

**HORTICULTURE**

**Money in the Old Orchard**

At the short course in fruit growing held at the Ontario Agricultural College this winter, Mr. R. R. Sloan, Huron Co., Ont., stated that he picked 1,000 barrels of apples last year from 600 trees that were almost useless the year before, being in an orchard that had never received any attention until taken over by Mr. Sloan, who had it pruned, sprayed, cultivated and generally looked after.

"Of some varieties, 90% were No. 1," said Mr. Sloan, "and of others, 60 to 75% were No. 1. The large quantity of clustered and small fruit was very detrimental to the whole crop, a condition that prevailed in most districts last season. The crop was sold for \$2.50 per barrel, f.o.b. The cost of spraying, figuring blue-stone at 6% cents a lb., lime at 40 cents a bushel and Paris Green at 25 cents a lb., was from 12 to 15 cents a tree. I left one Spy tree unsprayed just to show people the results. There were no marketable apples on the tree. If the whole orchard had been let likewise, I would easily have lost \$1,500."

**Home-boiled Lime-sulphur Wash**

The value of the lime-sulphur wash for summer spraying has been shown by various experimenters during the past year or two, chief among them being Mr. W. M. Scott of the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. In Farm and Dairy (Oct. 21st issue) mention was made of experiments conducted by Mr. Scott in Georgia last season. The mixture used in these experiments was composed of 8 lbs. sulphur (four or flowers) and 8 lbs. fresh stone lime to 40 gals. of water. In mild cases of scab and brown rot, a weaker mixture (6 lbs. of each) may be used. In order to obtain a good concentration of heat from the lime, the mixture should be prepared when practicable in large quantities, say enough for 160 gals., or four barrels. The formula would then be 32 lbs. of lime and 32 lbs. of sulphur to be cooked with a small quantity of water (8 or 10 gals.) and then diluted to 160 gals.

Place lime in a barrel and pour on enough water to almost cover it. When the slaking starts, add the sulphur, which should first be run through a sieve to break up the lumps. The slaking for several minutes, add a small portion of the sulphur. More water may be needed to keep it wet, but care should be tak-

en not to add enough to stop boiling before the lime is thoroughly slaked. Considerable stirring is required, to keep the water distributed through the mass so as to avoid drying and burning on the bottom.

As soon as the lime is thoroughly slaked, or not more than 5 minutes thereafter, enough water should be poured on to cool the mixture and prevent further cooking. It is then ready to be strained into the spray tank, diluted and applied. If the mixture is not cooled within a few

**Lime-sulphur for Blister Mite**

C. W. Challand, Norfolk Co., Ont.

During the year 1906 I noticed something wrong with the leaves of my apple trees; in 1907 it was still about half of my six-acre orchard. On some trees it was impossible to find a leaf that was not blistered and on others nearly half the leaves dropped off during the summer. Leaves were sent to Guelph for examination, and word came back that leaf blister mite

iron on each side of the cord so as to prevent leaking. Now you have a tank ready for boiling the wash. Build an arch the size of your tank with any common stone lying about on the farm. Lay four pieces of iron crossways of the arch to place tank on. The cover of the tank is better to have a globe end, allowing free working of a hoe for stirring wash.

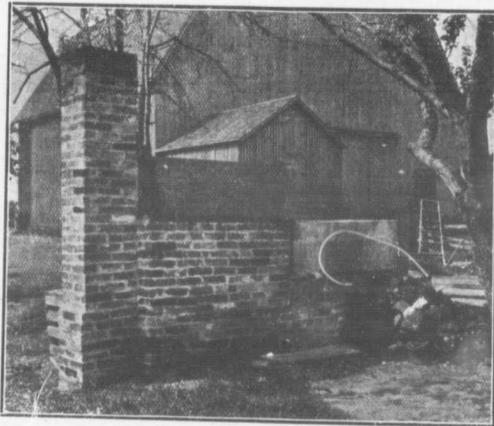
To prepare three barrels of the mixture, pump in to the tank a barrel of water, 40 gallons. Build up the fire, then weigh out 54 pounds of sulphur. The sulphur should be mixed into a paste with a small quantity of water before putting in the tank. Then weigh out 66 pounds of lime. Before the water boils, dump in the lime and keep well stirred with a hoe. When the lime is slacked, boil hard for one hour. Then pump in another barrel of water and strain in your spray tank. Add another barrel of water, then you have the three barrels of the mixture ready for use. Spray with the wind and spray well just before the buds open.

With one man on the ground and one on the tank we used the wash ones. We left one tree unsprayed to note results. It was wonderful to see the difference. The unsprayed tree was completely covered with blister mite, while those sprayed were almost entirely free from it. The trees were covered with heavy, healthy foliage. The fruit was very good. At Toronto I took first on four plates and first on two single specimens, King and Greening, securing as prizes ten dollars each.

**Pruning Apple Trees**

Milton Backus, Kent Co., Ont.

Among all progressive fruit growers, the old idea of forming the top of trees with two or three limbs and cutting off side branches, until the trees have attained such a height as to make it almost impossible to spray or prune the trees, to say nothing of the great expense of picking the fruit, has been discarded. My idea of pruning an apple or any other fruit tree is to give it the form that will conduce to the highest quality of fruit, while at the same time promoting the health and well being of the tree—by growing it in the shape that can be pruned, sprayed and the fruit thinned and picked



**A Cooking Plant for Making Lime-sulphur Wash**

Outfits for this purpose may be made in many different styles. The one illustrated is a double form on the fruit farm of Mr. J. H. Brodick, Lincoln Co., Ont. Were the upper tank removed and the smoke stack set close to the lower tank, it would be large enough for most orchards. A handy, simple style of outfit is described in an article on this page by Mr. Challand. The illustration was loaned by Mr. P. W. Hodgetts from the 1908 report of the Ontario Fruit Branch.

minutes after the lime has finished slaking, the heat continues the cooking, so that within 20 or 30 minutes a large percentage of the sulphur may go into solution in the form of calcium sulphide, which is injurious to the foliage. The object is to make a mechanical mixture of the lime and the sulphur, dissolving only a small portion of the latter. It should be strained so as to take out the coarse particles of lime, but the sulphur should be carefully worked through the strainer.

With care and attention, the farmer's orchard will yield an income that will surprise its owner.

was the trouble. Last spring I decided to try home-made lime-sulphur wash, which must be boiled at least one hour.

To prepare the mixture, spike together a frame of two-inch plank, fourteen inches high, seven feet long, and three inches wide with a galvanized iron bottom. Before nailing the galvanized iron on the frame, put on some white lead on the edge of the frame. Place a heavy cord on the centre of the two-inch edge and draw tight by driving a nail in each corner. Double nail the galvanized

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