

❖ Question Drawer. ❖

The Hollyhock Rust.

662. SIR,—I have a great collection of double hollyhocks, and some disease or insect is spoiling all the leaves. They blister on the back, and the leaves spot and wither, beginning at the bottom and upward, till near the flower buds. Please tell me the cause and cure.

D. CAMPBELL, *London South, Ont.*

Reply by Prof. John Craig.

The hollyhock leaf which you forwarded me from Mr. D. Campbell, is affected with a fungous disease known as "Hollyhock rust," technically called *Puccinia malvacearum*, Mont. This rust attacks most forms of the cultivated hollyhock, causing the leaves to shrivel and fall off. I do not know of any effectual remedy which can be applied. The best practice would be to take off and destroy, with the fallen leaves, all the affected foliage. If the plants are severely attacked it would be well to root them up and destroy them entirely.

Fruitless Cherry Trees.

663. SIR,—I have some cherry trees eight years old which have not yet yielded a good crop of fruit. Though there has been plenty of bloom, the fruit after setting dropped off, when about the size of a pea. On one tree I noticed a number of insects, similar to ants, but about three-eighths of an inch long, and the body partly black and partly reddish brown. Later I noticed that the leaves began to curl, and under them were many small black insects.

AN INQUIRER, *Vancouver, B.C.*

Cherry trees seem somewhat susceptible to injury by sudden changes of weather. The dropping off of the young fruit is a frequent occurrence with us in Ontario, owing, no doubt, to the somewhat unfavorable conditions during the time of blossoming, which prevents proper fertilization. This has been especially noticeable during the present season. The long, cold, wet weather during blossoming was succeeded by a very hot and protracted drouth, resulting in the blighting of the young fruit, which was strewed on the ground in immense quantities, and left but a small crop to be harvested, even on our older and more vigorous trees.

The insects of which our correspondent speaks are probably the larva of one of the lady bugs. This insect is a friend of the fruit grower and should not be destroyed on any account. He visits the trees to devour those very troublesome black insects which he speaks of as being found on the under side of the leaves in such large quantities, and which are known as aphides. If the larvæ of the lady bug are sufficiently numerous they will entirely rid the trees of the aphides, but otherwise it will be necessary to spray with kerosene emulsion