

HORTICULTURE

Hints for Orchard and Garden

Spray the leaves of your currant bushes for currant worm when the leaves are half open. Use one ounce of Paris green to about ten quarts of water. Dusting with hellebore also will do the trick.

If there are no small fruit bushes in the garden, start a few this spring. They will grow almost anywhere but good attention and care gives best results.

Keep the old strawberry patch as clear of weeds as possible but this is not so important, as during the first year of its growth. If you are starting a new patch this spring, do not allow the plants to blossom. Cut out the flower stalks and allow the plants to grow all their attention to the production of runners and new plants rather than to produce fruit.

When digging soil for the vegetable garden, work in a application of

well-rotted manure. A few wood ashes are useful.

Plant or sow hardy vegetables as soon as the ground is fit for them. These include onions, peas, spinach, radish, lettuce, carrots, beets and parsnips. Sow the seed in freshly-stirred soil.

A delicious plant for home growing is salady or vegetable sprouts. Sow the seed as early as possible. Handle the crop the same as parsnips. Sandwich Islands is a good variety.

Onion Culture

Herbert Hachborn, Brant Co., Ont.

When onions are about two inches high, they should be weeded and thinned. If the seed is sown too thickly, they do not require thinning. I generally weed them about twice in a season, and wheel-hoe them once every week, until they commence to form heads, then I go through them with the ordinary hand hoe.

By the time that the tops commence to die off, I roll a barrel over them, two rows at a time, to break down all the tops. When they are fairly well dried-off the onions should be pulled, and topped into boxes and taken to the barn floor to dry.

Should it rain before they can be topped and taken in, it is best to wait a day or two so as to give them a chance to dry again. The rain does not hurt them; in fact, two or three showers will do them good. They can stand also about three degrees of frost.

They should be left in the barn as late in the fall as possible. Before cold weather sets in, they should be taken to a dry cellar or root house and stored in a temperature as near the freezing point as possible.

Plum Curculio

V. R. Gardner, Macdonald College.

By far the most destructive insect attacking the stone fruits is the plum curculio. This insect is the cause of most of our worst plums and cherries, and also does some damage to peaches, apples, pears and quinces. The adult insect is a small beetle, an eighth to a fifth of an inch long and half as broad. These beetles appear in the spring about the time the buds begin to swell and for a while feed upon them. Spraying with Paris green or some other arsenate at this season is sometimes recommended

but generally gives little satisfaction. Few of the beetles get enough poison to kill them. Soon after the fruit has set they commence to lay their eggs in the young fruit. The female beetle first punctures the skin with its long bill, then deposits an egg in the hole thus made, and finally completes the operation by making a semi-circular or crescent-shaped incision about the wound, this incision being a sixteenth to an eighth of an inch from tip to tip. Because of this crescent-shaped incision made in egg-laying, the curculio is often called the "Little Turk." This incision prevents the tissues of the fruit from swelling and crushing the egg. After "stinging" one fruit, the beetle goes to another and repeats the operation. The egg hatches in a few days and the young larva, or grub, burrows about and feeds within the fruit.

As the eggs are laid inside the fruit and the young grub feeds there, the spray can be made to reach them. It is possible, however, to prevent the eggs being laid in the first place; and this has been proven to be the only efficient method of control. At night the beetles become dull and sluggish, and if a tree infested with them is tapped or jarred in the early morning, many will drop to the ground. If shaves are spread under the trees before jarring, the beetles may be collected and destroyed. Where many trees are to be jarred it is most convenient to stretch sheets or canvas on a frame that may be carried from tree to tree. With an apparatus of this sort mounted on a wheelbarrow or other truck, it is possible to jar quite a number of trees in a short time. The work should be done in early morning while it is still cool, as the beetles are less active then, and jar off much more readily than later in the day.

Jarring must be kept up during the entire egg-laying season of the insect. This usually lasts from three to four or five weeks. It is a tedious, troublesome task, but it is the price that has to be paid for worm-free plums in regions where this insect has become serious. Fortunately there is only one brood during the year. The adult insect usually drops to the ground in the course of a few weeks and the larva crawls out and burrow into the soil. Here they remain for some time, later emerging as full-grown beetles. They may be hidden in rubbish and in the spring lay eggs for another year's

crop. As they enter the ground after leaving the wormy fruit cultivation at this season of the year, buries them so deeply that they cannot get out, and thus materially aids in their control. Clean culture, to deprive them of their winter quarters, is also advised.

Making a Lawn

I have a small piece of ground near my house that I want to make into a good lawn. Most of the soil was taken from the cellar when building. Kindly tell me how I can best handle the ground so as to produce a good, permanent turf.

—E. A. F. Kings Co., N. S.

The soil from the cellar should not be left on the surface. It should be taken away or used for filling undulations. The best soil for a lawn is a rich, retentive loam. A few loads of this spread evenly on the surface will produce much better results than if you tried to make a lawn from the soil already at hand. Some kind of fertilizer, such as bone meal, wood ashes and nitrate of soda should be worked in. Have the surface soil well pulverized and level it smoothly.

Sow the seed when the soil is freshly distributed. Use plenty of seed and sow it evenly. It is best to sow one-half of the amount one way and to cross the patch with the balance. After sowing, rake and roll.

Good lawn mixtures can be secured from any reliable seedman. A home made mixture can be prepared from Kentucky blue grass, red top and red clover, equal parts by weight. Use at the rate of at least three bushels to the acre. The amount required can easily be determined by getting the area of the plot in square feet and dividing same into the quantity required for an acre and you have the amount necessary for the plot.

To Kill Wasps in Their Nest

W. T. Wray Spark, York Co., Ont.

Mix a quantity of lump cyanide of potassium equal to four lumps of sugar, dilute it in 1 oz. of water. Pour three table-spoonfuls into the nest, and put a sod over the opening. Each wasp's nest hatches out about 80,000. The most likely places for wasps to hibernate are in the corners of stables, cow-houses, pig styces, conservatories and boiler-houses. These places should be sprayed with fluid in early spring as this will probably kill a large number of queen wasps and other pests.



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