

THE COLUMBIAN.

BLOOMSBURG, PA.

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1909.

Weekly Press News Letter.

On Timely Topics of Plant Pests.

From the Division of Economic Zoology-Department of Agriculture. By H. A. Surface, State Zoologist, Harrisburg, Pa.

BITTER ROT OF APPLES.

Prof. H. A. Surface calls attention to a very prevalent disease of apples, known as bitter rot, giving its symptoms and telling what to do to prevent loss from it, a number of letters having been received by the Division of Zoology of the Department of Agriculture, requesting information on the subject.

(A) SYMPTOMS.

At first there are minute brown specks, varying from one to a countless number, but commonly from one to not more than half dozen.

These spots enlarge later so as to make each a conspicuous, dark-colored, circular spot, which, while preserving its circular form and maintaining a sharply defined border, gradually extends to become perhaps an inch or more in diameter.

The affected area does not become soft, but is soon depressed or somewhat shrunken while the skin assumes a leathery appearance.

The outer portion of the spot remains smooth and polished, while the central area loses its lustre and becomes roughened by the formation of a multitude of minute pustules arranged in irregular concentric circles.

When the atmosphere is not too dry each of these little pustules open and there exudes in microscopic masses, or columns, a waxy substance, which is at first pale pink in color, then pale dull red or at length grayish when long exposed to the sun.

The spot ultimately becomes shriveled in appearance, tough in texture, and very dark—apparently black—in color.

The diseased apple usually becomes dark brown throughout and quite bitter, and shrivels into a dry, hard and much-wrinkled mass called a "mummy". This may remain firmly attached to the twig for a year or more, but usually falls to the ground before the drying process has been completed. The little, dry, shriveled apples often seen clinging to the trees during the winter are evidences of this disease. They should be gathered and burned at any time.

(B) PREVENTION

To be on the safe side give trees a thorough application of Bordeaux mixture.

To discover bitter rot, examine the trees in the orchard systematically, following the rows and making the sharpest possible search for the rot spots on the apple.

As a rule, the first infection will be found on the upper surface of the apple; therefore, it is best to make the examination from an elevated position.

A good and quick method is to drive between the rows with a spraying outfit, having two men on the operating platform, a man looking at each side.

After the infected trees have been located, trace all of the diseased apples until the cankered limb, which is the source of infection, has been found. The infected limbs should be removed and burned. Do this cautiously, so as not to spread infection. Wash the saw or pruning shears with such insecticide as turpentine or with a five percent solution of formalin in water.

Spray with Bordeaux Mixture, three pounds bluestone, four pounds lime and fifty gallons water, as soon as the blossoms fall and repeat this three or four times at intervals.

Catarrh Cannot be Cured

With LOCAL APPLICATIONS as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hull's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hull's Catarrh Cure is not a quack medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best tonics known, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing Catarrh. Send for testimonials free. J. CHENEY & Co., Props., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, price 75c. Take Hull's Family Pills for constipation.

of two weeks each.

THE OYSTER SHELL SCALE.

In life history the Oyster Shell Scale, like the scurfy, differs from the San Jose in that the young are hatched from eggs, while those of the latter are free at birth. The shape is that of an oyster-shell, about 1-16 inch in length and brown in color. Upon overturning the scale, beneath can be seen the mass of pearly white eggs. This is during the winter months. These eggs are laid during September or October, the female dying as soon as this is accomplished. During the time that the trees have no leaves, the boiled lime-sulfur wash (17 pounds of sulfur and 22 pounds of lime to 50 gallons of water, boiled one hour) thoroughly applied, will destroy many of the eggs, without any injury to the trees. For those not destroyed by this treatment, the best time to spray is just after the eggs hatch. This is generally from the middle of May until early June in this State, varying with latitude. The time of hatching should be carefully watched, beginning about May 10th. When the recently hatched young begin to crawl they can be readily noticed, having a lemon color, and being about the size of the common red mite or chicken louse. They should be sprayed just as soon thereafter, as possible, with kerosene emulsion, not over ten per cent kerosene; or a weak solution of soap, about one pound of either Whale oil soap or ordinary washing soap dissolved in four or five gallons of water. The best time for a single treatment is about the first of June. If this spraying be delayed until the latter part of June or July the young larvae will have fixed and secreted their scale covering, when it is very hard to injure them, and spraying will have little effect.

If two applications can be made, the first should be as soon as many of the young scale insects are observed crawling, and the second about ten days later, to destroy those later hatched.

The oyster-shell scale, like the Scurfy and Lecanium, is not nearly so dangerous as the San Jose. It does not spread so quickly, multiply so rapidly, nor is it nearly so injurious to the plants on which it is found. As a rule it is most often found on Lilac, Carolina or Lombardy Poplar, Soft Maple, Willows, Ash and Apple trees. It quite often becomes injurious on young poplars, and may cause death unless the above means, or some others, as scraping, etc., are taken to rid the trees of this pest. Like the San Jose scale and other scale insects, it can be killed wherever reached by painting the infested bark, at any time of year, with a paint brush dipped into a soap solution of any kind made as thick as house paint.

