

Kieffer pear tree in thrift and beauty. Its propensity for early bearing is such that it loads in the nursery rows, bending the limbs with the weight of the fruit until they sometimes break. The fruit is large, showy and beautiful; color amber, turning to rich bright cherry, with a decidedly white bloom and high perfume; flesh, light yellow, and exceedingly juicy, tender and sweet; free stone; excellent for canning; season very early, ripening in advance of other plums."

Mr. S. D. Willard, of Geneva, New York, writes concerning it: "I have fruited this plum for four or five years and find it hardy and productive, of fair quality, and well received in the markets. I do not think it equal to the Burbank in productiveness, or to some of the sorts of the Japan in quality, but its very beautiful appearance causes it to take well in the city markets."

Mr. VanDeman, Chief of the United States Department of Pomology, says of it: "This plum is of medium size, that is among the Japanese plums, being fully as large as the larger of our common cultivated plums (*Prunus Domestica*), heart-shaped, of very good quality and, I think, hardy over a large part of the United States. Color, greenish-red."

FIGHTING APPLE BORERS.

Prof. Forbes, Illinois State Entomologist, makes the following timely suggestions in reference to fighting apple borers:

1. *Preventing the Laying of Eggs.*—This is best accomplished by washing the trunk and the larger branches of the tree three or four times in summer, with a strong solution of soft soap, to which has been added a little crude carbolic acid. The soil should be evenly smoothed down about the base of the tree, so that the mixture may reach the lower portion of the trunk where the round-headed borer is apt to lay its eggs. Washing soda added to the soft soap, until the whole is of the consistency of thick paint, is also thought to make an excellent wash for repelling the beetles. In Ontario the first application should be made early in June or about the middle of May, and succeeding applications at intervals of about three weeks.

2. *Destroying Eggs and Larvæ.*—This should be done in August, September, and October. By a careful examination of the trees during this time the eggs and young larvæ may be detected, and by the judicious use of a knife they may easily be killed. If the ground is smoothed off about the young trees early in the season the insects in the lower part of the trunk are more readily reached; or an excellent way is to compel the beetles to lay their eggs where they can be easily reached, by mounding the bases of the trees either with sand, which is best as it does not crack open and allow the beetle to deposit below the surface, or with ordinary soil. According to Hon. J. W. Robinson, for many years a successful orchardist in Central Illinois, one man can usually examine and kill all eggs or borers in five hundred or more trees per day.