

HORTICULTURE

The Fruit Crop Outlook

Fruit crop conditions have not changed since our report of last week. The following information from local correspondents of Farm and Dairy have been received since that report was published:

Queen's Co., N.S.—The prospects are good. Apples and plums have set well. Caterpillars and other insects are little is being done to control them. I have sprayed for two or three years and have few insects, except green aphids, which are particularly bad on Japan plums and hard to kill.—Geo. H. Hardy.

Ontario Co., Ont.—The set of apples is shown to be very favorable. Codling moth is, however, but spraying is practised extensively.—Jas. A. Rider.

Welland Co., Ont.—There will be few apples here this year. Not much spraying is done.—Geo. A. Rice.

Elgin Co., Ont.—Bloom was heavy on Greens, but light on Baldwins. The fruit has set well and we look for a fair crop with Baldwins shy.—J. Webster.

Essex Co., Ont.—Set of apples has been very good. Some winter varieties are not full and Baldwins, short. The drop has been about normal.—E. E. Adams.

Grey Co., Ont.—There will be three times as many apples as last year. Ten times as much spraying is being done than previously. Codling moth is prevalent in orchards not sprayed.—J. G. M.

Growing Strawberries

The illustration on this page shows a young strawberry patch with Dutch set onions between the rows. The photograph was taken recently by a representative of Farm and Dairy on the fruit and vegetable farm of Mr. J. P. Dodds, Peterboro Co., Ont. In conversation with Mr. Dodds, some practical pointers on strawberry culture were gleaned.

"The varieties that I grow principally are August Luther for early, Enormous for medium and Brandywine for late," said Mr. Dodds. "All these are sure croppers. Before planting, I give the plants a mud bath for about 24 hours. In a tub I mix heavy soil and water to a depth about five inches and thick enough so that it will just go through the fingers. The plants are put in this and when taken out the roots are not allowed to become exposed to the air. The plants are set every 18 inches in rows that are 36 inches apart. I use a trowel for planting."

Before giving a definite order for plants, Mr. Dodds makes sure that no substitution will be practised and arranges that the plants will be shipped on the dates requested by him, so that he will have different quantities coming at different times in order that the plants may be fresh on arrival.

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rival, Mr. Dodds does not think it pays to use home-grown plants. He told our representative that he could make more money by leaving the plants in the old rows and selling the fruit than by taking same and using them for the new plantation.

"Within two or three days after planting," continued Mr. Dodds, "the grounds is gone away with a rake. Then it is cultivated every week at least throughout the season until frost comes. The hoe is used when necessary."

"I do not believe in pinching off the blossoms the first season as is usually recommended. There is no benefit that I can see and it bleeds the plants. The fruit that may be taken on off of these will practically pay for the plants. I allow the first runners to root and nip off the weaker ones. I allow only two runners, one on either side of the parent plant, to root the first season. These will set a sufficient number of plants."

"I believe in growing crops between the strawberry rows during the season. I take two or three crops of small truck of the same ground, such as onions, radishes, lettuce, herbs and so on. This is done during the second year of growth as well as the first. In addition to the small quantity of fruit secured during the first season,

like Paris green, which can be applied either as a powder or in liquid form. If, as a powder, it should be dusted on the plants after having been mixed with 30 times its bulk of air-slaked lime or flour.

"In applying poisons as a liquid, use not over one-third of a pound of Paris green or two pounds of arsenate of lead in 50 gallons of water."

"The beetle can be kept away by dusting the plants with air-slaked lime mixed with hellebore. This, however, is only a repellent driving off the insects, but not killing them. To destroy them a poison must be used."

"The larvae can be killed by using tobacco dust in the soil around the plants; or, stick a few holes, four or five inches deep, in each hill and insert a teaspoonful of calcium carbide, filling the hole with earth. Land plaster with turpentine is also a preventive, and it may be added that a pinch of nitrate of soda in each hill will act both as an insecticide and a fertilizer."

Cutworms on Vegetables

Arthur Gibson, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

Cutworms are dull looking caterpillars very much the color of the ground in which they hide during



There is No Waste Ground Where Inter-Cropping is Practised

Onions, radishes, lettuce and other crops are grown between the strawberry rows on the market garden of J. P. Dodds, Peterboro Co., Ont., a part of whose place is shown in the illustration. The photograph was taken by a representative of Farm and Dairy, who secured also the information that is reported in an article on this page.

