Leaf Spot or Yellow Leaf of Cherries

Sweet and sour cherries alike suffer severely from this disease when there is considerable wet weather in May and June. The fungi causing leaf spot or yellow leaf of sweet and sour cherries, and the shot hole of plums, are very closely related. They are present wherever these fruits are grown and are commonly found on the wild species of prunus. The main factor which regulates the amount of damage they cause, is the weather. Abundant moisture in May and June results in heavy infection. Relatively dry weather often prevents the spread of these fungi to the extent that no damage is caused.

The life history of this fungus pest of cherries is simple. The diseased leaves of the past year living on the ground furnish the place of hibernation. On these dead leaves spore cases are formed and during wet weather in May and June spores are shot out of these cases and carried by the wind to the new leaves above. The same wet periods which cause the spores to be discharged into the air furnish the necessary moisture conditions for the germination of the spores as they adhere to the new leaves. Upon germination the fungus enters the leaf tissue and at each place of infection small dark blue spots appear in about ten days. These spots turn later to a dark red or reddish brown. In some cases where infection is slight the spots drop out leaving holes but where a large number of infections have occurred the entire leaf soon turns yellow and falls.

The first infection takes place at about the time the petals fall and periodic infections may continue for a month or more. Often it happens that the leaves are yellow and falling before the fruit is ripe. In other years the infections accumulate more slowly and the leaves drop later. The most important damage caused is the weakening effect on the entire tree. Defoliation, especially when heavy, prevents the maturing of the new wood of the tree. This may predispose the tree to winter killing the next winter.

Because of its common occurrence and damaging effects upon the trees themselves, this disease should be controlled in every commercial orchard. The first thing that should be done is to cultivate the orchard before the blossoms are out. Care should be taken to cover as many of the old leaves as possible. In this way the amount of infection is materially reduced. Spraying with either lime sulphur, or bordeaux, will control this disease. Bordeaux is preferred by many growers. The 4-4-40 formula is strong enough and it is effective against yellow leaf even at weaker strengths. Lime sulphur at the strength of 1 to 40 is effective. Iron sulphate may be added to the lime sulphur at the rate of one and one-fourth pounds to 40 gallons. This increases its adhesiveness and prevents burning. In order to avoid the early and often very destructive infections it is advised that the first application be made just as the petals are about all off, or at least a few days later. Another application should be made from two to three weeks later according to the amount of wet weather. A third application just after the fruit is picked and a fourth, three weeks later, are advised if weather conditions favor infection. Sulphur dust 90 parts, to 10 parts arsenate of lead is as effective as the liquid sprays and may be used.

Ergot in Grain.

Ergot is very widely known because of its injurious effects upon animals that are fed with grain containing ergot or that graze upon badly infected grass. The ergot is a bluish black, horn-like body with a white interior, and in produced on infected plants of the grass family in the place where the seed would normally be found. They are found easily on the head of the growing plant because they are twice or three times the size of the seed.

Ergot is found principally on rye; also on many other grasses such as rye grass, blue joint, Kentucky blue grass, Canada blue grass, red top, timothy, wild rice and others. It occurs occasionally on wheat. The ergot is produced as the result of a fungus disease attacking the plant. When rye or other grasses are in flower, the very small spores or sedes of the fungus are blown on to the flowers, penetrating into them and causing the production of the ergot in place of seed. To complete the life history of the fungus, it lives over the winter in the ground, or in storage bins in the form of black, horn-like body or ergot; in the spring the ergot in the ground, either left there all winter or sown with the grain that spring, sends up one or several outgrowths with a knob-like end; these produce an abundance of smaller bodies, which in turn bear the spores, spoken of above, which are blown by the wind and infect the flowers opening that summer.

The actual loss to the grain crop by this disease is slight, but the serious effect on cattle eating the ergotized grain, the losses from hay having to be destroyed because of the presence of ergot in the grass, make the disease a serious one, and, everyone should know the precautionary measures to adopt in order to get rid of it. The effect on animals is that they become thin and rough haired. Further symptoms are slow circulation in the extremities, gangrenous sores on the teats or mouth, and sloughing off of parts of the tail, ears or hoofs. Abortion may also follow as an additional effect.

