

ENEMY TO THE SCALE.

A Fungus Discovered Which May Rid the Country of a Formidable Pest.

While in attendance upon a farmers' session of the Chautauqua of De Funiak, Prof. P. H. Rolfs of the Florida experiment station, made the unwelcome discovery that the San Jose scale was in this state in vast numbers at that one place, and possibly in others.

Prof. Rolfe is an indefatigable investigator, who has rendered great service in Florida; and he has left no stone unturned in the hope that he might find some way of combatting this terrible pest through natural means. In the course of his examinations he discovered that the scale was dead on certain trees to which no treatment or spraying had been applied, and he set to work to discover the cause of this phenomenon. He found that the mortality of the insect was due to a fungus, a moribific spore, which fastened itself upon the scale and sucked the life out of it.

While it is yet too early to make a detailed statement as to this disease of the San Jose scale, it may be stated that the subject is now in the hands of the best agricultural entomologists of the east and north, where it will be given thorough examination. I have the permission of a professor (who does not court notoriety) to make the following general statement:

1. The fungus is a native of Florida, hence we can always secure a supply for starting an infection.
2. It can be propagated artificially with as much ease and success as the average fungi.
3. It may be produced in unlimited quantities.
4. Orchardists who were not scientists have applied it with success.
5. The spores may be applied just as insecticides are, that is, with a spraying machine.
6. The use of this fungus is limited to a few scale insects.
7. The infection by these spores depends upon certain meteorological conditions, which, however, may be imitated to induce infection.

As Prof. Rolfs modestly says: "The discovery of this fungus disease appears to mark the beginning of an important change in the methods of combating the San Jose scale. I have demonstrated that it may be used practically and profitably in Florida."—Correspondence Country Gentleman.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES.

The importance of the fertilization of fruits was a subject treated at the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Horticultural Society by Prof. Green, of Minnesota, who said that not only trees of the

same variety, but also those of different varieties, in an orchard, should not be planted in blocks, but intermixed to some extent. This rule also held good with corn and other kinds of grain. Test experiments had proved this.

The fruit is dropping from the prune trees very badly in Sonoma county, Cal., according to the Sonoma Farmer. Some trees have none left; others from 15 to 25 per cent. Some of the trees are dying and others have not enough life to develop the small amount of fruit left on them. A hard freeze in March when the sap was up is supposed to have caused the damage.

A Minneapolis jobber recently told the Bulletin and Trade, of that city, that in his opinion dried fruits are giving the cheaper grades of canned fruits a hard run. Some of the dried fruits now are put up in such nice shape, and, if from clean factories, they have a better demand any time than canned fruit, except the extras. The only thing which is said against dried fruits is that they are apt to contain a little sand. This, of course, would not apply to fruits cured in evaporators.

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