

HORTICULTURE

Timely Topics

A. C. Blair, Peterborough Co., Ont.

If you have not pruned your currant, gooseberry, raspberry or blackberry bushes, do so at once. The two former start into leaf very early in spring. They produce their fruit on wood that is at least two years old. When pruning, remove only a portion of the old wood allowing a similar number of new branches to take their place. Remove the old wood from the raspberries and blackberries. Thin out the new canes, leaving the strongest, and cut them back to about three and one-half feet.

Prune the tree fruits at once if the object is to give health and vigor. Thin out the apple and cherry trees. Do the same with peach, pear and plum trees and head them back. Prune the grape vines before vegetation begins so that they will not bleed too profusely.

If you wish to avoid much trouble with insect and fungous pests, destroy the egg masses of tent caterpillars and tussock moths, and the winter stages of all insects that you may happen to see. Mummified fruits on peach and plum trees should be removed at once, taken away or buried deeply. This will aid in preventing the spread of rot.

Remove the mulch from the strawberry bed as soon as danger of late autumn thawing and freezing is passed. Leave a portion of it between the rows to conserve moisture.

Spray with lime and sulphur for the San Jose scale, if you have it in your orchard. For fungous diseases, such as apple and pear scab, use Bordeaux mixture and apply it first before the buds open.

Spraying Apple Trees

Co-operation among fruit growers is becoming recognized more and more as an essential to the success of our fruit industry, particularly among farmers who grow apples merely as a side line. One of the requirements of membership in some of our leading co-operative associations, and a requirement that should be enforced by all associations, is that thorough spraying must be done in the orchards of the members. One of these organizations that has been in existence only a short time, and that has done excellent work in a co-operative way for the fruit growers and farmers of its locality, is the Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association, Simcoe, Ont. This association, largely through the efforts of its manager, Mr. E. Johnson, has revolutionized the condition of the orchards of its members. To aid in having spraying done properly, Mr. Johnson distributes a neat card bearing the following information, and the advice given is valuable for fruit growers and farmers everywhere:

"Apply the first spraying when the buds begin to swell. Use 20 lbs. of blue vitriol, 60 lbs. of lime, and 200 gallons of water. This estimate 10 lbs. of water to the gallon.

"The second spraying should be done just before the buds break open, and the third spraying just as soon as the blossoms fall, with 15 lbs. of blue vitriol, 12 ounces of Paris green, 12 ounces of white arsenic, 2½ lbs. of sal soda, 50 lbs. of lime and 200 gallons of water.

"Always prepare the arsenic by boiling 12 ounces of arsenic with 2½ lbs. of sal soda, in 2 gallons of water for 45 minutes; if you have a kettle large enough you can make up a stock solution. Keep this kettle away

from live stock, as the material is poison.

"To make 200 gallons for the second spraying: Put 12 lbs. of vitriol in a hopper with burlap bottom, which place over the hole in your tank. Pump or pour 150 gallons of the water on this vitriol, straining in the tank. Then slack 50 lbs. of good lime (none air slacked) in 50 gallons of water, and strain through a hopper with a wire bottom, into the 150 gallons already in the tank. Then add of your boiled arsenic solution, an amount equivalent to 12 ounces of white arsenic and 2½ lbs. of sal soda. Then add 12 ounces of Paris green by dissolving in a small pail of water. Each time in adding lime, arsenic, and Paris green, agitate thoroughly. Now you are ready for the orchard; keep well agitated and a good preparation.

Always clean out the lime box with water every time after using. Pump some clean water through your pump, nozzles, and so forth, every night when in use and keep the tank well cleaned out."

Articles About Fruit and Flowers

The April number of The Canadian Horticulturist contains a mass of information on fruits, vegetables, flowers, shrubs and trees, that will interest and profit all who read it. For the fruit grower, there are many valuable articles, such as "New Varieties of Strawberries," "Pruning Bush Fruits," "Spraying with Lime-Sulphur Wash," "The Value of Arsenate of Lead," "Peach Culture," and pointers on the culture and care of raspberries, currants, cherries, apples, and other fruits, as well as an excellent article on the culture of walnuts.

