

QUESTION DRAWER.

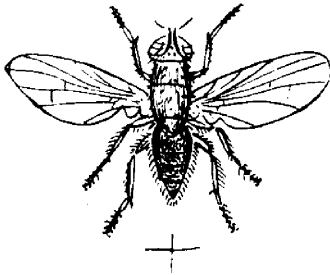


FIG. 1105.—THE PERFECT INSECT OR FLY.

Watering with the liquid from pigpens, collected in a tank provided for the purpose, was found by Miss Ormerod to be a better preventive than the gas-lime. It is recommended to run a roller over the ground a few times after the seed has been sown, thus compacting the soil so that the maggots cannot make their way through it from one plant to another.

Water raised nearly to the boiling point and poured along the rows from a tea-kettle or other convenient vessel, has proved destructive to the maggots, without injury to the plants. The water should be applied so as to go directly to the bulbs and not to the leaves.

Most excellent results have been obtained in England by growing onions in trenches, and as the bulbs grew, the earth was worked down upon them so as to keep them buried throughout the season. The onion bulbs should be covered with earth up to the neck, or even higher, so that the fly cannot get at them to lay her eggs.

When the onions have been attacked, and show it by wilting and changing color, they should either be taken up with a trowel and burned, or else a little dilute carbolic acid or kerosene oil should be dropped on the infested

plants, to run down around them and destroy the maggots in the root and in the soil around them.

Smilax.

934. SIR,—In your next issue of your valuable Journal will you kindly inform me how to cultivate Smilax. Does it require very rich soil? I have raised several plants from seed, but after reaching about a foot or more in height, the foliage and stems begin to get brown and they die down. I water moderately, as most other plants.

R. H. LIGHT, *Kingston.*

Reply by John Craig, Central Experimental Farm.

Smilax is probably one of the most useful of all plants grown for foliage by the florist. It requires a full year to obtain a crop. The ordinary method of procedure is to sow the seed in January or February. When the seedlings have grown to a height of a few inches, they are set in 3-inch pots and grown in this way for some months. In August or September the plants are set in benches, 6 to 8 inches apart. The Smilax should be ready for cutting in the month of January following. If it is cut down at this time, a second crop will be ready in March or April. The best soil for growing Smilax is one light, but rich in character. It is important that the plant should be syringed frequently with water (daily), and after being set in the bench, frequent applications of manure water are necessary. Growers should remember that the foliage is unusually sensitive, and tobacco smoke, such as is used to keep down green fly, proves very injurious to Smilax. It is better, therefore, to use the tobacco in the liquid form.