RADIUM'S TRIUMPHS.

The great drawback to the use of radium has been that while it gives heat, light and electricity, the skin is burned in handling it. The least touch burns the flesh.

But it has just been demonstrated at the university of Michigan in a series of experiments that radium has the power to convert ordinary well water into mineral water having the most wonderful medicinal qualities, and this water injected into cancers stills pain almost immediately and has relieved several sufferers from the morphine habit.

As this discovery is vouched for by the faculty of this well-known university it adds another to the great triumphs of the wonderful metal.

Measure of Train Speed.

A traveler waited at a certain English provincial town in vain for the much overdue train on the branch line. Again he approached the solitary sleepy-looking porter and inquired for the twentieth time, "Isn't that train coming soon?" At that moment a dog came trotting up the line, and a glad smile illuminated the official's face. "Ah, yes, sir," replied the porter, "it'll be getting near now. Here comes the engine driver's dog."

Cupid's Curriculum.

"She thinks she might eventually learn to love me," sighed the young millionaire.

"Then send her Dun and Bradstreet. There are no better text books, my boy."

But Not the "One."

Mrs. Hoyle—My husband had \$100,000 when I married him.

Mrs. Doyle—How much has he now?

Mrs. Hoyle—Oh, he has most of the ciphers left.

Who Got the Leg?

"If you please, mum," said the ancient hero, in an appealing voice, as he stood at the back door of the cottage on wash day. "I've just lost my leg."

"Well, I ain't got it," snapped the woman fiercely.

And the door closed with a bang.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

DISTRIBUTING RARE PLANT.

Efforts of Jacksonville Man May Help Perfume Industry.

In 1892 Frank Mira, of Jacksonville, Fla., discovered a twig which seemed to him to have some use to the perfumer. He submitted it to Mr. E. Moulle, of that city, says the Scientific American, who was engaged in the business of extracting essences. The plant immediately interested Mr. Moulle, who succeeded in producing from it an essential oil. Many attempts on the part of Mr. Moulle and the United States Department of Agriculture to ascertain the scientific name of the plant finally resulted in its identification as Mentha citrata, a very rare plant which is popularly called bergamot mint. From year to year Mr. Moulle has increased and developed the few plants which he has been able to obtain, and is now engaged in gratuitously distributing the plant for general propagation. We believe that in this manner a very valuable perfume industry may some day be built up on the cultivation of this rare plant.

The Unprejudiced Observer.

A young woman who spends much of her time copying in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, recently said in the New York Sun that a criticism that had helped her a great deal in her work came from a man to whom she took a picture to be framed.

As the picture progressed, my friends told me it was fine, she said. Some of the other copyists said it had "value," "character," "good coloring," and all those things, and even one of the guards in the gallery got real friendly one day, and remarked that it was the best copy of that picture he had seen.

I began to think that maybe, after all, my several years of study were beginning to bear fruit.

When the picture was finished, I took it to the framer, where I picked out a good frame. The man began to figure on the cost.

"I'll tell you, miss," he said, after a while, "that frame will come to three dollars and ninety-eight cents. If I were you I'd get something cheaper for that picture."

A Cheap Substitute.

"I had to sell my auto, but I haven't missed it yet."

"How's that?"

"You can get most of the sensations by cleaning rugs."

Advice to the Bald.

"My cocoa's cold," sternly announced the gruff old gentleman to his fair waitress.

"Put your hat on," she sweetly suggested.

BIG CIRCUS AT SUNBURY.

Barnum and Bailey to Exhibit There on WEDNESDAY JUN. 9.

The Barnum & Bailey greatest show on earth is to visit Sunbury on Wednesday, June 9th. Never since the beginning of time has an amusement enterprise so tremendous in size been organized as this one. Its magnitude is almost beyond belief. All America, together with every foreign country, has been scoured from end to end by agents of this big show in search of novelties and the result is a performance brim full of sensational acts new to the circus world. In the big Barnum & Bailey show are nearly 400 arctic stars, most of whom are seen now for the first time. A new sensation will be seen at every performance in "JUPITER, the balloon horse." This remarkable animal with its fearless rider ascends to the dome of the circus tent in a balloon and descends to the ground in a shower of fireworks. Nearly 1000 animal wonders are to be found in the big 108 cage menagerie. 8 herds of elephants, including one herd that actually plays upon musical instruments in time and tune. A group of giant giraffes, monster trained hippopotamus, only living bi-horned rhinoceros and hundreds of other strange beasts. Barnum & Bailey's big, new, free street parade is the most gorgeous processional display ever attempted in the history of circus business. Its tremendous size and wonderful length can only be believed in the actual seeing. It is natural to expect this big circus to lead all others in quality and quantity of its street spectacle as well as in other departments of the big show, yet never in its splendid history of nearly half a century has it displayed such extravagance as is shown this year.

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