

For the Farmer

Striped Cucumber Beetles... writes to State Zoologist H. Surface, Harrisburg, asking what to do to destroy the small striped cucumber bugs or beetles.

To this inquiry Professor Surface replied as follows:

"The small striped cucumber bug or beetle is easily controlled by the right methods, but if some treatment is not given it is very destructive to the plants, as you have experienced. The life history is as follows:

"It passes the winter in the soil, comes out in the early spring, and feeds on the leaves and stems or even roots of such plants as the cucumber, cantaloupe, squash, pumpkin, gourd, etc., and lays its eggs at the roots of the little plants. Its larvae are small white worms with dark heads which eat the outer portion of the roots, often completely devouring it, and thus rendering the roots no longer able to do their natural part for the growth of the plants. At this stage the plants wither suddenly, as though scalded, and look as though they had been cut off. Some persons wrongly mistake this for the blight or wilt disease. As the larvae complete their growth they turn to pupae or chrysalids in the soil, and further transform to beetles, and come forth in a second brood, which in turn infest plants of the same kind and the grubs complete their growth and remain in the ground and pass the winter there.

"The best thing to do for these pests is to dust the plants with a mixture of equal parts of pyrethrum, hellebore, tobacco dust, sulfur, and either arsenate of lead or paris green. Every trucker and gardener should keep a mixture of this kind in a tightly closed jar, like a glass fruit jar and use it as needed. Where the trucking is more extensive, as on a commercial basis, the method of control is to spray with one ounce of arsenate of lead in each gallon of water. Either this or the dusting should be done just after the leaves appear above ground, as the striped cucumber beetle attacks the plants as soon as its leaves show. A small handful of the dust mixture mentioned above worked into the soil around the plant will keep the beetles from laying their eggs there and will destroy the young beetles that have hatched.

"A common method of keeping the striped cucumber beetles away from plants is to cover them with cheese cloth or mosquito netting supported on sticks bent over like half hoops or wickets. Where the mosquito netting is coarse the beetles will crowd through, unless something is used to repel them. One of the most successful truck growers of the Susquehanna Valley puts turpentine on lime, and places a quantity of this equal to a small handful on the ground near the plants in the hill, and then covers them with mosquito netting so that the lime and turpentine is under the netting. The beetles will not crowd through when they find the offensive odor within.

Where plants die from the attacks of the larvae of the striped cucumber beetle at the roots, the hill should be torn open with a hoe so the larvae will be exposed to the hot sun and die. Otherwise they remain there to attack the next planting, or seek further plants to destroy.

For Brown Rot of Stone Fruits... The stone fruits are quite liable to be damaged about the time they commence to ripen by the disease known as Brown Rot or Ripe Rot. State Zoologist H. A. Surface, Harrisburg, calls attention to the fact that about midsummer he receives many inquiries as to what to do to cure this disease. He says that while nothing can be done to cure it after it has once started, it is very easy to prevent its start. Another disease known as Black Rot is preventable by the same means.

In reply to a letter from a prominent Pennsylvania fruit grower asking about preventives of these diseases, Professor Surface replied as follows:

"Replying to your inquiry about preventing Brown Rot of plum or peach I can say that there is nothing better than to spray now with the Bordeaux mixture, using three pounds of fresh lime and two pounds of bluestone in fifty gallons of water. Some persons prefer the-boiled lime-sulfur wash, which means eight pounds of lime and eight pounds of sulfur in fifty gallons of water. This is recommended more for peach. It is to be applied when the fruit is about half grown, and once two weeks later.

"You can not keep the borers out of the trees entirely by spraying with the lime-sulfur solution, but if you will add the arsenate of lead at the rate of one-half to one ounce of arsenate to each gallon of water, and repeat this at the end of each of the months of June, July and August you will be able to keep them out. This I have had the honor to prove conclusively by personal discovery experience."

The Value of Screech Owls... A Pittsburgh business man who has a suburban residence with a few trees attached...

old apple trees and other varieties of trees and shrubbery, and this year particularly it is a perfect paradise for birds, of which there are at least eight or ten species. For several nights I have observed three screech owls, which seem to be very much at home. I was told to-day that they prey on the young birds. Will you kindly advise me if this true, and whether it would be advisable to shoot them or not? I do not wish to wantonly kill them, but I do wish to protect and encourage, as far as possible, the song birds."

To this inquiry Professor Surface replied as follows:

"The Screech Owl does not devour small birds to any extent, excepting the English sparrow. It is one of the worst enemies of this pest, which is the greatest foe of many small birds around the premises. Therefore, the Screech Owl is very beneficial as a friend of the small birds in your vicinity. It should be protected and allowed to nest on the premises. It will nest in holes in trees, and even in boxes erected for it. I know persons who leave old stumps on apple trees for the purpose of furnishing nests for Screech Owls and Flickers.

"In addition to its feeding on the English sparrow it also is one of the very greatest enemies of mice, and when it nests around the premises makes a specialty of house mice, which are not only destructive and otherwise very unclean and offensive but are also carriers of disease. Thus, for sanitary as well as economic reasons it is desirable to preserve the Screech Owls.

"I might add that I have found these beneficial birds feeding in great numbers on the short-tailed meadow mice or voles, wrongly called 'moles' in this State, which are the mice that during the past winter were so exceedingly destructive in injuring thousands of fruit trees by girdling them beneath the snow.