The following are the best precautionary measures to adopt:

1. Fields should be examined occasionally for the presence of ergot, and if large quantities are found the grass should not be used for hay or pasture.
2. Ergot may be lessened by cutting susceptible grasses about flowering time, so checking the spread of the fungus.
3. Badly infested hay lands should be burned over.
4. If seed is found to contain ergot, it should be immersed in a 20 per cent. salt solution; the ergot floats up to the surface of the liquid and can be skimmed off.

Trapping Hawks.

Once a person asked what to feed their chickens so that if the hawks got them it would kill the hawks. This was a "stunner," if the slang expression be allowed. I couldn't tell the answer. But I could tell how to trap the hawk quite easily. I shall tell it again here. This method was used in a certain locality where hawks were plentiful and in six years' time over four dozen hawks were captured, proving the efficiency of the plan.

Hawks almost always alight on a dead stick or tree. If possible, find such a tree where the hawks like to light and watch for their prey. If no dead tree is at hand, fix the trap where they sit waiting if it be a live tree. A pole may be erected in the locality where they lie in wait, leaving it a while before the trap is arranged so they get used to it. Put four nails about four inches from the top of the pole or limb, which should be slightly flattened to hold the trap. The nails are for the strings to be fastened. Get a muskrat trap or a, so-called, jump trap. Set it and fasten to the top of pole or limb, and the next time the hawk alights there to watch for his meal you will have him by the leg. This rarely fails. No bait is needed. Just a trap. Where hawks are very bad it is a good plan to scatter four or five of these traps around the buildings where hawks are known to lie in wait.

Picking the Blooms from Plants.

The summer blooming annuals are being used much for cut flowers these days, and to keep them in bloom for a long period and to get the finest blooms, it has been found advisable to keep the flowers cut very close all the time. If blooms are left to fade on the plants, or seed to form, it will cause most of these annuals to stop blooming, or at least become less free. It is a case of the more flowers you use the more you have to use. While many will continue to bloom and bear seeds, if the seeds are not left to form the strength that they require goes into making finer blooms of what comes after. The sweet peas and violets, and even the pansies will not bloom for very long if all the seed pods are not kept from them. Most of the annuals can be made to bloom until frost by picking the blooms before they fade on the plants, and if they grow straggly, cutting back some of the flowering stems at the same time.—A. H.

Increase in Co-operative Farm Crop Experiments in 1925.

The co-operative work of the Experimental Union is having an encouraging and a substantial increase throughout Ontario. The volunteer co-operative experimenters with farm crops have already reached 2,696 which is 501 more than last year and 986 more than the year previous, according to a statement made by Dr. C. A. Zavitz who is director of this work. The greatest increases in 1925 were made with oats, barley, field peas, soy beans, spring wheat, buckwheat, field corn, field beans and sweet corn and the greatest decreases were with sugar mangels, swede turnips, sudan grass and hubam sweet clover. These co-operative tests have had and are still having a very marked influence on the farm crop production of this province, making the acre-yields, of cereal crops especially, the highest in the Dominion, with the exception of British Columbia.

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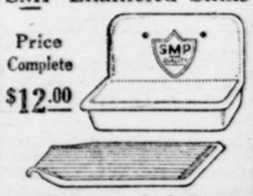

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Hens and Orchards.

Without attempting to offer any advice as to whether it is desirable to combine fruit growing with poultry, we may perhaps make some suggestions as to the relations of the hen to the apple tree, provided this combination already exists.

The most important one is to keep the apple trees in the majority. If the hen isn't too prominent she may do the trees a deal of good, not only in keeping down certain insect pests but in keeping up the fertility of the soil.

But like many other good things, it is very easy to overdo this one and get the soil of the orchard too fertile. In other words, although it is all right to keep hens in the orchard, it is a mistake to try to grow fruit trees in a hen yard.

