult job to dry ginseng roots for market?—W. N., Dartmouth, N.S.

I will give some facts from my personal experience. Last autumn I dug a quantity of roots. When they were washed, I made a bench of boards on the south side of the house. On this bench I spread out the roots. They were exposed to the full sunshine from nine o'clock in the morning until five o'clock in the afternoon. They received this treatment for a week when they were taken inside and spread on a floor upstairs where they got the draught of two open windows for about ten days more, when they were perfectly dry. Ten pounds were shipped to New York and the price was remitted in about a month from the time that they were dug. This part of the work can be done by women; in fact, they are more careful than men.—Wm. Gilgore, Peterboro, Ont.