

mechanical action resultant from its presence in the soil. Salt aids in the decomposition of certain substances which are already present, thus rendering them the more readily assimilated. Great caution is necessary in the use of salt, because it is a check to vegetable growth, and, if used too freely, will destroy vegetation altogether. Prof. Storer says that instances are on record where more than three hundred pounds to the acre diminished the beet crop, and more than four hundred pounds diminished the yield of potatoes. Melons are said to be very easily destroyed by the use of salt. Mature plants, as cabbages, cauliflowers, celery and onions will endure an application of two or three hundred pounds per acre, and receive apparent benefit. Asparagus is particularly fitted to endure the application of salt, but whether its beneficial action is in any case worthy of the trouble and expense of application, appears to be still a debatable question.

### Secondary Form of Downy Mildew.

**619.** SIR,—My grape vines cast their leaves last fall before the fruit was ripe; and later the grapes dropped so badly they were almost worthless. Some of them turned brown. The varieties most affected were Niagara and Rogers No. 4. Could you explain?  
L. W. Grimsby.

*Reply by Prof. John Craig, Ottawa.*

This was probably the secondary form of downy mildew, which sometimes is not apparent on the fruit at first, but manifests itself late in the season by causing the foliage to drop as well as a large portion of the berries to turn brown and fall off. I have noticed this form of the disease on the Niagaras and on some of the Rogers varieties about Grimsby. Try late spraying with copper carbonate next year.

### Wants a Fruit Farm.

**620.** SIR,—I am a single man, twenty one years of age. Could you tell me how best to spend my evenings to fit myself for fruit farming? I have been employed in gardening for three years past. I would like to locate about Digby, N. S. Can you tell me of any farms for sale in that locality. Are any parts of N. S. more suitable for cherry, plum and apple culture? Will such an investment pay? Is the supply of such fruit equal to the demand?

W. O. R., *Montreal.*

Your best plan would be to read up on fruit culture. The back volumes of our Journal would give you many important practical points. Thomas' American Fruit Culturist will give you much valuable information on fruit culture. Storer's Agriculture will post you on treatment of soils. Select out special books from our published lists and post yourself. Apple growing is less remunerative than formerly, but is still fairly profitable if you choose your