

Women!

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Light Fall Pruning Is Safe.

Light pruning in fall is permissible, but heavy pruning is dangerous and likely to result in serious damage from winter killing, especially if the succeeding winter is severe. The injury is caused by drying out of the cut area and may be prevented by covering all wounds of any size with a good covering of paint made from pure lead and oil. Do not use prepared paints, as these contain injurious benzine or turpentine driers. To make an effective covering it will be necessary to give not less than two coats, because one coat will not prevent checking and drying of green wood. Coal tar makes an excellent wound covering and is easily applied.

This matter of covering wounds made in fall or early winter is frequently slighted by orchard men, but the writer has seen such serious damage result from neglect of this precaution that he feels justified in warning fruit growers with regard to the practice. In experimental trials in the College apple orchard, varieties so hardy as Duchess of Oldenburg, Wolf River, Snow and Scott's Winter have suffered very serious injury following November pruning with the cuts left unprotected. The wounds dry out around the edges and by spring the dead area is greatly enlarged, frequently extending down the trunk or branch for a foot or more. The dead bark comes away later leaving a large dead area, detrimental to the parts above and certain also to decay later.

It is not likely that injury would follow the cutting of branches below an inch in size unless many were removed and there probably would be no necessity for covering such wounds. All above this size, however, should be thoroughly protected. —J. W. Crow, O. A. College, Guelph.

Barberry Hedge Spoiled Ten Crops.

Hundreds and hundreds of instances can be cited to show that the common barberry is the most important factor in the spread of rust in northwest states. In a Government bulletin on rust and barberry, Dr. C. E. Stakman of Minnesota University Farm relates the experience of a farmer at Crystal Bay, Lake Minnetonka, Minn., who had a barberry hedge of 635 bushes. He had tried to grow oats on his farm for ten years, but each year the black stem rust destroyed almost all the grain. Then one spring he destroyed the hedge before the bushes had become rusted. Ten days before the harvest the field was examined thoroughly and no stem rust could be found. The yield and quality proved to be excellent. It was the first time in ten years that a crop had been grown successfully on that farm. Every land owner should begin early in the spring to destroy the barberry for the protection of grain crops.

Hail Insurance.

Hail insurance is practically only a term in Eastern Canada, but in the West it signifies something of vivid importance. Measures known as Municipal Hail Insurance Acts are in force in each of the Prairie Provinces. These acts provide a system of mutual insurance under which rural municipalities can operate to tax each other for the granting of compensation to individuals for losses incurred by hail, which are often very serious. How the system works out, and the extent to which it operates in Saskatchewan and Alberta, are set forth in the November number of the Agricultural Gazette of Canada. Each claimant is entitled to receive not more than five cents per acre for every one per cent. of damage from hail he has sustained. To some this may not appear a very liberal provision, but when it is understood that the number of claims filed in 1919 in Saskatchewan was 7,838 and that the total indemnity paid amounted to \$1,911,776, a different view will obtain. For one storm alone that occurred in July of the year referred to claims amounting to \$1,100,000 were satisfied. In Alberta the total losses for the same year were \$506,000, against a valuation of \$12,000,000 insured. Besides the system under Government supervision, there are 36 companies in Saskatchewan that accept hail insurance, and that paid out \$1,750,000 in 1919 for losses caused by hail.

The Wild Gooseberry.

The gooseberry when compared with other cultivated fruits is not as important in America as it is in North Europe, and especially in the British Isles where it has long been very popular, and a wonderful improvement has taken place in its size during the last two or three hundred years. When it was first cultivated in Europe—probably in the sixteenth century—the wild fruit, if it was like what it is now, would be only about one-half an inch in diameter and less than one-quarter of an ounce in weight. The largest gooseberries which have been produced in recent years average several times this size, some specimens two ounces or more in weight having been recorded. The English and European gooseberries are derived from a species native of North Europe, called Ribes Grossularia.

As the gooseberry is a native of Canada and is found growing wild almost or quite to the Arctic circle, its culture will eventually no doubt be extended very far north.—W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist.

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