Just how many hens one may profitably have per acre of orchard will vary greatly with the soil. On a light, hungry, sandy soil one could safely use far more than on a heavier and more fertile soil. The decision should be made, just as we decide other types of orchard fertilizing, by watching the growth of the trees. If the leaders are making around a foot of growth per year the hen population is about right. If it is more, reduce the number of hens or take them out of the orchard altogether for a season.

It might also be suggested that the litter from a hen yard or house makes excellent orchard fertilizer if used with judgment, basing one's decision in the same way on the type of growth you are getting on the trees.—F. C. S.

To Spray or to Dust Potatoes —Which?

The high efficiency of liquid bordeaux mixture for the control of insect and fungus enemies of potato foliage has been demonstrated in tests so often as to make its use general with potato-growers. Dusting has been used considerably, but carefully conducted tests over a period of four years show that the practice is not so efficient as the liquid form of application. Where water is difficult to obtain, and in small fields where it is necessary to use hand apparatus, dusting in advisable. For areas larger than one acre and with water and a power sprayer available, then spray.

Try cutting hot steamed brown bread or steamed pudding with a clean string. It is much better than using a knife as it prevents the usual sogginess on the surface of the slices.

"Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap" usually brings us thoughts of future punishment for misdeeds we have done. Have we ever sowed good deeds? They belong in the "whatsoever" class, and have a right to get great peace of mind from that thought.

How's Your Blacksmith?

More and more blacksmiths do little shoeing and know little about horses. If such a smith were shoeing an animal of mine I would ask myself seven questions as I watched him work:

1. How does he use the file? To rasp the walls of the hoof? A small notch under the nails for purposes of clenching, that is all that is needed.
2. Does he use too large nails or too many?
3. Does he cut into the frog? It is none too large as it is. Nature intends it to touch the ground and act as a pad or cushion.
4. Does he severely pare away, thin or deeply burn the soles?
5. Does he cut away the bars? This tends to contract instead of to "open" the heels.
6. Does he go in for too high heels and toes? Or heels and no toes? Or toes but no heels (calkins)?
7. Does he keep the natural relationship between the length of the toe and the height of the heel?

Those are the questions I would ask myself about the blacksmith. Then, to be fair, I would ask these questions about myself:

Have I let my horse go too long with the same shoes? Removed shoes in cases of nail prick or founder? Kept the animal standing on a dry board floor? Packed the hoofs with injurious packing substances and dressing? "Tubbed" a hurt hoof in dirty water or poulticed it with cow dung? Used powdered bluestone for scratches, stone bruises or suppurating corns?

Antiseptic foot packs are always preferable to "tubbing." Frog setons are useless. There is no such disease as "gravel," a term applied to suppurating corns.

To bear these facts in mind, and act on them, may save the horse from many common foot troubles, difficult or impossible to cure, and from a lifetime of pain.—Dr. A. S. Alexander.

Fertility of Eggs.

February, March, April, May, September and October are the best months for fertility of eggs. In these months it increases and ranges, according to the different breeds, from 60 to 75 per cent., and sometimes better. During the cold, wet days of November and December the fertility drops to 45 or 50 per cent.; in January it increases again and by February and March reaches 75 per cent. During July and August it goes down to about 60 per cent.

It is not only the fertility of the egg that drops in hot weather, but also the vitality of the chick, as the eggs are not strongly fertilized. Weather influences fertility. Cold and wet weather is worse than cold dry weather; and windy, cold weather is worse than cold and quiet weather.

The Sunday School Lesson

MAY 24.

Saul Begins His Great Career, Acts 9: 20-31. Golden Text —I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.—1 Cor. 2: 2.

ANALYSIS.

THE OLD AFFILIATION AND THE NEW.

INTRODUCTION—In so energetic a nature as that of Saul of Tarsus the fact of Christian conversion immediately shows itself in action, and Saul becomes a preacher of Jesus Christ. He feels naturally a special call to go first to the Jews, for he has discovered in his own tremendous experience the powerlessness of Judaism to make the soul right with God. What was his distinctive message to his former associates in Judaism? We shall understand this best by reflecting for a moment on the nature of his spiritual experience.

