

The most common insects are the caterpillar of the gooseberry saw-fly (*Nematus velaricosus*) and what is commonly known as the gooseberry worm (*Tempelia grossularia*). The first of these insects is hatched early in May, and so numerous do they become that they will completely defoliate an entire plantation, unless given an application of white hellebore, which will effectually stop their ravages and save the crop. This insect is not nearly so abundant or destructive as formerly. The gooseberry worm mentioned was also a threatening scourge, but its numbers are less and it may disappear from our gooseberry bushes. This insect settles on the gooseberry and devours its contents, then immediately joins itself to another berry, enters and devours it also, and so continues. No remedy is known for this insect aside from hand picking.

Occasionally plantations are attacked with a form of mildew, destroying the fruit and rendering the bushes worthless. In my opinion, the cause of these diseases is atmospheric, and the remedy is, to forbear planting varieties that are subject to such parasitic growths. Happily several varieties have been introduced within the past few years that are seldom, if ever, attacked by this mildew.

In conclusion, I may state that our standard varieties of gooseberries are limited to three or four, as a variety must be at once hardy to stand our climate, free from mildew, a good grower, and an abundant bearer, with fruit of first-class quality; these points are fully developed in Industry, Smith's Improved, Downing and Houghton's Seedling.—Ohio Farmer.

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**Shelling or Rattling—Disease of Grapes.**—The dropping of grapes from the bunches before they are ripe is becoming a serious trouble. The apparently possible causes for this shelling of the grapes include injuries caused by parasites, as insects, fungi and leaf blight; or such an improper condition of the vine as is shown by the shriveling of the stems before the grapes are ripe, by premature ripening of the fruit and the wood, by overbearing and overgrowth of wood and leaves; or by such soil conditions as too rich land, wrong kind of soil, too much cultivation, excessive drouth, especially when followed by excessive rains, a weak root system, lack of phosphoric acid and potash and other elements, and the need of barnyard manure; or by such atmospheric conditions as excessive heat or unfavorable winds. The disease has been studied by E. G. Lodeman, of Cornell University, who finds that neither insects nor fungi are the cause of the trouble, but that potash seems to be the food required by the grapevine in the majority of cases where the berries shell, and that this element may be needed in all cases. The continuous cropping to which most of the shelling land was submitted before the vineyards were planted is considered the principal reason for the lack of potash. Many of the possible causes mentioned will aggravate the trouble.—American Agriculturist.