

If your correspondent refers to the superficial roots of living basswood and maple which often run to some considerable distance, and hence disturb other plants, I may say that I know nothing better than digging and cutting them out. There is nothing that will prevent the roots growing so long as the trees are alive. It is part of the nature of the root to send its branches wherever they can find nourishing matter—food and water.

If the roots are already dead, then again uprooting is the best remedy. Some advocate the use of coal oil or sulphuric acid. These are undoubtedly potent, but the spade and axe remedy is the simplest.

O. A. C., Guelph. W. LOCHHEAD.

Rocky Mountain Cherry.

1161. SIR,—Can you explain why I never get fruit from my Rocky Mountain cherry tree?

Anagance, N. B. C. STOCKTON.

In answer to S. Stockton, Anagance, N. B., I would suggest as the probable cause of the flowers of his Rocky Mountain cherry not setting fruit, that the flowers are not perfect. If he procured some scions from a Rocky Mountain cherry known to be self fertile and grafted them on his trees, he might be able to get some fruit.

C. E. F., Ottawa. W. T. MACOUN.

Exhausted Calcium Carbide as a Fertilizer.

1162. SIR,—Kindly give in your next Horticulturist some information as to the application and value as a fertilizer of exhausted calcium carbide as taken from the generator of an acetylene gas machine?

Hagersville. S. W. HOWARD.

The waste product from the acetylene gas machine is practically slaked lime. If the carbide has been manufactured from lime free from metallic sulphides, as iron pyrites, the by-product from the machine may be applied directly to the land. As, however, it is apt to contain sulphur compounds (which are injurious to vegetation), it is well to expose it in small heaps on the field for a

few weeks before mixing it with the soil. This exposure corrects and renders harmless the sulphur compounds.

There are very few soils that are not benefited by an occasional application of lime, say 20 to 40 bushels per acre every fourth or fifth year. For those that are peaty, sour or naturally deficient in lime, this waste product should especially prove a valuable amendment.

FRANK T. SHUTT,
Ottawa. Chemist Dom. Exp. Farms.

A Disease of Wax Plants.

SIR,—I send you herewith two leaves taken from a Hoya Carnosa. The plant is very large, covering a frame about 4 ft. x 8 ft., and was, until very lately, quite healthy looking. I would like to know if it is possible to do anything to stop this apparent blight or whatever it is. Have you ever seen leaves of the Hoya affected in the same way? Can you tell me what it is? I thought when I first saw the spots that it had been some drops of water on the leaves and scalded with the sun, but I do not think this is the cause. I send two leaves, on the large one you can see the blight in the first stages, and on the smaller one the affected parts have lost all substance. The plant is standing in a square bay window with an east and south exposure. As I feel anxious about the plant I would like to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

H. B. SPROAT, Woodstock.

The disease affecting the wax-plant (*Hoya carnososa*) leaves is not a common one. It is due to the presence of a fungus called *Alternaria*, a genus allied to *Cercospora* and *Macrosporium*, which affect the tomato and other plants. The mycelium of this fungus lives in the soft cells of the leaves, and spreads with great rapidity. At first the spots are but slightly affected, and resemble the results of sun-scald on drops of water sprinkled on a leaf, but later the area of diseased part widens, and the tissues begin to rot. The margin of the area is very distinct. Cultures of the fungus were made in the laboratory here, and a fine crop of mycelium and upright stalks, bearing conidia, was obtained. Fig. 1835 shows very clearly the form of the threads and the conidia. The latter are flask-shaped, and frequently united