

been recognized and adopted long ago by some agriculturists, for we find the following passage in Vol. XV. of the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, in an essay upon the farming of light land, which is always more liable to attacks of wire-worms. 'There is a farm in the neighborhood of Guildford which presents an instance of a perfectly clean farm and kept so by deep ploughing and unsparing use of horse and hand hoes. It has often been remarked that root crops and corn are unmolested by wire-worms upon this farm. The owner asserts that he starved them long ago by growing no weeds to sustain them in the absence of a crop.'

The following is taken from the *American Garden*, and will do for horticulturists:—

REMEDY FOR WIRE-WORMS.

"Add three or four pounds of unslacked lime to every bushel of soil. This will make the wire-worms so sick that they will give the seedling carnations a wide berth in the future; besides the health and color of the plants will be so much improved that we will think that they belong to a new race of pinks. The best way to use lime is to spread the soil in a flat heap ten or twelve inches thick, then place the desired amount of lime in lumps on the top. When the latter has become slacked and pulverized the soil should be turned over two or three times and thoroughly mixed. It is then ready for use."

BENEFICIAL INSECTS.

The importance of calling to our aid various beneficial insects in controlling and eradicating insect pests should be better understood and more fully appreciated by the fruit grower. It is not necessary that we should waste years experimenting in order to ascertain the benefits to be derived from the introduction and propagation of beneficial insects. California's experience with Ladybirds and other predacious insects should be a sufficient guide for us. The introduction of various Ladybirds into California saved the fruit growers of that state thousands of dollars. From the importation of one species alone—the *Vedalia-cardinals*—their orange groves were saved from utter ruin. Perhaps the most help to be received will come from the Ladybirds, although much is being done by the Syrphus Flies, Lace-winged Flies, and Ichneumon Flies towards freeing our trees and shrubs from scale and aphids. During the past season colonies of Ladybirds that were imported into California from Australia by Mr. Koebler, were found especially destructive to the scale family and the aphidæ. The Ladybirds (*Coccinellidæ*) increase very rapidly, and their larvæ are very voracious, destroying millions

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