

JAN 5 1920

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Circular No. 52
(New Horticultural Series).

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PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(HORTICULTURAL BRANCH).

Diseases of Stone-fruits in B.C.

Peach-leaf Curl.

AS its name implies, this disease shows itself in the curling and puckering of the attacked areas of the leaves. When infection is severe the leaf falls off. Almost complete defoliation, with total loss of the crop, may result. The new twigs may also die. Only peaches are affected, the Elberta being by far the worst variety. Only one infection occurs during the season—namely, when the buds are unfolding in the spring. Even after a bad attack, the second crop of leaves is free from the disease. Cold, wet weather at the time the buds are expanding greatly increases the severity of an attack.

Control measures consist in destroying the fungus-spores which are lying on the buds at the time growth begins. One spraying with a good fungicide will control the disease. It must, however, be put on with sufficient thoroughness to soak into the hairy coverings of the bud-scales of all the buds, and spraying must be completed not later than the first indications of the swelling of the buds. Its value is not lessened by being made two weeks *before* this time. Lime-sulphur solution, not weaker than 1 to 12, the spray usually given. Where peach-worm has also to be fought this should be made 1 to 9 and applied at the time of first swelling of the buds. Done at this time curl will be controlled and the worm greatly reduced. For worm alone, however, better results are obtained by postponing spraying until nearer blossoming-time, but *it is then too late to spray for curl*. It is not possible to secure maximum results in the control of both pests by one spraying.