

and differ little in appearance throughout their lives. When at rest they coil their bodies. They are omnivorous feeders. Sometimes their food consists of grubs, worms and slugs; and sometimes such cultivated plants as mangolds, potatoes, cabbage roots, and even the roots of cereals. Once in a while we hear of them eating ears of Indian corn and strawberries. The eggs are laid in holes in the ground in the spring, and it is possible that the adults are carried from one place to another in mulches and manures.

Many remedies have been tried. Traps are possibly as practicable as any. Poisoned baits of bran or potatoes, or mangolds have been used to advantage.

A dressing of fresh gas-lime to the soil has been recommended.

Thorough cultivation of the land, and clean farming, by the removal of old rotten roots and rubbish, will also pay where the land becomes infested.

Killing Mustard By Spraying.

1305. SIR,—I saw an item in the press about some man teaching the farmers how to kill wild mustard by spraying it with some chemical solution. Can you give me the formula?

A SUBSCRIBER AT LONDON.

Recent experiments, carried on first in

France, then in England, and latterly in Canada, both at the Dominion Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, show conclusively that growing wild mustard (*Brassica sinapistrum*) can be killed by spraying the plants with a two per cent. solution of copper sulphate or bluestone—one pound of bluestone being dissolved in 5 gallons of water.

With an ordinary spray pump the infested plots may be sprayed. A fine nozzle should be used, and the application made on a clear day in June, just as the mustard is coming into bloom. If applied carefully, the bluestone solution will not harm crops of oats, barley or wheat, in which the mustard is growing. In cases of severe infestation, where hand pulling is clearly out of the question, this method of spraying should come quickly into general use; for, although the mustard seeds in the ground are untouched, the plants which come up are prevented from re-seeding the ground. It becomes, then, merely a question of a few years before a badly infested plot becomes clean, if the plants are sprayed annually.

W. LOCHHEAD.

O.A.C., Guelph, Aug. 2nd, 1902.

Open Letters

The Elm as a Shade Tree.

SIR,—Fifty years ago at a meeting of the Horticultural Society of New York, a Mr. Stephen Ainsworth, a fruit grower south of Rochester, arose and said, "Fellow fruit growers plant trees as beginners that will bear grief well." It is one of the best speeches I ever heard at a meeting of horticulturists. It was very brief, but full of meat for digestion and consideration. Mr.

A. McNeil in your August number calls attention to the American Elm as a shade and ornamental tree. It is beautiful, majestic, hardy, attains great size, is as free as any from insects, worms and other pests, holds its foliage well, the best shade tree in America, will branch high and therefore not darken front windows, will form a lofty arch over the street if planted on both sides.

And over and above all it bears grief well.