

EXPERIMENT WITH CAUSTIC POTASH.

503.—SIR,—I have an orchard of 2,500 plum trees, 500 apple and 200 peach trees. Last May I sprayed the major part of this orchard with caustic potash, diluted to about the proportions of one pound to two gallons of water. The buds had swollen to cup-like forms, but the green edge of the leaf had not appeared. I used a brass pump. The application was sufficient to deeply darken the bark, remaining for several weeks. My object was to destroy the germinal quality of insect eggs, cleanse the bark, and possibly destroy fungous spores incidental to the trees, which may have just lodged. I know the immediate value of potash applied in a soluble form, and the annual need. The ashes of a plum showed 75 per cent. of potash. This season, by accurate observation, my plums and apples, where the potash was so used on the buds, are pronounced one-eighth larger than previous years. I am perplexed as to the cause of this larger fruit. Each cup-like bud was capable of holding one or more drops of the showered potash, and the hundreds of thousands of buds would hold an appreciable quantity, and timely developed larger leaves and stronger fruit blossoms. The absorption by the bark would be influential in the same direction. Kindly favor me with reliable data gathered at Maplehurst along this line of experiment.

W. C. ARCHIBALD, *Earncliffe Gardens, Wolfville, N. S.*

The experiment made by Mr. Archibald is worthy of notice, and we would direct the attention of our experiment stations to the excellent results which he obtained. We have never tried caustic potash in this way. The only use we have made of it has been in a weaker solution applied to the trunks and branches of trees to destroy the oyster shell bark louse. Most experimenters have been endeavoring to destroy fungi with solutions of sulphate of copper, one pound to twenty-five gallons of water being recommended for scab and mildew, applied before the foliage appears, and the Bordeaux mixture after. Possibly a strong solution of caustic potash will be as serviceable, for we can only account for the clean, large fruit resulting, except by the destruction of minute fungi and insects which weaken the growth of the trees, and bring about the production of small sized fruit.

RASPBERRY GROWING FOR HOME USE.

504.—SIR,—I want to set out next spring two hundred raspberry bushes. What varieties, and in what proportion would you advise. The ground slopes to the west, is sheltered on the east and south by a cedar hedge and is clay. I want them for home use, not for shipping.

F. G. TREMAYNE, *Sutton West, Ont.*

Of red raspberries we would recommend Tumer and Cuthbert, and for white, the Golden Queen. If sufficiently hardy, or if winter protection can be given, we would recommend Brinckle's Orange, on account of its superior excellency of quality. A fine red raspberry, surpassing either of the above-named in flavor, was sent us by Mr. Gibbard, of Napanee, some time ago. The bushes are fairly productive and seem quite hardy. We have called it Gibbard's Seedling. Of the black caps for family use, we would recommend Souhegan and Hillborn. For canning purposes the Shaffer raspberry is the most desirable of all, and should have a place in every home garden.