

FERTILIZERS FOR FRUITS.

WRITERS in the rural press tell what little effects they have had from applications of bone dust or other plain phosphates in the orchard, vineyard or small fruit patch. This is very natural. All fruits and fruit crops require more potash than phosphoric acid, and even where they apparently are doing well, they will usually do still better when more potash is applied. For this reason, bone dust and the like *alone* are not what is wanted. Add plenty of unleached wood ashes, corn-cob ashes, cotton-seed hull ashes, muriate of potash, or kainit, and you will not be likely to complain of the ineffectiveness of the application. Let fruit growers understand this thoroughly. Simple phosphates are no manure for fruit crops, and never will be. Potash, on the other hand, in any of the forms named, cannot well be applied in too large doses for fruits. Lots of potash makes bush and tree fruits firmer, sweeter, better in flavor, renders the wood more resistant to wind and weather, and is a benefit to them generally, and this without a single drawback. Potash also improves the quality of potatoes, beets, turnips, etc.

This is now pretty generally recognized. The way that our leading fertilizer men put up their various brands for special crops is a pretty good indication of what they think about this subject. There is, for instance, Mr. Mapes' "Fruit and Vine" manure. An average of several analysis gives it 2.50 per cent. of nitrogen, 10.20 per cent. of phosphoric acid and 10.71 per cent. of potash. Evidently Mr. Mapes (and he is most excellent authority) thinks that potash is the most important of the plant foods in a fertilizer for fruits. The only crop for which he uses a still slightly larger percentage of potash is tobacco. The demands of this crop for potash are simply enormous and even ruinous. The soil in Virginia and elsewhere, impoverished by long cropping with tobacco, will not be restored to fertility by applications of simple phosphates. Potash alone can help them. For soils in this condition, let our Virginia friends try muriate of potash or kainit, or cotton-seed hull ashes, etc. Of course, barn-yard manure in large enough quantities will also have good effect.—*Joseph, in Farm and Fireside.*

THE HOUSE SPARROW.

NOTICED recently, in a local paper, an extract from an Australian paper, condemning the English sparrow as a nuisance, and was to the effect that the insect pest there was increasing to an alarming extent, and the cause was attributed to the decrease of native insectivorous birds,