

SODA BORDEAUX (BURGUNDY MIXTURE)

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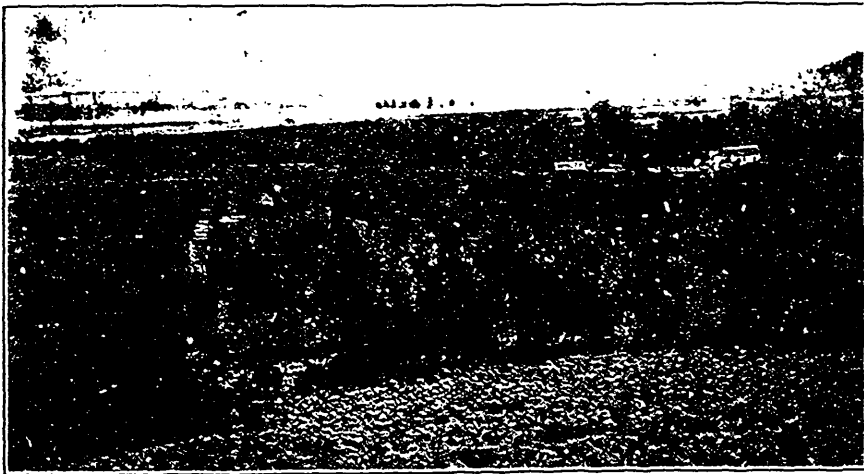
DURING July a number of reports were received, both from Ontario and Nova Scotia, stating that serious injury has resulted from the use of Soda-Bordeaux on apples, plums, cherries and peaches. These communications have been accompanied by requests for information respecting this newly-introduced mixture. A brief account of certain experiments recently conducted at the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, may, therefore, be of value and interest to fruit growers generally.

In Soda-Bordeaux, or Burgundy mixture (suggested as an alternative for the ordinary Bordeaux mixture for potato blight and rot), washing soda (carbonate of soda) is substituted for lime in the preparation of the spray. Two formulæ have been recommended:

	A.	B.
Copper sulphate (bluestone) ..	6 lbs.	4 lbs.
Washing soda (carbonate of soda)	7½ lbs.	5 lbs.
Water	40 gals.	40 gals.

A simple calculation will show that the proportion of bluestone to washing soda is the same in each, but "B" is a more dilute preparation.

As far as the writer can learn, paris green, white arsenic, or some other arsenical compound, had been added to the Soda-Bordeaux in every case in which injury was reported from application to fruit trees. When paris green is mixed with ordinary Bordeaux mixture it is not dissolved, but remains in suspension, and experience has shown that no injury results from the use of such a spray. When, however, paris green is added to Burgundy mixture it is partly dissolved, owing to the alkaline compound more or less corrosive to foliage. It has long been known that soluble arsenical compounds have this injurious effect upon foliage, and consequently cannot be used in insecticidal mixtures. It follows from this consideration that the addition to the Burgundy mixture of a solution made by boiling white arsenic and sal soda (resulting in the formation of arsenite of soda), as practiced by some, would render the spray extremely injurious. For these reasons it might well be conjectured that the addition of paris green or arsenic in any form to the Burgundy mixture would render it unsafe for use on fruit trees.



One of the Fruit Farms For Which British Columbia Is Becoming Famous.

The Richter orchard and farm at Keremeos, Similkamean, British Columbia, is here shown in part. The light background is the steep side of a high mountain. On this farm the alfalfa fields yield four crops annually. Apricots, peaches, almonds and grapes, including Black Hamburg, reach perfection.