

Some Comment Is Offered On The Control Of Insects

Amateur Gardeners Are Up Against This Problem Every Year.

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

As the days lengthen and the weather somewhat reluctantly warms up, the thoughts of city and country dwellers automatically turn to the soil and to the gardens. Gardens present many problems but probably the one most difficult to solve is the perennial one, namely, how to control insects that appear to be present each year waiting for the young seedlings to peep through the soil.

At this season of the year a few general rules and recommendations regarding the control of insects might not come amiss. Many of the most injurious species of insects have passed the winter in or under old plant refuse near the garden. Such should be gathered up and burned, or handed over to the garbage man, in early spring before warm weather has lured the insects from hibernation. The eggs of many species are laid in the autumn on grass and weeds growing in or surrounding the garden. The burning over of such areas destroys these eggs as well as many adults and larvae hidden away in the dead and matted grass near the soil surface.

Sturdy, rapidly growing plants are less liable to attack than weak, spindly ones—for this reason seedlings should be induced to get away to a quick start by careful preparation of the soil, the liberal use of fertilizers and intelligent choice of planting dates. Delay planting until the soil warms up properly, since plants from late-sown seed practically always develop more rapidly than is the case when the seed is placed in cold, wet ground.

In the vegetable garden cutworms may be looked for almost with certainty. Other insects which commonly occur are the onion maggot, cabbage maggot, cabbage worm, Colorado potato beetle, slugs (particularly in damp situations) and, under certain circumstances, wireworms, millipedes and white grubs. Growers interested in the production of flowers have to fear chiefly cutworms, tarnished plant bugs, aphids, leaf-hoppers, boring caterpillars of different species, gladiolus thrips, millipedes and slugs.

Most of these insects can be easily controlled if the proper methods are followed and if remedial measures are applied sufficiently early. To assist in doing this a small supply of insecticides should be procured in the spring to be on hand when needed. A working list should include arsenate of lead, Paris green, nicotine sulphate, hydrated lime, bran and, if cabbages and onions are grown, corrosive sublimate. None of the above materials will deteriorate if kept from year to year in a dry place.

Information and assistance regarding the control of insects may be secured at any time by applying to the Dominion Entomologist, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

WOOL EXPORTS

Canadian wool exported to Germany in 1935 amounted to 883,000 pounds, as compared with 3,300 pounds in 1934. Considerable quantities of Canadian horsehair also have found a market in Germany in recent years.

APPLE EXPORTS

Apple exports from Canada during the present season up to April 13, 1936, totalled 1,432,582 barrels; 35,883 half-barrels; and 2,199,010 boxes, an increase of 91,405 barrels and 465,832 boxes, and a decrease of 8,325 half-barrels, compared with the 1934-35 season.

AGRICULTURE

Some Advice On Fertilizers And How To Use Them

Primary Function Is To Provide Three Elements of Fertility.

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

The primary function of commercial fertilizers is to furnish in available form one or more of the three elements of fertility, nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash. To predict with a fair degree of precision the amount of these elements necessary to apply to the soil to produce maximum yields is, states C. H. Robinson, Dominion Chemist, Dominion Experimental Farms, an extremely difficult matter. Factors, such as texture of the soil, available plant food already present in the soil, previous manuring and cropping treatment, soil reaction, climatic conditions and drainage, may affect the results obtained from the application of the added fertilizing constituents.

While it has been customary to give particular attention to the nature of the crop in deciding on the fertilizer, it is being recognized more and more that a knowledge of the amounts of available fertilizing constituents present in the soil is of importance. With such data on hand, the effect of an abnormal deficiency or over abundance of either nitrogen, phosphoric acid, or potash, may be overcome to a very considerable extent by an adjustment of the ratio between the plant food elements furnished in the fertilizer. For example, the 4-8-10 mixture is considered to be an excellent one for market garden and potato crops but, if it is known that the soil is exceptionally well supplied with nitrogen, it is possible that a fertilizer containing less nitrogen would prove more profitable.

Further, an insufficient supply in an available form of elements other than those supplied by the commercial fertilizer may seriously affect crop yields. If the soil is strongly acid and low in lime content, this condition must be corrected for best returns from the application of fertilizers, particularly in the case of legume crops. In certain of the potato growing districts of New Brunswick it has been found that the addition to the fertilizer of a small amount of a magnesium compound, such as ground dolomite or keiserite, overcomes poor crop development thought to be brought about by an insufficient supply of available magnesium in the soil. A certain measure of success in the control of physiological disorders of crops has been obtained by the application of trace elements, such as boron and manganese. Particular attention is being given to the use of small dressings of borax as a means of control of brown heart in turnips and crown rot of sugar beets and mangels.

TOBACCO MARKET

For the past 300 years Great Britain has been one of the world's principal tobacco markets. From a mere 20,000 pounds imported in 1618 and 36,000,000 pounds in 1730, the trade has grown until today 200,000,000 pounds are imported annually, of which United Kingdom smokers consume 150,000,000 pounds. Considerable quantities of Canadian tobacco are shipped yearly to the United Kingdom.

Canadian-made maple skewers are highly regarded in the British Isles.