1. Saul's conversion signified above all an act of the grace or undeserved mercy of God. He had thought to attain to God by merit, but, instead of that, God had stooped down to him by grace, and overwhelmed him by his mercy. So grace—the grace of God—is Saul's first theme as a preacher.

2. This grace of God had come to him in and through the crucified and risen Jesus. It was Jesus whom Saul saw at his conversion. He had thought Jesus an impostor, his Messiahship a blasphemy, his resurrection a fiction. Now, with eyes opened by the Spirit, he saw that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, raised and dwelling at God's right hand. Hence the Messiaship or Saviourship of the living Jesus is his second great theme.

3. Before his conversion, Saul had thought that Jesus' death on the cross signified his rejection by God. Now, the thing which had been the "stumbling-block," as he calls it, becomes the fascinating centre of all interest, and Saul's gospel becomes a cross-centred gospel.

4. Finally, it was through a spiritual experience that Saul saw Jesus to be thus risen and glorified, and so he looks to the Spirit for all power and wisdom, and preaches that man must walk no longer by Law, but by the Spirit.

These considerations help us to understand the nature of that preaching to the Jews in Damascus and Jerusalem which is referred to in the present lesson.

I. THE OLD AFFILIATION. 20-25.

V. 20. Saul delivered his first testimony in the Jewish synagogues in Damascus. Many Jews were permanently there, engaged in trade and commerce, but loyally maintaining their religious beliefs and institutions. Saul's message is given succinctly as "Jesus is the Son of God," that is Jesus is the promised Messiah, the deliverer of the Jewish nation, and sole bringer of the kingdom of God.

V. 21. No wonder that the Jews of Damascus were bewildered. They had heard of Saul's reputation as a hammer of the Christians, and were they not told just the other day that he was on his way to institute a high court of procedure against Jesus' followers in Damascus? To know that he had abandoned his plans would have been surprising enough. But to find him preaching the Christian faith was amazing. They wondered if they were in their waking senses.

V. 22. Nevertheless, Saul persisted, and made his way in spite of this Jewish scepticism. He had to stand alone, but he achieved notable success in argument against his opponents, preaching always on the one theme—that Jesus was the Christ.

Vs. 23-25. Eventually Jewish resentment ripened into a plot against Saul's life, but Saul got wind of it, and though the city gates were constantly watched, he contrived, by the aid of some of his converts to escape over the city wall, being let down in a basket attached to a rope.

II. THE NEW AFFILIATION, 26-31.

V. 26. Saul's difficulties were not over. The Christians in Jerusalem suspected him. When he tried to join their ranks they drew off in apprehension, afraid to believe in his protestations of Christian faith. Could the leopard change his spots? they queried within themselves.

V. 27. At that moment the great-hearted and magnanimous Barnabas came to the rescue. Taking Saul by the hand, he brought him to the apostles, and very simply told them how the Lord had appeared to him on the road to Damascus, how he had been commissioned to preach, and what proofs of himself he had already given at Damascus. This introduction was sufficient.

Vs. 28-30. Saul had now liberty of action at Damascus, and a second time he showed his mettle by instituting a mission among the Hellenist Jews (that is, Jews from foreign parts), at Jerusalem. These, however, laid a plot against his life. They regarded him as a renegade, a turncoat, and once more Saul had to be rescued by the brethren, and brought down to Cæsarea on the coast, where they despatched him to his native Tarsus.

V. 31. The lesson concludes with a comforting picture of the quiet times now experienced by the Church in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria. They were no longer harassed by persecutions, but gained time to be "edified," that is, to be solidly built up in faith. It was a period of constructive work, marked by deep reverence for the God who had won the chiefest of their enemies to himself, and who gave them richly of his Spirit.

HOW I OUTWIT HOUSEHOLD PESTS

Fresh Air and Starvation Diet Discourage My Most Persistent Insect Callers.

BY NELL B. NICHOLS.

If at the end of the first year of my homemaking career anyone had told me that some day I would be telling about the insects which have visited my household I would have been horrified.

