

## CHEAP FERTILIZER.

Will the cheap fertilizer given on page 61 of the CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST be a proper compound for clay loam? Will it result best to mix the sulphate of ammonia and bone meal and sprinkle along the matted rows of strawberries, and afterwards broadcast the ashes; or mix all together and broadcast over the matted rows and paths? Would a larger quantity of ashes per acre result still better?

*Reply by Prof. James, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.*

1st. The mixture is suitable to any land on which fruit is being successfully grown.

2nd. The sulphate of ammonia and bone meal should not be mixed with the ashes for any considerable length of time before applying, as the lime of the ashes, if they are at all fresh, may drive off some of the ammonia. Better mix as you apply, or apply them separately.

3rd. The dose of ashes can be doubled, if procurable; but it would be preferable to apply in a couple of doses rather than all at once. The amount of ashes or of any special fertilizer that can be economically used in any fruit crop, must be determined by experience in connection with each farm.

## DURABILITY OF PARIS GREEN.

SIR,—How many years will Paris green remain effective? W. W. R, *Toronto.*

Since this substance is not volatile, we know of no reason why it should lose strength by keeping.

## \* Open Letters. \*

## VALUABLE WASH FOR TREES.

SIR.—The following is an exceedingly valuable wash for trees:

Take lime, slack, and prepare as for an ordinary whitewash, in an old barrel or box. Take enough at a time to make a bucket two-thirds full—proper consistency for ordinary whitewashing. Now add one pint of gas-tar, one pound of whale-oil soap; dissolve one pound potash, or one pint of strong lye from wood ashes, or box concentrated lye; then add clay or loam enough to make the bucket full of wash of proper thickness to be applied with a whitewash brush. If the trees have had the earth ridged up around them, take the earth away from around the collar, and apply to the body of the trees from the limbs down to the ground, or down to the roots.

Its advantages are: 1st. It will destroy all scale insects, the bark louse, etc., and will give the trees a bright, clean, healthy appearance. This wash will drive out all borers that may be in the trees, and the moth will not deposit eggs on or about the trees during the season the wash is used. All who grow apple, peach, dwarf pears, quince and ash trees, should not fail to use this wash, as it is not patented and sold at a high price. I have known cases where peach trees become healthy and vigorous with one application of this wash. Again, mice and rabbits will not girdle trees where it is used. Apply in May for borers and general benefit to trees, and the late autumn as a preventive against mice and rabbits. Gas-tar, when applied pure, will kill trees.

F. S. FAIRFIELD, *Orono, Ont.*