

When full-grown, the wireworm buries itself in the ground, where it forms a cell, in which it becomes a chrysalis or pupa; this change takes place early in autumn, and in two or three weeks at farthest it becomes a beetle. The beetles are harmless, feeding only on flowers; they can fly well, and when on the ground can run very fast, with their heads down, and drop when approached. The mouth is not the same in appearance with that which existed in the worm, but will, on examination, be found to be formed of the same organs, only perfected.

There are two species of beetle that produce the wireworm, more common in grain fields than the rest, and therefore the more to be dreaded. These are: the elater apressifrons, and the elater obesus.

The bug parent is familiarly known as the snapping bug. As before said, the worm continues five years before his transmutation to the perfect insect state, during which time it feeds on the roots of wheat, barley, oats, corn and grass. Its ravages are sometimes extensive and desolating.

The wireworms usually eat into the stalks just about the roots, and sometimes separate it from the root altogether; they seldom, however, remain so long engaged upon the one spot or portion of stalk. When they attack potatoes, they penetrate into their very hearts, and thus frequently have wholly destroyed the seed potatoes when newly planted; to obviate which it has been recommended to plant whole potatoes.

Amongst the green crops, turnips may be regarded as the greatest sufferers, and the tender young plants are, of course, most victimized in autumn. Millions of these ravenous grubs may then be found gnawing at the roots of the young turnips, and even biting off their extremities. They also frequently attack the stalk, bite it across, and when the stems fall, attack the leaves. This is, however, one of the least formidable of the robberies of this persevering pest, and if the wireworms were satisfied with the leaves alone, they would not be so injurious.

We should possess some acquaintance with the natural history of such animals as we desire to destroy. Such knowledge facilitates our operations, by informing us of their haunts and habits, of their dispositions and predilections, and consequently, not only of where we are to seek for the pests, but of how we can best set to work to accomplish their destruction. Recollect, I may remark, in passing that the beetles, whence the wireworms are produced, are, although not necessarily mischievous themselves to be regarded as the grand source of your annoyances. Let it be your care, therefore, to have these caught and destroyed; they will be chiefly, found, during spring and summer, upon nettles, hemlocks, foal's parsley, and other such herbs. Let this be one of your cares.

The eggs are chiefly deposited in pastures where the surface has been undisturbed, and in clover layers and fallows. Where, therefore, they make their appearance, you will find it a good plan to have your pastures eaten close by the sheep. Rolling, in early spring, is also recommended, and is, in my opinion, very likely to prove serviceable, having been preceded by a top-dressing of lime. I recommend a top-dressing of lime, salt, and soot. The proportions recommended are as follow:—Lime, 2 parts; soot, 3 parts; salt, 1 part. The salt may be purchased from salt works, or extensive dealers in this article, as spoiled salt—there being accidents which will render it unfit for market as salt, without

at all militating against its value as manure, or a top-dressing. The lime should be quicklime pounded, and the mixture should be applied to the land as speedily as possible after having been compounded; be it also remembered that this composition will be found a valuable fertilizer as well as a foe to insects of all sorts. Wood, sweet gale, the refuse of gasworks, spirits of tar, chloride of lime, nitrate of soda, mixed with the manure, will be found very serviceable; at all events, effecting a sensible diminution in the numbers of the wireworm, and of course a diminution in their ravages in an equal ratio.

The wire worm is found in great numbers, generally on newly cultivated grounds, or meadows, which have been long in repose; they can be conquered, and should not be suffered to revel on the plants of industrious farmers. Exposures to the frosts of winter will destroy them; therefore, autumn plowing is essential; and the course or remedy suggested to destroy the cutworm, is equally effective on the wireworm.

It has been tried to destroy the wireworm by flooding, but this is only a useless attempt, it being almost impossible to drown this creature, which will be found as lively as ever after a total immersion for three, or even four, days; still, however, such flooding, though it will not destroy the worms, interferes with the laying of the beetles which produce them, and will consequently, in this point of view, be occasionally found useful.

Soda has been used with success. I have known soda tried by practical men, who were most unwilling, unless actually coerced into it, to listen to any novelty, and they have unanimously asserted the success of their experiments with soda.

Let frogs and toads be encouraged on your lands; their entire food consists of insects; of such creatures as you are most anxious to destroy. Call them in, therefore to your assistance—protect them, regard them as your friends and laborers, and they will aid you most extensively. The robin, blackbird, wagtail thrush, together with poultry, and crows, &c., feed on these insects.—*Harris on Insects.*

REMEDY FOR BOTS IN HORSES.—For many years past I have used a simple remedy for bots, and am almost disposed to call it "an infallible remedy," sure enough. But I can say, with truth, that I have never known it fail if administered at the commencement of the attack. Drench freely with sweet milk and molasses, (sugar or honey will do) well shaken together. Continue it, a bottle full every fifteen or twenty minutes, according to the severity of the attack, until the animal becomes easy; then give a quart bottle full of strong salt and water, followed soon after with a quart bottle of Castor oil. It is worse than idle to give anything with the view of killing the bots in a horse. The only plan is to convey them off; a sweet drench is the thing; they seize upon it with avidity, and in a little while will fill themselves, increasing at least one-third in size. In salt and water they will lie perfectly dormant for days together, hence the advantage in its preceding the oil. Whenever the bots attack a horse they will always be found at the neck of the throat, where a sweet drench is thrown immediately amongst them the moment it is swallowed by the horse. It is a great mistake to suppose that they are hid in some secret recess where medicine cannot reach them, and quite as great a one to suppose that a sweet drench will not divert their attention from the horse.—*South-ern Cultivator*