

HORTICULTURE

Fruit Crop Prospects

The fruit crop prospects continue promising. It is still early, however, to estimate the ultimate crop in tree fruits, particularly apples. Insects, wind storms, hail and other things have plenty of time to do damage and therefore decrease the yield. In view of this, orchardists should all they can to secure a large percentage of fruit that will grade high and a corresponding decrease in specimens of inferior quality. The following reports indicate the present situation in all parts of Canada:

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Kings County—According to the bloom the crop should be about as follows, when compared with an average yield: apples, 90 per cent; plums, 100 per cent; cherries, 125 per cent; strawberries, 100 per cent.—D. J. Stuart.

NOVA SCOTIA

Kings County—The orchards showed an abundant bloom but this left the trees quickly, probably on account of the heat and high winds. Prospects are good for a big crop of strawberries. Cranberries have started well and appear to be very full of flower buds. The all-round prospects are good.—J. S. Bishop.

NEW BRUNSWICK

Queens County—Prospects in well-kept orchards are excellent. Fruit growing is limited in this locality, but more and larger orchards are being set out.—W. T. Inch.

QUEBEC

Jacques Cartier County—Plums and cherries promise well; also apples, except in orchards in which it is the off year.—W. W. Dunlop.

ONTARIO

Hastings County—The prospects for the apple crop look very bright at present. There is a good fair showing of apples on most varieties. There are a good many apple trees of different varieties, particularly the Ben Davis, that show signs of dying. They did not leaf out properly and so far, we have failed to account for this condition.—F. S. Wallbridge.

Kent County—The strawberry crop has suffered from drought. Goose-

berries promise a full crop; currants, small crop; pears, almost a failure; peaches, good. In apples, Snow, R. J. Greening, Russell, Bellflower, Canada Red, Talman and Gravenstein promise a full crop; Spy, medium; Baldwin, near a failure.—Milton Baehus.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Yale and Caribou—During 16 years experience we have never seen better prospects. This will be the banner year for this district.—W. L. Allen.

Working for a Hardy Winter Apple

We are anxious to get apples that will compare in quality with the Northern Spy King, Gravenstein and other varieties. The difficulty is that these apples succeed only in a comparatively limited area in Canada. In Ontario they succeed, say from Kingston West to South to the Great Lakes and to Georgian Bay. But taking the great central part of Ontario from 20 or 30 miles north of Kingston, all the Province of Quebec, the Province of New Brunswick, and certain parts of the Provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, we have not a really hardy winter apple that will compare with these varieties in quality. But there is no reason, in my judgment, why we should not have them and we are working with that end in view.

To show you how percentage influences offering, I might say that about 1890 we got a lot of seed from the northern part of Russia, thinking that it would be good stock for us to work upon in getting hardy trees. We grew 3,000 seedlings of apples alone from that stock and out of that number we have only about four that would compare favourably with our best named winter apples. In this country, the reason being that the majority of the Russian apples are either summer kinds or else kinds that would be quite inferior to Canadian apples. The offering of these Russian apples has, therefore, on the whole, not proved to be fruits which were fit for Canada.

So in 1908 we started sowing the seed of our best apples, which, fruited at Ottawa, mostly of the hardier kinds, including Northern Spy, because we have had fruit here, the McIntosh Red, the Fameuse, the Wealthy, the Golden Russet and a number of other kinds. We sowed the seed of these and have got some very good seedlings. We expect many more promising ones in the future. We have about 2,000 of these seedlings of apples alone and about 200 of them have fruited. Of this number, fully 25 per cent, have been apples that we could not discard because we thought they were so promising that they would probably fit some want in apple culture in some parts of the country. For instance, we have seedlings of the McIntosh, seedlings of the Wealthy, seedlings of the Scott's Winter, which is one of the hardest winter apples we have and seedlings of the Northern Spy, which, I think, in time will take a place with our best apples and will also mature at a season when we have not got good kinds. In addition to these, we have seedlings of crossed apples. For instance, we crossed the McIntosh, which is one of our best winter apples, with the Northern Spy, which is another good winter apple, with the idea of getting a hardy, later-keeping apple and the results will soon be known. Crosses between other varieties have already fruited and there are some promising apples among them.

A portion of the evidence of Mr. W. T. Macoun, Horticulturist, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, before the House of Commons Committee on Agriculture.

Bordeaux Mixture

What is the best spraying material to use on fruit trees and bushes on a small lot? Bordeaux should be prepared 1-2-5, York Co. Ont.

The best general mixture for spraying fruit trees and bushes is Bordeaux mixture and Paris green, the former a fungicide and the second an insecticide. A combination of these materials will hold in check most diseases and insects that trouble such plants.

To be effective and to prevent injury to the leaves, Bordeaux mixture must be prepared in a particular way. The formula is as follows: 4 lbs. copper sulphate (blue vitriol) and 4 lbs. lime, to 40 gallons of water. This will make one barrel. To prepare a small quantity, fill a 40-gallon barrel about one-third full of water, place the 4 lbs. of vitriol in a coarse sack and suspend it in the centre of the barrel, low enough to be just covered with the water. This may be done by placing a stick across the top of the barrel and tying the sack to it. Do this in the evening so that the vitriol will dissolve during the night. The object in placing it at the top of the water is that, as it dissolves, the material will sink and expose fresh surfaces of the crystals to the action of the water. Should the vitriol be placed at immediately at the bottom of the barrel, it would not all dissolve as when it goes into solution it is heavier than water and would remain at the bottom and after a certain point, the water would have no action. At the time of placing the vitriol in the barrel, slack in a separate receptacle, 4 lbs. of lime in water just sufficient to do the work. The following morning, fill the barrel to within a measurement of the top that will be equal to the quantity of slacked lime that is to be put in. Then stir the whole vigorously. The chief secret in preparing the mixture is to have at least one of the solutions thoroughly diluted before the other is added. If a concentrated solution of vitriol comes in contact with a strong solution of lime, a compound will be produced chemically that will injure the trees.

The foregoing is the fungicide. To make it of insecticidal value as well, add four ounces of Paris green. First place the four ounces in a small can and make a paste of it and add it to the Bordeaux as a paste rather than dry. Every time that a quantity of the solution is taken from the barrel, it must be stirred well as Paris green does not go into solution and must be kept in suspension by constant agitation.

The vegetable garden should be cultivated often to keep down the weeds and to prevent evaporation of moisture from the soil.

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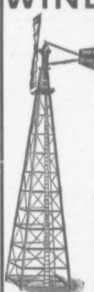
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