I used to believe fleas and flour weevils and bedbugs unfit for discussion. But knowing as I do now how cosmopolitan these pests are, I am going to introduce to you some of the most persistent callers which have appeared in my house. Here they are: Flour weevils, crickets, bedbugs, fleas, ticks, ants, moths, cockroaches, flies, mice and rats. How to control them—that is my story, for not to check their ravages is dangerous. They peddle disease.

I believe prevention the best method of control. Most of these creatures seek our homes for food, warmth and moisture; and some like darkness. Failure to provide these conditions naturally discourages the unwelcome visitors.

I try to keep the attic, basement, cave and all parts of the house well ventilated. I whitewash the cellar walls. I try to keep all foods and liquids covered securely and to dispose of waste quickly. I take particular pains to burn or to dry all damp cloths used in cleaning, because if left indoors they may harbor insect pests.

My rule is to consult the druggist when these creatures cause trouble. He can give information about fumigation, and he carries in stock many excellent powders and poisons for use in checking these invasions.

THE DISGUSTING FLY.

Flies are bred in any filth they can find. Consequently, keeping the farm clean helps to keep them out of the house. Screens and swatters are necessities. Occasionally the home is literally swamped with these disease carriers; especially is this true before a rain or a cold snap. I frequently burn or sprinkle insect powder about. This stupefies the flies, which are swept up immediately and burned. A poison I use effectively is one tablespoonful of formaldehyde added to one and one-fourth cupfuls of cool water. This I leave out in a flat dish all night, as flies drink early in the morning.

Flour beetles and weevils are found quite commonly in flour and cereals during the warm weather. They have an uncanny liking for cornmeal. After one of these insects gets into the house it is difficult to exterminate its progeny. I examine all flours and cereals as soon as they are purchased and return the infested products at once. If the insects get a start I immediately dispose of the flour or cereal and thoroughly wash the containers. The storage places I keep well ventilated, as these pests like damp, close quarters.

Crickets seek houses for warmth and food. As you know, they frequently cut holes in fabrics. The best way to discourage them is to keep all food covered.

Clothes moths may be avoided by having the woolen garments clean when they are put away and storing them in a light, airy place. Occasionally during the summer I air the woolens. Certain repellents are effective if the moths have not started to work. Among these are moth balls, cedar shavings, tobacco, the printers' ink on newspapers, and insect powder. I have a new collapsible cedarized chest of heavy paper in which I pack away our best coats and suits during the summer. For the girl who has no hope chest one of these cedarized containers would be a splendid substitute.

Carpet beetles enjoy woolen rugs, especially red ones. They cannot live in a home where a vacuum cleaner is used. If this type of cleaner is not available the rugs may be hung on the line frequently. In some cases it may be necessary to have the rugs dry-cleaned and steamed. Before putting the rugs down wash the floor with soapy water and kerosene and have all the cracks filled.

Ticks from farm animals bother occasionally. This is the man of the house's problem. He will have to rid the farm animals of the pest. Frequently dogs and cats become infested with fleas and carry the insects into the house. When the eggs laid on the floor begin to hatch, there is "a hot time for everyone," as my little brother once said. The rugs have to be taken up and aired and the floors scrubbed with soapy water. Pyrethrum powder sprinkled around also is effective.

BEST TO FUMIGATE.

Bedbugs migrate rapidly, making the warfare on them continual in cities. Before moving into a house containing them it is best to fumigate. Sulphur fumigation is good. Washing the bedding and spraying the mattress with gasoline or benzine, having the windows open and no fire in the room, will play havoc with this pest. The cracks in the floor and the mopboards must be treated. Equal parts of carbolic acid and turpentine will kill bedbugs, as will insect powder.

While ants are annoying, they are not so harmful to health as many other insects. I usually sprinkle red pepper on the shelves where they are bothering. If they are present in great numbers I burn insect powder every day for a week. Ants also dislike the odor of camphor. The best plan to use in the control of ants is to destroy their hill. I have found that by pouring kerosene in every day for a week the hill will be vacated.

I am glad that cockroaches are not abundant in most farm communities. They are such dirty insects that one hates to have them in the home. Here is how I fight them: The first night I sprinkle sodium fluoride around their haunts, the next night pyrethrum powder is used in the same manner, the following evening pyrethrum powder is burned, and the next night sodium fluoride is again sprinkled about and left in the cracks and crevices for several days. If roaches are seen after this I sprinkle powdered borax about.

