

of frost, but if the blossoms are very closely inspected, either the yellow pupa of the weevil will be found in them or in a little round hole in the withered flower from which it has cut his way out.

In some parts of France so great has been the damage done by this little insect that societies of growers have been formed to defend themselves against it. If we copied their example, and would adopted some united actions of cultivators, a good many injurious weeds and insects might be stamped out.

These weevils can fly, although not very freely. They are generally of a reddish brown, but sometimes *pitchy* in colour.

The snout is very curious, being half as long as the body, slightly curved. When the weevil falls, he tucks in his legs and snout, and remains motionless, feigning death until the danger is passed.

The habits of the female are very curious. She lays from 15 to 20 eggs, but bores a hole in each flower-bud and deposits only one egg in it. This takes her about a fortnight, and the eggs are hatched in from five to nine days. The maggot is without feet, it lies in the bud in a curved form, it soon cause the petals to wither, and the flower bud changes to a rusty hue, and decays.

This larva or maggot turns into a pupa in about 8 to 10 days, is of a yellow colour with a long beak, and feet folded on the underside of its body. In ten days this again changes into the perfect weevil and escapes by a hole which it bores through the petals. After this the weevils live among the leaves of the trees, hiding in chinks of the bark or moss which may grow upon the branches; they also probably pass the winter under the bark of other trees.

According to natural instinct, the weevils do not appear until the weather is mild; if the season continues warm and growing, the attack is not so serious, but in cold changeable seasons, when the buds develope slowly, the weevils lay their full complement of eggs.

Prevention and remedies: Spray the trees, between October and February, with a solution of sulphate of iron; 1 lb. of sulphate to 1 gallon of water; and dust the trees with freshly slaked lime.

Place bands of tarred paper round the trunks of the trees to prevent the weevils from crawling up. Tar must not be put upon young tender trees but

upon grease-proof paper so that it cannot penetrate to the bark.

Lime-wash, mixed with coal oil, may be applied with good effect, if the rough bark has been well scraped off and the wash thoroughly worked into every crack.

Coal oil emulsion, made weak and thin and sprayed over the trees in a fine mist, will tend to prevent the weevils from laying their eggs. Another method is to shake the trees, thereby causing the insects to fall on cloths spread below. The cloths are then swept with brooms and the rubbish and insects shovelled into sacks and burnt.

This process must be repeated, as all will not fall the first time. Some will say "this is a costly and troublesome task," but it is not so much so as might be supposed; in an experiment with an orchard of 8 acres 450,000 weevils were destroyed at a cost of less than \$5 and good crop of apples was obtained.

The operation must be performed immediately the apple trees show their blossoms and before the weevils have had time to lay their eggs. It requires care and energy to wage war with them but it will pay.

(To be continued.)

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#### MORAL ADVANTAGES OF A LOVE OF RURAL PURSUITS.

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A love of agriculture and horticulture should be encouraged in the young, whether these are to be the professions by which their living is to be made or as a source of amusement for those who may be otherwise engaged. Such a taste will lead to a spirit of enquiry on other subjects, and thus the mind will be expanded and other studies will be more interesting. If, for instance, we are impressed with the beauty of some peculiar flower, or pleased with the exquisite flavor of some delicious fruit, we shall be curious to know what country produced them, and thus the study of "geography" will be made to claim the attention.

When we learn of the wheat which was found in the Ancient Egyptian mummy case, and which germinated after being thus preserved for thousands of years, or read of the parsley or the laurel wreaths of Greeks and Romans; of the sacred oak of the Druids, the rose, the emblem of England; the thistle of Scotland, the shamrock of Ireland, the lily of France, and the maple of Canada, it is