

Tent Caterpillars.

their habit of building webs or nests from which they issue to feed. The eggs of these pests are deposited upon the twigs of fruit and other trees in ring-like clusters or patches and covered with a viscid liquid, which dries into a sort of varnish, by the parent moths; this takes place during July and August.

On the principle that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, the easiest way of dealing with this pest, especially on small trees, is to destroy the egg masses, either removing them for the purpose, or cutting off the twigs on which they are found.

How to Deal with them.

Careful searching is required to do this, but the work can be accomplished in the dormant season, when there is not so much press of work in other ways. If the caterpillars are allowed to hatch out, they are easily detected by their conspicuous web or nest. In the early and late portions of the day they will all be found in these nests, and can be readily destroyed by crushing the nests and their contents with the gloved hand, by trampling under foot, or by using a torch to burn them out. Sometimes when a nest has been destroyed some of the caterpillars will be absent feeding, and within a few days the nest will be repaired and the remnants of the colony re-established, so that repeated visits should be made to the orchard in order that all may be destroyed. Neglected trees are soon stripped of their foliage and become exhausted by having to reproduce foliage at an unseasonable time, so that little or no fruit will be produced the following season.

Where these pests have been neglected till they become mature, it may become necessary to use the Paris green spray (No. 9) to prevent them from spreading. As egg clusters are very numerous this season, we may expect that the pests will give considerable trouble during the summer, and fruit-growers should be on the alert to reduce the number as far as possible by destroying them.

Fall Web-Worm (*Hyphantria textor*) is reported from Chilliwack and the Spallumcheen Valley. The moth of this species deposits her eggs in broad patches on the under side of the leaves, near the end of a branch, during the latter part of May or early June.

Fall Web-Worm.

These hatch during June and July. As soon as the young larvae appear they begin to eat and to spin a web over themselves for protection. They devour only the pulpy portion of the leaves, leaving the veins and skin of the under surface untouched. When full grown they are an inch or more in length, and vary greatly in their markings; some examples are pale-yellow or greenish, others much darker, and of a bluish-black hue. The head is black, and there is a broad, dusky or blackish stripe down the back, along each side is a yellowish band, speckled more or less with black. The body is covered with long straight hairs, grouped in tufts, arising from small black or orange-yellow protuberances, of which there are a number on each segment.

The moth is of a milk-white colour, without spots. When expanded, the wings measure about 1½ inches across. From their birth the web-spinning habits of the larvae promptly leads

to their detection, and as soon as seen they should be removed by cutting off the twig or branch and destroying it. As they remain constantly under the web for so long a period, the removal of the branch insures in most instances the destruction of the whole colony. See also remedy recommended for Apple-Tree Tent Caterpillar.

