

Cucumber Beetle Causes Much Harm In The Maritimes

Squash, Pumpkin and Melon Plants Receive Most Damage.

Press and Publicity Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario.

The striped cucumber beetle is the annual enemy of cucumber, squash, pumpkin, and melon plants, attacking them as soon as they appear above ground, eating portions of the seed leaves and frequently killing plants. If plants can reach the stage when four or five true leaves have developed, they are then able to withstand injury.

The Entomological Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture advises that complete protection can be afforded plants in the seedling stage by placing over them protective covers of wire netting, cheesecloth or mosquito bar on some supporting device. A common form is a light frame of 6-inch side-boards, one foot square, with mosquito bar tacked on the top. Earth is banked against the sides to keep beetles from getting under the boards and the covering left until the plants are large enough to touch the covering. For small beds the frame may be made larger, 12 by 3 feet, and larger pieces of mosquito bar or cheesecloth made. For gardens and small fields this protective covering is the best protective device known. The frames may be used for years.

In commercial growing, partial protection, sufficient to secure a good crop, is commonly obtained by planting a large number of seeds so that allowance may be made for some loss of plants and by reducing injury through the use of various repellent dusts when the beetles are present. Any finely powdered dust applied to the underside of the leaves when the beetles are active has a repellent effect. Lime is frequently used but has a drying effect on the wounded plant tissue. Powdered gypsum, or finely ground talc, has less injurious effect. Commercial growers frequently use lead arsenate powder alone or partially diluted with gypsum or other fine dust. The dust applications need to be repeated at three-day intervals for two weeks. Various commercial dusts for the purpose are on the market.

The insects may be killed by the use of four per cent. nicotine sulphate dust applied in bright sunlight but on account of the

AGRICULTURE

WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL STATION, FREDERICTON, N. B.

The bees at the Dominion Experimental Station, Fredericton, were wintered very successfully and are now in good condition for a honey crop. Although the past winter was not as severe as the winter of 1933-34, it was nevertheless somewhat colder than an average winter in this locality.

Brood rearing was well advanced on April 8 and most colonies had brood in all stages of development. This is somewhat different from spring condition of colonies in 1934, at which time brood rearing had only commenced. Although brood rearing commenced earlier than usual this spring, colonies are no further advanced. The cold backward spring retarded rapid increase in strength of colonies during April and first part of May. During the last two weeks, the weather conditions have been more favorable and colonies have shown an increase in strength.

No poisoning during fruit bloom has been experienced this year. Some of the strongest colonies stored a fair amount of nectar during the apple and dandelion bloom. Notwithstanding this fact, many of the colonies are short of stores and feeding has commenced. Enough stores to last until the beginning of the clover flow will be given. The sugar syrup fed at this time of the year

is made by mixing equal parts of white granulated sugar with water. Brood rearing should reach its peak by the last of this month and colonies consume more stores now than at any other time of the year. The importance of seeing that all colonies are well fed at this critical time may mean the difference between success and failure at the end of the golden harvest.

Besides a number of regular projects, the Fredericton Experimental Station is carrying on one of special interest, namely, "Package Bees as a Means of Starting Colonies." The object of this experiment is to ascertain if package bees are profitable for starting new colonies in New Brunswick, also most suitable date for installation of same. Twenty-one packages are being used in this experiment. Package bees have proven a profitable investment for Western beekeepers and are now gaining world wide popularity. It is thought that beekeepers in New Brunswick may also find them a profitable investment.

Results gained to date from package bees purchase from Alabama this spring seem to indicate that package bees should be installed the last week in April or first week in May, if best results are to be expected.

Birds And Animals Are Infested With Small Parasites

More Than 2,000 Species Are Known To Exist.

Press and Publicity Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario

Most species of birds and animals are subject to infestation by small insect parasites known as biting lice. These parasites are related to the sucking lice, which were so troublesome to soldiers in the Great War. The biting lice pass their whole lives on the bodies of birds and animals and soon die if removed from their hosts. There are more than 2,000 known species in the world, the majority occurring on birds. Some of these species infest domestic poultry and, when numerous, cause loss of weight and decrease in egg production; others are a pest on cattle and horses.

