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RESULTS OF SURVEY OF OAK TREES HERE

Diseases Found Affecting This
Type of Timber on North
Shore Described

While is has been a matter of report for some time that oak trees in the "North Shore" region were dying in large numbers, no accurate knowledge of the cause of their death was available. Various causes of the injury have been suspected, such as anthracnose, root rot and unsuitable soil conditions.

Recently a conference was held on the subject and the reports of Dr. H. W. Anderson of the University of Illinois and Dr. W. H. Rankin, chief pathologist of the Bartlett Tree Research laboratories, Stamford, Conn., are combined in this pamphlet.

Extensive Observation

Observations were made over a wide area in the three days spent on the study and several trees were cut down to determine the condition of the roots and trunk. It was apparent that the white oaks in this district rarely attain large size. After reaching the size of twelve to twenty inches in diameter, they regularly show signs of decline and starvation. The clay soil is undoubtedly responsible for this condition of low vigor, for it was noted that the root system spread only a few feet from the base of the trunk. A dying of the top branches, known as stag-head, is a common result of the weakened con-

In addition to the low vigor and resulting stag-head, two important pests of the white oak were found to be prevalent. One of these is the scale insect, asterolecanium variolosum commonly known as the pit forming golden oak scale, and the other a fungus disease known as oak leaf and twig blight. The golden oak scale and the fungus disease were found to be commonly severe on the same trees. They seem to thrive together and it is believed that the scale insect is probably the primary cause of injury and leads to more abundant infection of the leaf and twig blight fungus. This increased severity of the fungus on the scale infested trees is likely due to the fact that the twig canker stage is favored and thus a larger amount of the fungus is carried over winter ready to infect the leaves. On trees not severely damaged by the scale, the twig canker stage was not abundant. This fungus disease is epidemic in some seasons and causes wide spread defoliation of white oaks. This was true in this section in 1928, but this season only a scattering infection is present and this mainly on the scale injured trees.

Specimens Identified

Specimens submitted to Dr. W. P. Flint, chief entomoligist at the University of Illinois, were identified as the pit forming golden oak scale. He states that this scale insect causes serious injury when present in relatively small numbers and is one of the most serious factors in weakening trees in the northern Illinois region.

Although root rot was suspected as being present and in part responsible

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