

Examine the eggs with a magnifying glass. They are flattened above, have a central puncture, and a brown circle near the border.

There are two species of canker-worms, the fall canker-worm, and the spring canker-worm. If the egg masses are like those described above

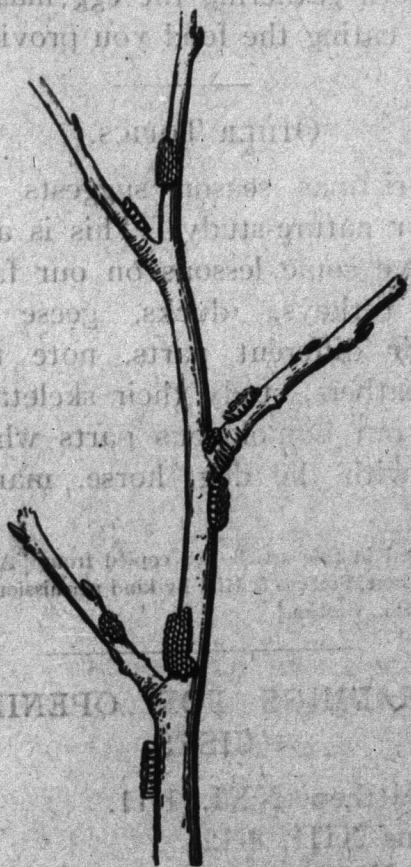


Fig. 2.

your specimen is the fall canker-worm; but if like those pictured in Fig. 1., you have the spring canker-worm.

As a rule the fall canker-worm appears and deposits its eggs in fall and early winter, though a few belated ones may be left over till spring; on the other hand the spring canker-worm appears and deposits its eggs in the spring, though at times a few in the scouting line may appear in the fall.

The adult forms of these two species are much alike to the casual observer, but on close examination it is found that in both sexes of the spring species there are two transverse rows of small reddish spines pointing backwards on each of the first seven abdominal segments; no such spines are found on the fall species.

The eggs of both species hatch into greenish larvae about the time the buds are bursting. They have appetites, and soon cut the tender leaves to such an extent that the crop is destroyed, and permanent injury is done the trees.



Fig. 3. The Canker-worm feeding, and "spinning down" from the tree.

In three weeks they are full grown, and are then about an inch long, and are the familiar loopers or measuring worms found on apple-trees in the spring. (See Fig. 3). The larvae of these two species are easily distinguished. Note in Fig. 1., the larva of the spring species shows but two pairs of prolegs, the legs by which it is attached to the twig, but the larva of the fall species always has three pairs of prolegs. Watch for these larvae next spring, and note that they also enjoy protective coloration. Their presence is readily detected by jarring the tree. Strike a limb with a walking stick and note how they drop from the branch, and suspend themselves by a silk thread. This is the "spinning down" that is shown in Fig. 3.

In early summer they descend to the ground,