

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

INSECTS INJURIOUS TO THE PEACH.

The peach appears to have only one special enemy, the Peach Borer (*Aegeria exitiosa*), see Fig 57, described as follows:—

"The Peach Borer is a wasp-like insect, with transparent wings, and a richly ornamented body, banded and striped with gold, which deposits its eggs about the base of the trunk. The eggs hatch out, and the larvæ bore into the sapwood, and cause an exudation of gummy matter which appears in masses about the base of the tree. The larvæ seem partly to live in this gummy substance and partly in the sapwood of the tree. Sometimes three or four are found on the same tree, occasionally girdling and destroying it, but always inducing more or less of a diseased condition, and impairing its vigour. Altogether it is a very objectionable and destructive insect."

As to the means of combatting the operations of this pest it is remarked:—

"It is usual on the appearance of these gummy masses to cut them away, trace out the larva and destroy it. By watchfulness in this way its depredations may be stopped. It has been suggested that banking up the trees with earth would prevent the insects from depositing their eggs, and the method is very strongly recommended by those who have tried it. As a rule those who look after their peach trees closely have not much trouble with the Borer. It is easily discovered by this gummy exudation, and can be easily taken out and destroyed if it is looked after at the proper season."

INSECTS INJURIOUS TO SMALL FRUITS.

Coming next to the insects injurious to the smaller fruits, the Imported Sawfly (*Nematus ventricosus*), see Figs. 58, 59 and 60, is one of the most troublesome to the currant and gooseberry. It appeared some years ago in New York State and spread thence to Canada. It is described as follows:—

"The parent insect is a small transparent-winged fly about the size of the ordinary house-fly, but furnished with four wings. This fly makes its appearance very early in the season, and as the young foliage is expanding, deposits its eggs usually along the leaves of the gooseberry, in regular rows on the under side.

"The eggs are set end to end, and are fastened by some glutinous substance. In a few days these eggs hatch out little grubs, which proceed to eat holes in the leaves. On turning the leaves up you will find the young colony of larvæ very numerous, and you can sometimes destroy the whole brood by picking two or three of the leaves and trampling them under foot. If not checked at that time they soon scatter over the bush, and you find the foliage disappearing with great rapidity, first from the lower portion of the bush, and from that upwards, until in a very brief space the whole of the foliage of the bush, or nearly the whole of it, may be destroyed, leaving the branches bare."

"The insect," says Mr. Saunders, "is at least double-brooded, and it is sometimes supposed to have more than two broods. If it is only double-brooded, the broods appear at different periods, so that you can almost at any time during the season find larvæ on the bushes in different stages of development. You will find the larvæ most abundant in the early part of the season, devouring the foliage as soon as it is thoroughly developed, and, when full grown, going to the surface of the ground, where they construct their cocoons among rubbish or decaying leaves, coming out early in the summer and depositing their eggs for a later brood."

For this insect and the native sawfly, which is so scarce as to be of little annoyance, hellebore is a sufficient remedy.—*Report of the Ontario Agricultural Commission.*

WINTERING FLOWERING PLANTS.

There is no vocation in life which calls for a greater amount of forethought than that of the

gardener. Although as we write our eyes rest upon beds of stately foliage plants, brilliant verbenas, and long lines of showy annuals, we are prone to remember that in a few weeks more at the most another season of buds and blossoms will be numbered with the past. Those glorious summer days, wherein we delight to hear the joyous hum of the busy bees, or the humorous

THE PEACH BORER—*Aegeria exitiosa*.



Fig. 57.

In Fig. 57, 1 shows the female insect, and 2 the male.

THE SAW FLY—*Nematus ventricosus*.