A good cat is the best exterminator for mice and rats. Traps also are helpful. I always scald them after a rodent has been caught before setting again. Rubbing a trace of rhodium on the trap helps to attract rats.

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GOOD BULLS PAY DIVIDENDS 105

KEEP THE LOAD MOVING

It was a common parlance among the teamsters in the lumber woods to say, "Keep the load moving." The idea was that if a team once stopped it would be impossible to start the load again without much trouble.

The fact is that loads start hard. But, once under motion the momentum carries them along with comparatively little extra pull. Modern locomotives have auxiliary engines to aid in starting heavy trains which, when moving, can be easily pulled by the main engine.

This same principle holds good in other departments of life. The world's greatest automobile manufacturer recently stated that the expense of shutting down his plant was enormous. A commission man who is marketing a special brand of potatoes, remarked the other day to the writer that it was hard to introduce the brand; but, once started, the merit of the brand is carrying the business along easily.

The farmer has the same principle to deal with. He must keep his crops going once they are started, if he is to realize the largest profit. To stop their development means a loss of time that can never be regained, or additional plant food to pull them back to normal. Economy demands a supply of fertilizing elements that will bring the crop through without a stop. Good farm management provides such supplies, always.

GRASPING OPPORTUNITY.

Last week, while visiting with a farmer friend, we were informed that through the production of a superior grade of celery he had been able to capture the business of a city of four thousand population. His sales to the people of that city this season promises to reach the two thousand dollar mark. This man has a few acres of soil quite different from ninety-nine per cent. of the land of that territory. By his own initiative he has capitalized the peculiar qualities of his farm, instead of trying to compete with neighbors on crops unadapted to this soil.

In every community soil variations exist. Often these make possible special production, as in this case. It is for the highest good of the farming interests and of the consumers of the community, as well as to the personal advantage of the farmer to divert these lands to the purpose for which they are best adapted. These special situations require farming and business ability of a high order, which fact protects the one who has or can acquire the necessary acumen to carry on these special lines successfully.

JUST ABOUT DAD.

We just read a little ditty about dad. And being dad, we ought to be puffed up considerably. But, well, we're just not. This eulogy of the head of the house, if you please, says that even if dad is not dressed up like a shiek, he is your father and as such has struggled to keep things going. And besides, he thinks you are the greatest boy on earth. It says he is "some man" instead of the "old man."

The one who wrote that must have been an idealist. Perhaps he had just become inflated with pride at the arrival of a baby boy. It is true that the ideal father is all that the word father implies. He makes sacrifices, he has patience, he wants to help his son to grow to worthy manhood, he chums with him and does those things which are an inspiration to the boy. But how many of us are ideals?

And, lest we forget, that boy of yours has dad pretty well sized-up. He knows about where his dad stands in the rating of manhood. He knows when dad demands of son something that he does not demand of himself. And he knows at least a few things he has not told you.

Of course, we cannot be ideal, being human. But we wonder if it would not be a good thing to check up once in a while to see if we can not do something to bring ourselves a little closer to the ideal than we now are. Such a checking up might make us greater assets to the boys than we now are, and it wouldn't hurt dad a bit.

Locating My Perennial Garden.

I like a good perennial garden. It contains the asparagus, rhubarb, sage, and other herbs, and a good plot for horseradish. The latter is not really grown as a perennial but as it sprouts badly and becomes a pest if other crops are planted where it has been once, I prefer to set it to horseradish each year, feeding it liberally, for the large roots planted will make a growth that will not take harm from the smaller growth of the rootlets left in the ground. Both asparagus, and rhubarb want the soil very rich, and a heavy mulching with stable manure each winter is the best way to grow it. Many use salt freely on the asparagus as it will keep weeds from growing, and does not harm the asparagus. Some have contended it is a benefit, but I think not.—A. H.

There is one thing about those indecent plays and movies; if people really lived like that they would not have any curiosity about seeing such things in plays.

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