Preserve and care for the little screech owls, and thus preserve the orchards, and also aid in the suppression of the English sparrow and rats and mice."

MAKE \$13,000 ON FISH

Three Big Hauls From Bayou On Mississippi Net Two Iowans Small Fortune

If an acre of Mississippi Valley land produces \$1,300 in three years it is heralded as a noteworthy achievement. What of an acre of Mississippi river water which has produced \$13,000, or ten times as much, in the same length of time? asks the New York Sun.

In February, 1911, two fishermen of McGregor, Iowa, Adolph Larson and Fred. Worth, caught in a single haul under the ice 55,000 pounds of buffalo fish, which they sold for \$2,000. February 20, 1913, they made a haul of 77,000 pounds of buffalo in the same acre of water and sold it for \$6,200. More recently they were sitting in their canvas covered boat guarding night and day 50,000 pounds more of the big wrigglers which they captured under the ice. The lot will sell for about \$5,000. For the three hauls this gives an aggregate of 190,000 pounds of fish which brought the fishermen \$13,000.

As soon as the final word about the selling price comes from the commission firm at New York, Fishermen Larson and Worth will saw a square hole in the ice and begin the task of dipping out fish and preparing them for shipment. The work will occupy the better part of a week. During the whole time the fishermen will stand waist deep in the icy water lifting the fish in hand seines. As the buffaloes average about five pounds each, 10,000 fish will be lifted out before the great seine will float free of its burden.

Last year the haul was taken by team down the ice to Prairie du Chien for shipment. Eight teams were on the ice for five days hauling the fish by the wagon load. This year the buffaloes will probably be boxed on the ice ready for shipping and then be teamed across to Waukon Junction and shipped from there in carload lots to New York City in time for the Lenten season.

Larson and Worth's "haul," as such seining places are called, is what is known in fisherman lore as a natural holdup for fish. Opposite Worth's Landing seven miles north of McGregor, a long sandbar projects from an island in the middle of the river west into the main channel. Behind this the waters balked up and a quiet sheltering place is afforded for fish.

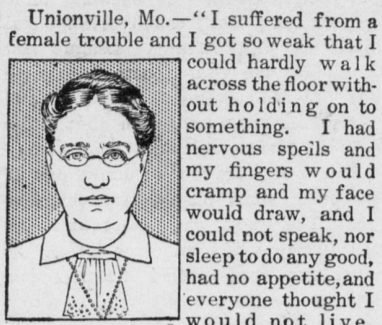
It is the nature of the buffaloes, the fishermen say, to bunch together in the fall and remain inert in great masses in the deep waters of the main channel through the winter months. Along the last of February they begin "to move," swimming slowly in a great circle.

Leaving the channel they invariably seek a sheltered place above the sandbar, there to remain until the ice melts. The fishermen knowing this buffalo characteristic and learning the sandbars which they favor annually watch for their coming in February. Let them once crowd into the shallow enclosures and the seining becomes a comparatively simple matter.

These natural fishing places are not purchasable nor can they ever be legally owned. Yet among the fisher folk they are always re-

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FRIDAY NIGHT'S STORM AND RAIN

Cattle Killed, Bridges Carried Away—Much Other Damage

About eight o'clock Friday evening dark clouds began to gather in the north and west, soon distant peals of thunder were heard, and the flashes of lightning became vivid. At nine o'clock the two storms met and moved southward. Only ruin and destruction could be seen in its path. Soon after it began to rain, and it rained incessantly for one hour. Tobacco was cut to pieces and corn was levelled and cut to shreds. The wheat fields look as if they had been rolled. Trees were uprooted, fences blown down, cellars flooded, and the fruit knocked off the trees. The Big Chiques Creek soon became a raging torrent and some parties who had cattle in the meadows, encountered difficulty in trying to save their stock.

Evans' run, which flows thru the meadow below the Duffy farm, near Marietta, was higher Friday night than it has ever been. It was more like an immense creek than a run, and down its course there floated chickens, sheaves of wheat, uprooted corn and all kinds of grain.

The York Cadets, composed of a number of young men who were encamped in the meadow, were right in the thick of the storm, and had a terrifying experience. The rain virtually flooded them out and drove them to all sections for shelter. They lost their trunks, a typewriter, all their "eats", some blankets, etc.

During the progress of the storm at Elizabethtown on Friday night the double frame of Dr. Blough, occupied by the families of Thomas Krodel and Mr. Stephens, was struck by lightning at 11 o'clock, and the dormer portion set on fire.

The Fire Department of the borough was at once called, but before the flames were extinguished they had burned the attic off to the square. The fire was most stubbornly fought and caused great excitement in the borough.

A number of trees were struck by lightning and blown down, and the disposal plant at the Masonic Home was struck by lightning and slightly damaged.

Two cows belonging to Christian Longenecker, one mile north of Salunga, which were in the field during the height of the storm, were killed by a bolt.

Why It Pops

Why Popcorn Pops is not fully understood, says a recent bulletin of the Agricultural Department. Formerly it was supposed that the popping resulted from the expansion of oil in the kernel on being heated, but more probably it is due to the expansion of moisture contained in the starch cells. This moisture expands, when heated, with sufficient force to cause an explosion of the cells and the kernel turns completely inside out, enveloping the embryo and hull. Probably the expansion of the air within the seed coat also plays some part in the process.

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