A survey to determine the number of species of these lice on wild and domestic birds and animals in Canada is being carried out under the direction of the Dominion Entomologist. Ornithologists, taxidermists, game wardens, naturalists and others whose activities bring them in close contact with wild life, are co-operating by collecting lice and sending them to Ottawa where they are mounted on slides and examined and classified under the microscope.

SIZES OF CANNED PEAS

Canned peas have the size of the pea stated on the label of the can. No. 1 is a very small pea; No. 2 is larger; No. 3 still larger, and so on. The size of peas in no ways depends on the quality nor the quality on the size.

Most Weed Seeds Retain Vitality For Several Years

When Deep Plowed, Seed Will Not Germinate.

The seeds of most annual weeds when embedded in the soil retain their vitality for several years. The seeds of the mustard family and others, when plowed down after ripening, seldom germinate the following year and not until they are brought nearer the surface by further cultivation. Light surface cultivation during the early autumn usually serves to stimulate germination in freshly ripened weed seeds. Thus, a considerable proportion of them may be destroyed, while, on the other hand, by deep plowing the difficulty is simply deferred to succeeding years.

The germination of weeds, as well as other seeds, is affected by heat. Many kinds of weed seeds, such as some grasses and mustards will germinate in the late autumn or early spring when the soil is cold. Others, such as buckwheat and lamb's quarters, require a warmer soil, and the seeds of foxtail and purslane continue dormant until stimulated by the heat of summer. Late autumn or early spring cultivation is not effective in destroying the seeds of weeds that will not germinate unless the soil is warm.

Some of the worst weeds are so prolific in the production of seeds that relatively clean fields may become badly contaminated in two or three years if the weeds are allowed to go to seed. For instance, a single plant of wild mustard, stinkweed, foxtail, pigweed, or campion produces from 10,000 to 20,000 seeds; worm-seed mustard about 25,000; shepherd's purse about 50,000, and tumbling mustard about 1,500,000. With such productiveness, soils become quickly infested with weed seeds, although, on account of their inconspicuousness, their presence is not fully realized. The whole subject is dealt with in an illustrated publication, "Weeds and Weed Seeds," issued free by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Apple Orchards In New Brunswick Promising Well

Period of Bloom Indicates Big Yield During Present Season.

Fredericton, N.B.—The splendid bloom recently shown by apple orchards in the fruit growing districts of the Saint John River valley presages one of the largest McIntosh crops ever recorded in this province.

Summer and early fall varieties also bloomed well and other varieties such as Dudley, Wealthy, Alexander, Wolf River and Milwaukee promise fair to good crops depending on the extent to which they bore last year.

The period of bloom was at its best from June 4 to 7. Orchards in the part of the Saint John valley below Hampstead were two to three days behind those in the Gagetown, Burton and Fredericton districts. Perfect weather throughout the period of bloom ensured favorable conditions for pollination. The rains during the early part of this week have greatly improved growing conditions.

The heavy bloom on McIntosh trees, both young and old, was particularly noticeable from Westfield to a point some miles west of Fredericton. Fameuse, which sustained considerable injury during the winter of 1934 and consequently bore lightly last year, in most cases showed full bloom again this spring. An encouraging feature was the good condition of young orchards, from five to ten years old, just coming into bearing.

Weather conditions have also favored the growth of strawberries and raspberries.

TREES CHANGE PRAIRIES

Conquest, Sask.—Newly planted trees and shrubs are changing the topography of this little prairie community and farm groves are an attractive feature of the work. An additional 17 miles has been planted to trees and shrubs. In addition to beautifying the countryside they provide excellent wind-breaks and prevent the soil from drifting.

SOYA BEAN INSTEAD OF MILK

In China, at dinner-parties or feasts, soya bean "bean curd" is often served. It appears in little white cubes and tastes like burnt milk. The Chinese have no cows, no milk to give their children. When a mother is unable to nurse her baby the child is fed on a preparation of soya bean with excellent results.



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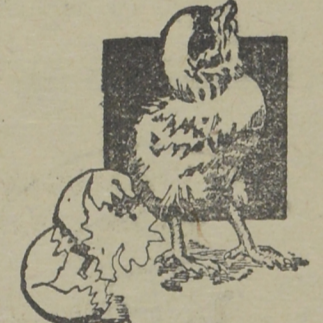
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