The Farm.

A Disease of Currant Canes.

During the last few years there has existed, in various portions of New York state, a disease of currant bushes, which has been more or less destructive to the currant industry. The leaves turn yellow, dry up, and fall away. The fruit clusters on affected plants are usually much smaller and more thinly fruited than on healthy ones, while the berries are colored prematurely, shrivel, and fall away with the leaves, so that the canes are barren. The latter then die rapidly, and soon dry up. On a great majority of the dead canes the pink tubercules of a fungus were present.

The first suggestion is that all cuttings be taken from plants known to be free from the disease. It is not safe to take cuttings from apparently healthy plants in a diseased patch, but they should be obtained from localities where the disease is not present. This is the more important, since the conidia (or summer spores) exist in the soil and on the bushes, so that cuttings are liable to infection through their cut surfaces. The trouble being a deeply seated one, and the conidia liable to dispersion at various seasons of the year, spraying is not to be recommended. The conidia probably do not effect entrance to the plant through healthy parts, but through cut or injured surfaces. These should, therefore, be avoided as much as possible. The only positive remedy that can be suggested is the removal of the whole plant as soon as the disease begins to be manifested in the yellow foliage and prematurely colored fruits. The diseased plants should be burned, as the spores and conidia may be produced in abundance on dead plants, and the trouble communicated to living bushes. —[Bulletin Cornell University Experiment Station.

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Fruit-Tree Pests.

Among the most interesting insects that trouble the fruit-grower are those known as "case-bearers;" thus named, from the fact that in their destructive stage they are encased in curiously shaped suits which they wear wherever they go. One of these insects, the cigar-case-bearer, has done much damage in western New York orchards since 1893. During the past year another case-bearer appeared in large numbers in several apple orchards in western New York, and proved even more destructive than the cigar-case-bearer. This pistol-case-bearer is an American insect, and first attracted attention in 1877 in a large apple orchard of over 8,000 trees in Erie County in Pennsylvania.

It is practicable to fight this case bearer in its caterpillar stage only; and it is then so well protected in its case as to render its destruction dependent upon very thorough work. It can be kept in check by thorough work with a Paris green spray, using one pound to 105 or 200 gallons of water, or Bordeaux mixture. It will require two applications of the poison before the blossoms open to effectually check the pest where it is numerous. It would be well to combine the poison with the fungicide, Bordeaux mixture, in one of these sprayings, perhaps the second one, as this is the time when the apple scab fungus should receive its first check. This period between the swelling of the buds and the opening of the flower is also just the time when the bud moth and the cigar-case-bearer (which often work with the pistol-case-bearer) should be treated to a poisonous dose. As all three of these insects do their most destructive work before the blossoms open, an especial effort should be made to spray more thoroughly than usual. Do not wait until after the blossoms have fallen before striking a blow at the pests; although many of the pistol-case-bearers could doubtless be poisoned by a thorough application of the Paris Green made just after the petals fall, which is also the best time to spray for the codlin moth or apple worm. Never spray a fruit tree when it is in blossom.—[Bulletin Cornell University Experiment Station.

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Feeding Ensilage.

Hundreds of dairymen are feeding as much as forty pounds or more daily of good ensilage without injuring the quality of the milk. At the New York Experiment Station certain cows have eaten, this winter, as much as fifty pounds of ensilage daily, and the writer can testify that the milk is of excellent taste and quality. Thirty pounds is a moderate quantity to feed. We are inclined to the opinion that the taste in the milk is not due to the mere fact that the cows eat ensilage. Of course we cannot point out the cause of the trouble. Does your ensilage lie on the feeding-floor near the animals, so that the atmosphere is charged with its odor? Is the stable well ventilated? Are the cows kept clean? Does no dirt fall into the milk-pail from the cow's sides or udder? Does the milker have on clean clothes when he milks and handles the milk, or are his garments charged with the odor of dung or sour ensilage, or are they so stiff with dirt that as an institute speaker expressed it not long ago, "they could be made to stand alone?" Are the utensils sweet and clean? Keep everything around or in contact with the animals and milk as sweet and clean as possible, and try feeding the ensilage after the cows are milked night and morning.—[Country Gentleman.

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A New Food For Cattle.

The Maryland station has been making feeding tests with what is called a "new corn product." Cramp, the great iron ship-builder, has patented a process and erected factories in Illinois and in other corn-growing regions, for the manufacture of a packing from the pith of cornstalks, to fill in between the inner and outer walls of iron warships. If a cannon-ball crushes through such a wall the pith springs out and closes up the hole, so no water enters.

After taking out the pith, the remainder of the stalk is ground into meal about like bran, and is sold for cattle-feed. This is the substance tested by the Maryland station. The new feed was found to be superior to corn fodder—richer in nutrition, and more digestible. Cattle ate it with a relish, and made rapid gains on it. Its condition makes it very convenient for mixing with linseed or cotton-seed meal, wheat bran, gluten meal, etc.

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