

SPRAYING FOR THE PREVENTION OF FUNGUS DISEASES.

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This bulletin is issued in response to the growing demand by fruit growers and farmers, for definite and concise information with regard to the practice of spraying, for the prevention of diseases injurious to the fruit-bearing trees and plants of the orchard and garden.

The results of experimental work upon this subject have been given annually by this Division either in the report of the Experimental Farms, or in circular form, since bulletin No. 10 was issued in April, 1891. Each year has marked an increase of interest in spraying, has furnished additional evidence of its value, and has shown conclusively that the fruit grower of to-day must include spraying in the routine of his yearly round of operations, if he would secure the largest returns possible, in addition to having healthy and vigorous trees. In fact, no line of work associated with the successful culture of fruits at the present time is charged with greater interest to the Horticulturist than the subject under consideration. It is also true that there are few, if any, of the operations now included in the annual programme of the fruit grower, whose success is more dependent upon conditions practically outside the control of the operator than is spraying. Meteorological conditions, as rain and wind, heat and cold, have a marked influence on the results, and are often the means of discouraging a beginner, and of preventing him from carrying out good resolutions formed at the beginning of the year. An unfavourable season may, occasionally, so mar the effect of conscientious effort as to place in doubt the beneficial results, and sometimes shake the confidence of the novice, in the efficacy of the remedies recommended.

It must not be taken for granted, on account of the importance of the practice of spraying as set forth in the various publications of this division, that it is offered to the fruit grower as a universal panacea for all phases of ill-health and non-productiveness affecting fruit trees. It should rather be viewed by the orchardist in the light of an additional weapon, assisted by good cultivation and liberal feeding, with which to ward off injurious enemies. Good cultivation,—meaning thorough tillage of orchards,—with an abundance of plant food, undoubtedly does much towards lessening the amount of diseases affecting plants, by making them vigorous and healthy, and thus resistant to parasitic attacks.