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A VERY USEFUL SPRAY

Lime Sulphur With Arsenicals for the Orchard.

A Combined Fungicide and Insecticide—Gives the Right Arsenate of Lead — Stomach Worm Loss Preventable.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

The time is again at hand for laying plans for the summer care of the orchard and garden and nothing that can be done will be found to give better paying returns than the careful control of insect and fungus attacks. It has been computed by reliable authorities that an annual toll of 10 per cent. is taken by the inroads of these enemies of the farmer on his various crops and that this loss increases many fold where proper precautions are not taken. In extreme cases complete destruction of some crop has sometimes been known to occur through failure to give care, or through neglect of the right steps at the right time.

In this connection it will be found that these is nothing that can be done that will give more satisfactory returns on the investment than a small outlay in money and time on spraying and dusting. But it must be done intelligently or time and money will be squandered; and the leading essential here is the choice of the proper remedy and the correct compounding and applying of it.

One of the most outstanding and effective remedies in use to-day is the lime-sulphur solution mixed with an arsenical. This combination gives a combined insecticide and fungicide effect, a team play which is very frequently required during the growing season, insects and fungi often giving trouble at the same time on the same plant. The advantage of mixing the two and applying them together is obvious — the cost of application is exactly one-half what it would be had they to be separately applied.

But care in making this combined spray must be exercised. Some arsenicals cannot be mixed with lime-sulphur. Paris green, long the most popular bug exterminator, and still extensively used where quick results are desired, will destroy fully 35 per cent. of the efficiency of the lime-sulphur wash if mixed with it, and what is far worse, this mixture will badly damage leaves and other tender parts of plants. It follows, therefore, that Paris green, though a powerful poison insecticide, cannot be used along with lime sulphur wash as a combined spray. On the other hand arsenate of lead has given decided satisfaction in this respect and it is quite probable that the newer arsenical, calcium arsenate, is also suitable to combine with lime-sulphur.

But the chief purpose of this article is to draw attention to the hitherto little recognized fact in connection with the use of arsenate of lead along with lime-sulphur that there are two kinds of arsenate of lead, chemically, one of which is more fitted for combining with lime-sulphur than is the other. Acid arsenate of lead destroys nearly 30 per cent. of the efficiency of the lime-sulphur, whereas neutral arsenate of lead, the other kind, only destroys 9 per cent. In other respects, these two forms of the lead arsenate are equally useful to combine with lime-sulphur solution to get a dual purpose spray. If, however, when using the acid arsenate of lead, 3½ pounds of finely sifted, and fresh hydrated lime be mixed into the lime-sulphur solution along with every 1 pound of the arsenate used (which is usually 1 pound to every 40 gallons of the lime-sulphur solution) the destruction of the efficiency of the lime-sulphur is reduced to 8 per cent. (practically the same as the neutral). If this practice be followed when the acid variety of the arsenate is being used it does not matter which of the two forms of this arsenical is used in making lime-sulphur arsenate spray, as equally satisfactory results are obtained with either.

This precaution in connection with combining lime-sulphur and lead arsenate becomes especially important in view of the fact that practically all the lead arsenate now put on the market is of the acid variety. It is therefore recommended that whenever using arsenate of lead and lime-sulphur as a combined spray, unless the kind of arsenate is known to be neutral, the practice of using hydrated lime along with it be always followed.—H. L. Fulmer, O. A. College, Guelph.

Mullein.

Mullein, under the name of verbascum, is used medicinally in leaf and blossom. The leaves are thought to have anodyne, or pain-killing properties, and also yield a soothing oily substance. In Europe, an infusion of the flowers, strained to take out fibrous substance, is given in catarrhal troubles; and a mild oil, like olive oil, when saturated with mullein flowers, is used to allay inflammations of the mucous membrane. The dry leaves, smoked, are said to soothe irritated membranes.

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