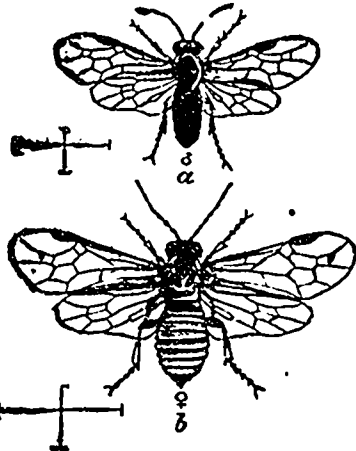


Fig. 58.

In Fig. 58 we have represented both male and female flies —a the male, b the female.

EGGS OF THE SAW FLY.



Fig. 59.

LARVA OF SAW FLY—NEARLY FULL-GROWN—FEEDING.



Fig. 60.

jokes of the farm labourers as they bind the golden grain, must in the course of the ever-changing seasons be succeeded by the long dreary winter. We who love the beautiful flowers which the hand of God has caused to spring up everywhere to adorn His footstool, desire them not only in the summer but every day of the year, and it is surprising what a little forethought will do in securing plants for winter blooming. If we would have our homes look bright and cheerful

we must now see that the preparatory steps are taken.

I will mention a few plants which may be raised from seed suitable for winter blooming. Seed may be sown in September in a shady cool place in the garden, the soil being kept constantly moist, and as the plants get large enough they are to be put in the pots in which they are to bloom. By fall they will be just right to bring in doors. Of the climbing plants or vines for winter blooming, the Cobea and the Maurandia are excellent. The tubers of the Madeira Vine may be planted now in four or five-inch pots and plunged—that is, sunk in the ground—to the rim of the pot. So also may the bulbs of the deliciously fragrant Tuberosa, and you will have their sweet blossoms in early winter. Ageratum will give you pretty blue flowers. One of my correspondents strongly recommends the Petunia as a winter flower. There is one of the little delicate flowers—a great favourite of mine—the Browallia, which is grown very extensively by commercial florists for winter use.

Plants in pots intended to bloom in winter require a season of preparation, and some of them of absolute rest. We must not expect a Fuschia or a Geranium which has given us its flowers all summer to do the same in winter. There are certain Fuschias, noticeably Carl Holt, Speciosa and Lustre, which are especially adapted to bloom at that season of the year. If you have some choice Geraniums bedded out which you desire to save over winter, it is only necessary to shorten in the branches before potting them.

Of the winter-blooming bulbs, of course the Hyacinth heads the list, but as they must be imported from Holland every year, they are considered rather expensive by some people. We procure them in large quantity and are able to divide our surplus stock among our readers at a nominal charge. There is the gorgeous Tulip, the pretty Crocus, the modest Snowdrop, the sweet Lily of the Valley, and several others. Who is there among flower lovers who does not admire the Cyclamen, for it is in bloom the entire winter? The Tea Roses and Heliotrope will give us their fragrance, Bouvardias, Ageratum, and Begonias their colour, Similax and Lycopodium their greenness, and with these and many others which I will refer to in subsequent letters, our homes may be adorned with a beautiful bouquet even when

"The melancholy days have come,
The saddest of the year."

—"Rennie" in *Ohio Farmer*.

SUCCESSFUL PEACH ORCHARD.

N. F. Murray, of Elm Grove, Mo., stated to the Horticultural Society of that State his experience in peach growing. Twelve years ago he planted 500 trees of the leading standard varieties. The orchard was cultivated three years with corn and potatoes. Afterward the ground was kept cultivated with no annual crop. The only manure was a moderate application of wood ashes. The total amount already received from the orchard is \$2,150, beside a few hundred dollars' worth consumed by the family and friends. This is over fifty dollars from each acre for every year since planting. The land cost fifty dollars; the trees fifty; ploughing and planting seven dollars; cost of cultivation, above the home consumption, forty-three dollars. Whole cost, \$150. This sum added to compound interest at 10 per cent. on cost and expense of gathering, boxing, selling, etc., left a net profit of \$1,088. The locality is in Holt county, on the main ridge between the Nodaway and Missouri rivers.

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