A WIDE SELECTION IN CANADA'S MIXED FEEDS

FARMERS in Canada have a wide range of ready-mixed feeds from which to select their requirements. Indeed, these preparations are becoming so numerous as to be almost confusing to the farmer in making his selection. In 1935 there were no fewer than 1,388 brands of mixed feed registered under the Feeding Stuffs Act. Individual manufacturers registered as high as twenty-two brands of poultry feed alone and thirty-six brands of all kinds of feed.

Poultry feeds led all the others by a wide margin and accounted for 1,010 of the total brands registered. There were 384 brands of laying mash, 209 chick starting and 182 chick growing or developing mashes. Ready-mixed feeds for animals are much less numerous than those for poultry. Still there were 140 dairy cattle feeds, 63 calf meals and 64 hog feeds registered as well as a few brands for horses, sheep and goats.

Also included in the registrations were 59 brands of feed not designated for any specific class of stock. Many of these are characterized by a low protein and a high fibre content and are often referred to as "price feeds." Some of them are obviously designed to provide a market outlet for by-products, which if offered under their common names would not meet with popular demand.

How To Improve The Home Grounds

Practically every householder in the country or an urban centre has a desire to have attractive surroundings and nothing will do so much in this way at so small a cost as the planting of trees, shrubs, plants and vines. Within the next few weeks is the best time for planting, but such work should be done on some definite plan in order to get the most pleasing results.

Then there is the question of just what to plant. This and a wide range of other questions is answered in the handbook: "Beautifying the Home Grounds of Canada" issued by the Horticultural Council of Canada, 114 Vittoria Street, Ottawa. The opening chapter is on Landscape Architecture—Arranging and Planting the Home Grounds, written so that the most junior tyro in gardening can readily understand. There are plans to illustrate the arrangement of lawns, gardens and plantings for the average small house with pictures of what engaging results can be attained. There is also a special chapter dealing with Planting the Farm Home Grounds.

How to Establish and Maintain a Rock Garden is also fully described and plans are given to indicate how to get the most effective layout. Every conceivable detail about arranging lawns, gardens and plantings is given in the book, which concludes with a complete list of trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials and annuals that are suitable for planting in each province prepared by Provincial Horticulturists. Each shrub or plant is listed under its common name with its botanical name in brackets.

There is only a very limited number of these books available and when the present supply is exhausted it will not be reprinted by the Horticultural Council of Canada.

Sheep Should Be Dipped As Soon As They Are Clipped

Remarkable Improvement in Wool Clip in Canada.

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

In recent years there has been a remarkable improvement in the wool clip of Canada, due in a large measure to regular dipping of the sheep and more careful feeding methods. There are two external parasites common to sheep, namely, ticks and lice. Sheep ticks are recognized as being the most common pest, but both ticks and lice cause serious loss of wool and give the flock a very unsightly appearance. As pointed out in the "Sheep Dipping" circular issued by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, these pests sap the vitality of the ewe flock and young lambs, reducing their condition. In slightly affected flocks the ravages of the pests are not so evident, but cases have been known where death has resulted through heavy infestation. Dipping is the precaution and cure.

Dipping time, or at least the best time for dipping, has arrived because sheep should be treated immediately after shearing. Nowadays, with the advent of modern arsenic powder dips, dipping is a simple task and all necessary information is easily obtainable from the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture and from the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers. For a small flock it is not necessary to construct an elaborate dipping plant. A barrel large enough to hold sufficient liquid to immerse a sheep will answer the purpose. A small trough, say 5 feet 6 inches long, 20 inches deep, 20 inches wide at the bottom, and 24 inches wide at the top has proved its efficiency on many occasions, and a small draining platform can be built without trouble, where the dipped sheep can be allowed to stand for a few minutes until the dip drains out of the fleece and back into the dipping utensil. In the case of an odd sheep where there is no flock and no tank available, dusting with insect powders specially manufactured for the purpose has proven effective but requires time and patience. Any kind of insect powder will not do.

DRUGS For The FARM COST LESS AT WASSONS

Copperas	5lb for	29c
Castor Oil, 16 oz		65c
Cresol, 40 oz		55c
Blue Vitriol, lb		25c
Epsom Salts	5lb for	25c
Fowler's Solution, 16 oz.	bottle	50c
Flaxseed	2lb for	25c
Foenugrek, lb		40c
Glycerine, 16 oz.		55c
Glauber Salt, lb		20c

Hy-Pure Full Pound
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Nema Worm Capsules,
25c 30c, 35c to \$1.50.

WASSONS
DRUG STORES

Some Fertilizers For Town Garden Use Are Suggested

Lack of Stable Manure Makes Commercial Fertilizers Necessary.

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

The supply of stable manure for the city and town garden is now somewhat difficult to get consequently substitutes must be used. Pulverized peat, leaf mold or leaves dug into the garden in the fall will supply the humus satisfactorily and the plant food may be added in the form of commercial fertilizers.

For most gardens a commercial fertilizer containing about four per cent. of nitrogen, ten per cent. of available phosphoric acid and eight per cent. of potash soluble in water, applied at the rate of about five pounds per 100 square feet of garden will give good results. There are many other fertilizers satisfactory for the purpose in point of analysis such as 5-8-7, 3-10-8 and 4-8-10. Dried and pulverized sheep and poultry manure are also satisfactory when applied liberally (say ten pounds per 100 square feet) for the plant food content of these is comparatively low i.e. two per cent. of nitrogen, one per cent. of available phosphoric acid and two per cent. of potash.

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