

are dead as door nails, not "playing possum." The crop is now safe until the second crop of beetles appears, which will be nearly a month. The second crop consists of those few that escaped the first poisoning, and others which are contributed by neighbours who do not poison. They are much yellower than the spring brood; these lay their eggs, which hatch in a few days, and the second brood is come. (I have observed, by the way, that when the plants are well poisoned, by far the greater portion of the eggs is laid not on the potato but on weeds and even on the ground. Many of these probably come to nothing, the young grub finding no food close by.) I watch until these are beginning their work in the heart of the plant, and then go over and poison a second time, choosing as before a dry spell. This operation requires rather more time and material than the former, because the plants have tillered out and have several heads. It is economy of time and labor, however, to dust them all, and the labor may be lessened by using a larger dusting tin. It is cheering to go over a patch forty-eight hours afterwards and see it almost cleared of the "thieves;" only a solitary one here and there surviving. This is enough for most potatoes. Only the very late kinds require a third dressing, while for the very early ones a single dressing is sometimes sufficient. This is by far the easiest method of protecting the potato that I have been able to hear of or devise, and it is not expensive, two or three pounds of London purple being enough for an acre of ground. The price of this substance varies greatly in different localities, from 25c. per pound down to 10c., or even less, being asked.

The contrast between my plants and those of my neighbors who try to sprinkle with water, but find it too laborious, is ample testimony to the efficacy of the method I have described. The only point to which I wish to call attention as very important, is the choice of the time for dusting the plants. Choose a dry spell if possible, but always choose the time when the eggs are beginning to hatch, otherwise much of the labor may be thrown away, either by a rain which will wash off the poison, or by the new growth of the plant, which will supply the grubs with food in the earlier stages, and enable them to pass safely the "dangers of infancy."

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THE apple crop this year is light, and our readers would do well to exercise caution in disposing of their surplus stock of winter fruit.