# Ontario Department of Agriculture

## ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

# Little Peach Disease

BY LAWSON CAESAR, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY.

The object of this Bulletin is to give peach growers the most up-to-date information that I have been able to obtain on the disease known as Little Peach, and at the same time to warn them of the danger of allowing trees attacked by it to remain in their orchards. Some do not need any warning, because they take no chances with diseased trees, but by far the majority are careless, largely because they have not yet realized that *Little Peach is a very destructive disease, much more destructive than Yellows.*

Trees attacked by Little Peach can probably be found here and there throughout the entire Niagara district and the other peach-growing districts of the Province. If there are any districts where the disease does not occur to-day, it may be expected to make its presence known in a few years. Hence this subject concerns every peach-grower in the Province. In some districts the disease has already made such progress that whole orchards have become diseased and worthless and many trees in orchards nearby attacked.

To make the symptoms of Little Peach clearer by comparison, I shall first mention those of Yellows.

## SYMPTOMS OF YELLOWS.

(1) The most characteristic symptoms of Yellows are the premature ripening and red spotting of the fruit. It may ripen from a few days to several weeks before the normal time. The surface of such fruit is regularly highly colored and mottled or spotted with red. Inside, reddish streaks extend through the flesh from the skin to the pit, and the flesh around the pit itself is redder than normal. Sometimes only one branch or even one twig will show these symptoms, but the presence even of a single fruit is enough to prove that the tree has the disease. Cutting off such branches will not save the tree. The first year the fruit is often somewhat larger than usual, but after this, as the tree becomes weakened with the disease, the fruit tends to become smaller.