

Peach Yellows*

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WE have always considered that three annual inspections, when properly made at the right time, were sufficient for finding trees affected with yellows. It need hardly be mentioned that the important thing about this work, when it is really undertaken, is to find the diseased trees. Their prompt removal, after being found, is a secondary matter, which is to be taken for granted. Ordinarily three inspections are sufficient.

In Ontario, the first one should be made in July or perhaps about August 1st; the second one should be made the latter part of August or about September 1st, and the third late in September or even running over into October. If a previous eradication has never been carried out, all plainly diseased trees should be removed as soon as they can be noted in the spring. It is always a good thing to inspect a block or row of peaches when they are ripening or about to ripen their fruit. Then the symptoms of premature fruits can be utilized. It is always a good plan to have the pickers instructed to call attention to every tree with suspiciously large or premature red-spotted fruit. Orchards should be inspected tree by tree, row by row, thoroughly, regardless as to whether they are supposed to have the disease or not. In this way, unsuspected cases will often be found.

It seems to me that where a severe outbreak occurs, doubling the number of inspections may well be advised. That would mean pretty nearly an inspection about every two weeks from the first of August. It certainly is advisable to make a very late inspection in October so as to prevent, if possible, the disease carrying over another year.

The orchardist or inspector is often puzzled over a doubtful case. He dislikes to condemn a tree for removal unless certain that it is diseased. To my mind, however, the real doubtful cases which are not plainly caused by some other disease or injury should invariably be removed. One is certainly taking chances of leaving infection behind when he leaves these uncertain cases. It should always be borne in mind that the removal is done for the benefit of the healthy trees left behind.

INSPECTION LAWS

The best results are to be secured in districts where every orchardist will be his own inspector. No outside man can more quickly and accurately detect this disease than a peach grower in his own orchard. He knows the appearance of the trees on every different piece of land, soil, type and exposure, and keenly re-

cognizes and watches any change of symptoms which could be attributed to the yellows.

On the other hand, it is absolutely necessary, to secure good work in a community, to have official inspectors. The reason for this is that many growers, although constantly in the presence of this disease do not learn to recognize it in its early stages, especially when the trees are not in fruit. Furthermore, there are a good many trees in gardens or by the roadsides or otherwise out of commercial peach orchards, that would receive no attention. To secure proper uniformity, therefore, some sort of an official inspector, no matter by whom paid, should be employed. The smaller the unit, the better. The less territory an official inspector must cover, the more thoroughly he can be expected to accomplish his work.

As a matter of fact, only a few orchardists in my experience have ever done strictly first-class work in eradicating the yellows. Many orchards otherwise well cared for by progressive and enterprising growers are still somewhat neglected in this regard, and it is a ques-

are found, with our present lack of knowledge about the disease, we feel that the only safe way is to dig the tree up or pull it up with horses and destroy it by burning. Perhaps the very safest way of all is to bring dry wood into the orchard and burn the tree on the spot or in the centre of the colony, if there are several trees, without dragging it out. As a matter of fact, however, there has been so little unsatisfactory experience as to make this seem an extra precaution. Possibly it might be advisable to pull the trees up and let them wilt or dry out before removing from the orchard. At any rate, there seems to be abundant evidence that a dead peach tree, though it may have had the yellows, is not dangerous in transmitting the disease. Never cut the tops off yellows trees and leave them standing. Such trees may still sprout out new growth and from the yellows standpoint are still in action. Kill the tree, root and branch, at any rate. Many orchardists wish to use their yellows peach trees for fuel, and, while this is not supposed to be absolutely safe, I have seen good results in many cases where this was done.

Summing up, therefore, I should say that if you wish to be extra careful concerning infection, burn the tree at once,



An Orchard That is Kept Well Cultivated and in Good Condition

Orchard of Mr. A. E. Sherrington, Walkerton, Ontario, who may be seen in the illustration.

tion in my mind whether the recent severe outbreak in southern New York and Connecticut cannot be to some extent attributed to carelessness on the part of the growers. I have been through these states every summer for the last four years and have been surprised to see the yellows left so commonly scattered about.

DISPOSAL OF DISEASED TREES

A word in conclusion as to what to do with the yellows trees after they are found. The main thing, of course, is to find the diseased trees, but when they

but if the tree is promptly pulled out and allowed to dry you have probably done all that is possible in killing the disease. Above all, the best advice I can give you is to pull out and destroy every peach tree in the province which shows the slightest symptom of the yellows. If this is carried out, especially if repeated for two or three seasons in succession, all the previous history and experience connected with this trouble points to success in bringing this malady under control. New orchards can then be rapidly planted out

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