

# The Daily Review

Towanda, Pa., Friday, December 2, 1881.

EDITORS  
S. W. ALVORD. NOBLE N. ALVORD

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## The White Grub.

Correspondence of the Free Press.

The farmers in this section have sustained great damage to their crops from the white ground grub. The crops attacked by the pests have been principally potatoes, corn and timothy. Old timothy meadows on high ground are ruined, the roots of the grass having been severed by the grubs from one to two inches below the surface, and the same with corn. potatoes are more or less eaten according to the location in which they were planted; those on the sod ground having suffered most, and those on cultivated land least from their ravages.

Can you inform us through your paper what these grubs originate from, how long they live in their present state, and what is their next stage of existence? In short we want a full history of the pests, and a practical way of destroying them,

E. G. OWEN.

WYSOX, PA., Nov. 5.

ANSWER.—Our correspondent has touched upon a very important question and one which deserves the consideration of every tiller of the soil, for certain it is that the white grub is getting to be among the most destructive of the insect pests.

The destructive work of these pests is not confined to the crops mentioned by the writer, but garden crops also are known to have suffered severely from their depredations, and we have seen strawberry beds completely ruined from this cause.

The white grub is the larva or grub state of the brown beetle, which is commonly known as the "May-bug," "June-bug," or "dor-bug," which enters our noses attracted by the light, on warm nights in May and June and bounces about and knocks its head against the walls and ceilings in such a manner as to attract notice. The few that enter our houses denote the existence of countless thousands without, which frequently harbor in fruit trees, especially cherry trees.

The female beetles lay their eggs in the ground, and the eggs soon hatch and become the young grubs which require three years to complete their growth. While in this state of existence they feed upon young roots but they do not appear to be large enough to do great harm until the third or last year of their grub existence, when their work upon grass and other roots is sometimes most disastrous. Late in the summer of the third year the grubs burrow deeper into the ground and appear on the following spring as the new brood of beetles; and thus the round of life goes on, generation after generation.

### CHECKS AND REMEDIES.

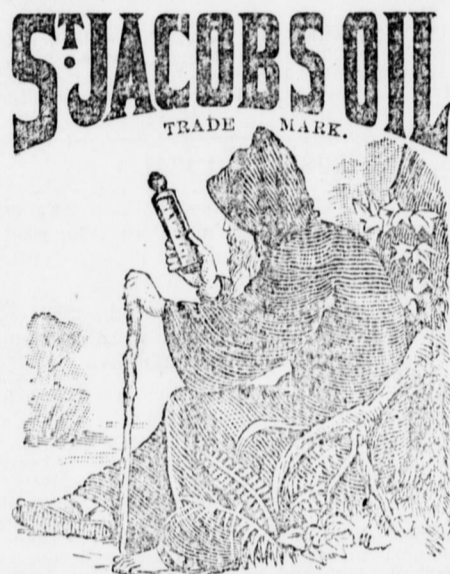
One of the most unpleasant features about the white grub question is that there seems to be no human aid for the destruction of the insect while it is in the grub state. The only destructive agents are the animals which kill and devour them. Of these the common crow is the most active helper, and for this reason they should be protected by law. The unpopular and odoriferous skunk is another enemy of the grub and many of them go toward allaying the cravings of his appetite.

Numerous means have been employed for destroying the beetles or bugs which lay the eggs. In early morning when found in small trees, they may be easily shaken down, caught upon cloths and destroyed. Lanterns suspended or placed over tubs of water are sometimes successfully used, and the beetles attracted by the light, come dashing against the

sides of the lantern from which they fall into the water. That these or similar means for destroying the insect while in the beetle state are the most practical means of preventing their increase there is little doubt. Every female beetle thus destroyed prevents the laying of from one hundred to two hundred eggs, which produce directly the germs so destructive.

It is to be feared that these pests are rapidly increasing. It is certain that we did not hear so much of their ravages fifteen or twenty years ago.

To prevent the rapid increase which it is probable is going on, farmers in localities where the pests are destructive should unite in an action to destroy them. By fighting and killing the beetles wherever they can be found a neighborhood of farmers could hardly fail to produce profitable results in the way of making the pests less destructive in the future.



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