

HORTICULTURE

How and When to Spray

Eunice Watts, Waterville, N.S.

At the fruit and seed fair held in Berwick, N. S., by the Nova Scotia Farmers' Institute, late in February, Mr. W. H. Woodworth, secretary of the association, delivered an able address on spraying. He emphasized that in order to spray well the fruit grower must have good apparatus, which should consist of a quarter inch hose, five or seven ply, with a length of 25 or 30 feet. All parts of the pump which are to be submerged in the liquid should be of brass. Mr. Woodworth said that there were many good nozzles on the market, but he preferred the Planet Junior, which produces a fog-like spray, and never clogs or catches. He strongly advocated the use of an indicator on the pump.

Other points were given as to the care of spraying machinery. The hose should always be carefully washed out after use, and in winter it should be safely housed in a frost-proof building. The audience was reminded never to mist strain the Bordeaux through a sheet cloth, as the finer the particles, the longer they will be held in suspension, it is necessary to keep the solution agitated, it will settle, and most of the Paris green will be thrown on the first trees. Later the operator will wonder why the worms were killed on the first trees, while they flourish on the last that were sprayed.

In order to kill the bud-moth, the first spraying should be done before the buds open. The next spraying should be done after the petals have fallen. Much indignation was expressed at the growing practice of spraying when the trees were in full bloom. It not only kills the bees, but is very injurious to the tender organs of the flower, and destroys the pollen. It was proved in Wolfville that apples sprayed in the flower stage were not saved from black spot.

Mr. Woodworth warned growers not to spray during damp or foggy weather, or russety fruit and leaves would be the result, and rot was more liable

to attack russet spots. Black spot is never found on a russety surface, as it has been protected by the Bordeaux.

People might put on seven or eight barrels of solution a day, but it is impossible to spray properly, and put on more than four or five barrels of material.

It is advisable to plow in the fall, thus covering diseased leaves and preventing any spores of black spot floating back to the trees.

At this juncture several questions were asked, and discussion followed. Mr. Woodworth advised the sowing of vetches in the orchards in preference to commercial fertilizers. Several leading fruit growers then related their success in growing these legumes, the majority of them preferring to sow summer vetches, as the winter vetch, although claimed to be a better nitrogen gatherer, was too expensive for most growers to buy.

The reasons given for apple spots in the warehouse were (1) putting in leaves in barrel with the fruit, (2) leaving barrels in the orchard in damp weather, (3) putting damp fruit into a warm temperature. The last two were ideal conditions for propagating the disease.

Tomato Growing.

B. H. Lewis, Hamilton, Ont.

For early tomatoes start the seed in March. The date will depend upon the locality. In the Hamilton district it is from March 1 to 15. Sow in drills, four inches apart, in hotbeds. Earline is the best variety. The young plants should be transplanted twice, the first time to four inches apart, and the second six inches. Keep the plants growing without a check. Spray with Bordeaux mixture to prevent injury from fungi.

Plant early varieties out doors about May 15 to 20. Before removing from the hotbeds, soak the soil well with water, then remove in boxes, and plant with a spade. Place the plants about four to five feet apart. The land should be fairly rich for the early varieties. For best results it should be prepared and manured during the fall previous. When planting it is necessary to mark the plants. This may be done by hand or with

a horse, depending upon the area to be planted.

The seed for late tomatoes should be sown about two weeks later than recommended for the early ones. These should be transplanted, once to four inches apart. The land for late tomatoes should be too rich, or vine will be produced at the expense of fruit. The leading varieties are Stone and Success. The former is the better for long distance shipping, but is not so productive.

A portion of an address delivered at a recent meeting of the Toronto Branch of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association.)

The Strawberry

Wm. Blackford, Prospect Hill

In discussing the virtues of Nature's most gracious gift in the fruit line the late Mr. John Little, of Prospect Hill, once wrote: "No branch of horticulture offers more inducements than the growing of strawberries. Thriving more or less on any soil, in any place from Newfoundland to British Columbia, it repays high culture as well as any fruit grown in this latitude. It does not demand much of a hard, expensive tool, much capital, nor much physical strength. Its culture recommends itself at once to persons who have small places, to city men who long to leave the deck and to deliver Mother Earth, to old men, women, boys and girls, to all who love to till the soil, and to watch the growth of plants, study their habits, supply their wants and reap their fruits. They are sure growers and almost equally sure to sell at paying prices; they exhaust neither the land nor the grower, but leave both richer. Their culture offers employment that is pleasant, easy, refining and profitable, and gives an opportunity of doing good by supplying work to many a child and woman and by sending health and happiness wherever the berries go."

It is not desirable that all should engage extensively in strawberry growing; but almost every one who has a few rods of land, should have a small plot for family use. This is especially applicable to farmers; yet the majority of agriculturists totally ignore it. A few hours study of any one of the many pamphlets on strawberry culture would put a person

thoroughly on the best methods of cultivation, and would ensure positive success. Only a few varieties are required for home use, but standard reliable kinds should be selected. Such old standbys as Ridgeway, Wm. Belt, Woolverton, Emperor, etc., are suitable. They are easily grown and seldom fail to yield an abundant crop. A few years ago, a patch of Ridgeway produced 350 boxes from six rods. At six cents a box, the returns amounted to \$200 in a mere crop. A few years ago, a patch of Emperor is an excellent strawberry, and with us, yielded an abundant crop last year. Wm. Belt is subject to rust, but by careful spraying, it can be brought through in good condition, and, owing to its superior qualities it is indispensable for table use.

Extensive growers cannot content with old varieties. They must keep abreast of the times, and so must test many of the new introductions. One of these most meriting attention, is the Cardinal, of which much has been written, and many good things said. From one dozen plants received from the originator, Mr. G. F. Streator, we obtained about 400 new plants. Two hundred of these were planted last spring and the remainder left to fruit. The result proved the truth of the best reports from such growers as G. J. Streator, M. Crawford, The Temple Co., and others. Besides being a great plant producer, very productive, good size and very firm, it is one of the best varieties for canning purposes. The most exacting connoisseur in the strawberry line, goes into raptures when indulging in this delicious berry. We can highly recommend it to all growers of this fruit.

Scallion onions usually are due to the planting of poorly selected seed of immature bulbs, but sometimes, they are difficult to account for.

Cherry trees need but little pruning after the young trees have been properly formed.

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