In the vegetable department there is a well-prepared treatise on "Root Maggots and How to Treat Them," which should be valuable to all farmers, who grow onions, turnips, cabbages and cauliflowers. There are articles also on "Planting Potatoes," and "Growing Tomatoes."

The ornamental side of farm and town life receives particular attention in the April issue. The ladies, particularly, will be interested in such articles as "The Farm Flower Garden," "How to Use Bedding Plants," "Good Taste in Gardening," "The Hardy Climatic," "Lawn Making," and "Seasonable Hints for Amateurs," the latter of which gives suggestions for work this month. There is a planting table for the flower garden that tells when and how to sow and plant, distance apart, height of plants, season of bloom and so forth, of over 300 annual flowers.

Other features of this issue of The Canadian Horticulturist are notes on other crops, a fruit crop forecast, timely notes on raising poultry, and scores of other things that are interesting. Every person who grows one plant or a thousand should send his name with only 60 cents for a year's subscription, of \$1 for two years' subscription, to this magazine that deals solely with Canadian horticulture. Send it to The Canadian Horticulturist, Peterboro, Ont.

More About Scale

San Jose scale is no longer a paralyzing foe to fruit-growers. Its advent is feared, because only hard, careful work can prevent its spreading when once it gets a foothold; but for several years it has been possible to assure fruit-growers that the pest can be quite easily and cheaply controlled on small trees by spraying with the lime-sulphur wash. Recent experiences by the New York Experiment Station, at Geneva, N. Y., and

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W. H. BRAND, Jordan Station, Ont.

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practical orchardists prove that similar methods, slightly extended, and once thoroughly followed, will not only check the spread of the pest, but also prevent material harm from it, even in old orchards of large trees. The cost of spraying such trees with the lime-sulphur mixture, and of pruning and trimming to make the spraying effective is inconsiderable when compared with the loss due to spotting of fruit, weakening of trees and decrease of crop from the unchecked ravages of the scale. Full details of these extensive and successful experiments are given in Bulletin No. 266, of the station. All owners of orchards of old trees in scale-infested sections, would do well to study these experiments carefully. The director of the station will be pleased to send the bulletin, without expense, on application.

Planting Potatoes

H. A. Blunden, Landon Co., Ont.

The potato will grow in almost any soil of ordinary fertility, but for an even-sized, marketable and edible tuber, a well drained sandy loam is the best. The soil is best prepared in either of the following ways, namely, by manuring it with well-rotted stable manure, or by plowing under a crop of clover. If the former method is adopted, the land should be plowed the previous autumn, and the manure evenly distributed at the rate of from ten to twelve tons to the acre the following spring. After the manure is spread, the land should be thoroughly worked with a disc harrow and then with a smoothing harrow so as to thoroughly incorporate the manure with the soil. For the latter method, the best way is to plow under the crop of clover in the spring as early as the land can be worked, followed by discing so as to break up the clover sod into as small particles as possible.

The seed should be cut the desired size and planted as soon as possible to avoid drying. If planting by machine, it can be set so as to plant

SUCCESSFUL FRUIT CULTURE—A practical guide to the cultivation and propagation of fruits, by Samuel T. Maynard. This book is written from the standpoint of the practical fruit grower who is striving to make his business profitable by growing the best fruit possible at the least cost. It is up-to-date in every particular, and covers the entire practice of fruit culture. 112 pages, 24 pages, 1 1/2 inch, \$1.00.

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any desired distance in the row as well as between the rows as to the depth of planting, which should be about three inches in loose soil. For hand planting, the handiest way is to take a heavy corn marker so as to mark the rows from thirty to thirty six inches apart and about three inches deep, planting the seed or sets from ten to fourteen inches apart in the rows according to fertility of the soil. The rows of seed should be covered with a double-mould-board plough so as to leave the soil in a high ridge over each row.