I fruit the patch for two years. At the end of the first season and as soon as freeing comes, I put three inches of well rotted manure on either side of the plants, but not on top of them. In the following spring, this is worked in and the ground is cultivated throughout that season. I apply a fertilizer right among the plants made up of nitrate of soda, 100 lbs.; sulphate of potash, 95 lbs.; acid phosphate, 200 lbs. This is the quantity for an acre.—A.B.C.

The Striped Cucumber Beetle

The striped cucumber beetle is to be reckoned with in the months of June and July by the growers of cucumbers, squashes, pumpkins and melons. In some seasons the beetles have been known to destroy large patches of these members of the melon family in a few days. State Zoologist Surface, of Pennsylvania, gives the following information, in condensed form, in regard to this pest:

"The earliest measure is to prevent damage by covering young plants with a net or cloth with a finer mesh than the common mosquito netting. They will not crowd through mosquito netting if lime and turpentine be placed on the ground within it. The adults can be killed by an arsenical poison,

the day. In Ontario, there are a great many different kinds of cutworms, but those which are responsible for most of the damage are the red-backed cutworm and the dark-sided cutworm. The variegated cutworm and one or two of the other well known kinds, occasionally occur in enormous numbers and when such happens their feeding habits change considerably and they feed by day as well as by night. On the whole, cutworms are the most troublesome insects which market gardeners have to deal with. Fortunately their injury is mostly over by the end of June.

The remedy for cutworms which has been found to give the best results, is the poisoned bran remedy. This is made by moistening the bran slightly with sweetened water and then adding gradually the Paris green. One half a pound of Paris green is sufficient to poison 50 pounds of bran. When required for garden use all that is necessary is to sprinkle a little of the poisoned bran by hand around such plants as are liable to be attacked. If used on a large scale, the mixture may be distributed by means of a Planet Jr., Iron Age or other wheel seeder. All weeds still standing at the end of the summer should be cut down

and burned as early as possible in autumn. This will destroy many of the eggs from which the cutworms hatch and also do away with suitable places for the deposition of other eggs laid by moths before winter.

For Peach Tree Borers

There is no more serious pest of the peach tree in some localities than the peach tree borer. It is the larva of a clear-winged moth, which flies by day, and hatches quickly from the eggs. The egg is laid during July and August on the bark at the base of the tree, and after some days the larva or grub hatches and commences to feed at the surface of the bark, finally eating its way through and boring up and down and across beneath the bark, often cutting off the tota sap supply, and causing the tree to wither as though scalded.

After the pests have passed beneath the bark, they are concealed and can not easily be reached with insecticides. They should then be killed by cutting them out, always cutting lengthwise rather than crosswise of the bark, or by piercing them with a pointed wire, when they will die. This, however, is a great loss of time, and is, of course, after some injury has been done to the tree.

By far the best plan is to prevent this injury and the necessity of cutting them out by covering the base of the trunk of the tree with some liquid material that will prevent the moth from laying its eggs; or, destroy the larvae before they enter the bark. The best time of year for this is the latter part of June, when the base of each tree should be sprayed with boiled lime-sulphur wash, either commercial or home-boiled, the same as for San Jose scale, applying to each tree from a pint to three pints, according to size. The best way to do this is with a spray pump, with a short extension reach, carrying the nozzle at an angle, but where there are only a few trees it can be applied with a whitewash brush.

Painting near the ground and below with lime and red linseed oil will serve the same purpose, and be safe, as has been proven by Prof. H. A. Surface, State Zoologist for Pennsylvania, in his experiments. Mr. J. L. Shroy, of Lancaster Co., Penn., writes to Professor Surface that he has succeeded perfectly in preventing the borer by rubbing the base of the tree with equal parts of flowers of sulphur and salt, in June and again in August.

Thin the fruit on the trees before it gets too large.

If you want to make the most from your apples this year, get your neighbors interested and organize a co-operative fruit association.

Strawberry plants in both the new and old plantations should be sprayed twice during the season with arsenate of lead in the portion of 3 lbs. to 50 gals. of water. Before using add 3 lbs. of slaked lime.—J. P. Dodds, Peterboro Co., Ont.

Keeping Poultry

In keeping poultry, one must look for lice that are from the flock; One, the other, the house, the boards, etc. I have experienced many ways to get rid of a pest of a dusted into the kind of lice. The property should always be single application sufficient. When sent on a bird, it takes eggs on the top. The property low up a first with a second in a week. If infested at the necessary to make. To the clo of the woe



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