

These insects may be easily destroyed by sprinkling the bushes with hellebore and water, in the proportion of an ounce of the powder to a pailful of water. A mixture of Paris green and water would also be equally, if not more, effective ; but we would hesitate to advise the use of so rank a poison so near fruiting season.

SWAMP MUCK AS A FERTILIZER.

SIR,—Is there any fertilizing qualities in swamp muck, as I have quite a large quantity on part of my farm ? Would it be of any use as a mulch for fruit trees ?

RICHARD SENIOR, *Pepabun, Ont.*

There is no doubt that swamp muck is a valuable fertilizer, used as a mulch in the orchard and fruit garden. In the township of Pelham some farmers reported at a meeting of their Institute, that they had experimented with swamp muck upon quite a large scale, and found it greatly beneficial. One person had applied it freely around garden raspberries ; another had applied it to orchard trees, and each reported good results ; but, on the other hand, one person who had applied a large quantity of it to a small piece of garden ground, found that it was an injury rather than a benefit.

The explanation of this difference of results is no doubt due to the fact that "raw muck" has an "acidity," which is caused by the presence of sulphate of iron or some other matter which is injurious to plant growth until it has been mellowed by exposure to the air. Upon wet soil muck is injurious also, because it tends to increase the boggyiness of the place.

But, generally speaking, muck is beneficial, for it renders clay more mellow, sand more retentive of moisture, and, as a fertilizer, it has some value as a source of nitrogen, and as a reservoir of ammonia.

GROWING TOMATOES.

SIR,—What is the best way to raise tomatoes so as to have them early ?

ROBERT STEED, *Sarnia, Ont.*

To raise early tomatoes, it is necessary that the plant be started early in a hot-bed, not later than the month of March. They need to have plenty of air, and the sashes should be gradually removed to harden them off, in order that they may be stocky before transplanting into the open ground. Some market gardeners first transplant from the hot-bed into a cold frame, where they may be protected from frost when necessary, and then transplant into the open ground when all danger of frost is over. Mr. Hallock, of Long Island, says that he has had the best success in growing early tomatoes on light soil, with but little manure. Some advise training the plants to strong stakes about four feet high, and keeping the side shoots well pruned, allowing all the strength to pass into the fruit situated on the main upright.