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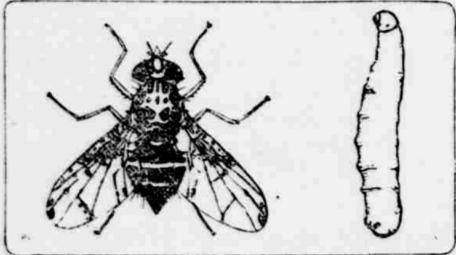
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**MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY IS SERIOUS DRAWBACK TO SUCCESSFUL CULTIVATION**

Considerable Interest in Very Destructive Insect Recently Aroused by Action of Department of Agriculture in Calling for Hearings on Advisability of Quarantine.



The Mediterranean Fruit Fly and Larva. (Greatly Magnified.)

The recent announcement of Secretary Wilson of the department of agriculture of his purpose to hold hearings for the purpose of determining the advisability of a quarantine against importations of plants, fruits or trees from countries where the Mediterranean fruit fly is known to exist, has aroused considerable interest in this very destructive insect, and there have been many demands on the department for information concerning it. To meet this demand Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the bureau of entomology, has had prepared a circular—No. 169 of his bureau—of which A. L. Quaintance is the author.

That the Mediterranean fruit fly is a most serious drawback to the successful cultivation of fruit in the countries where it is established, there can be no question. Indeed, the cultivation of fruits is scarcely possible in the worst infested regions. The fruit-growing industry of Bermuda was practically destroyed many years ago by the introduction of the insect into that island. Its introduction into the United States in all probability would be calamitous to the orchard interests of our more southern states and of California, in which regions it would find conditions very similar to those in countries where it now exists in most destructive numbers. By the establishment of a strict quarantine, such as proposed by the secretary, it is believed that it will be possible to prevent its disaster to the American fruit industry.

The greatest amount of damage is done to the ripening fruit by the female, which, with her sharp ovipositor, pierces the fruit and deposits the small glistening white eggs just underneath the skin. These hatch in a very short time, two to four days in midsummer. Their development, however, depends upon the ripeness of fruit—in all probability if the fruit is green, the eggs will not hatch. The larvae or "maggots" when hatched at once

begin to feed on the pulp of the fruit. In apricots they make straight for the center; in peaches and other fruits they are more inclined to work out in different directions. When fully developed, which usually requires a fortnight or three weeks, they leave the fruit, which has previously fallen, and enter the ground. Here they soon change to the pupal stage, and remain for 12 days to three weeks, when they become transformed into a fly, completing one generation.

The governments of certain countries have put in force regulations for the enforced control of fruit flies, and in each instance the principle followed has been the inspection of orchards and cleaning up and destruction of all fallen fruit. At the present time the United States authorities are experimenting with the "poison-bait" method of controlling the insect, similar to that tried in South Africa. In that case the bait consisted of a solution of five gallons of molasses, one pound of arsenate of lead, and 25 gallons of water. This was used in the form of a spray evenly distributed over the trees, bushes, prickly pears, etc. Not only were thousands of the flies prevented from reaching maturity, but the deposition of eggs in the fruit already ripening was almost completely stopped. The fruit on all the late varieties of treated trees ripened perfectly, and was sold on the market and guaranteed free from the maggots. On the trees that were not sprayed the situation was just the reverse, almost every ripe fruit being infested by maggots ranging from newly hatched to fully developed. The pupae were also present under some of the decaying peaches, and there were numerous flies flitting about the trees. The poison-bait method of controlling the fly appears entirely feasible in this country, especially in more or less arid regions, where the spray cannot be washed off by rains, and is not otherwise disturbed.

**GRAPES NOT HURT BY HONEY BEES**

Busy Little Workers Never Puncture Skin of Luscious Fruit, Says Expert.

There are some subjects on which it is impossible to convince our older farmers and fruit growers that their inherited notions are at fault. No amount of scientific assertion and demonstration by the highest authorities avail to change their opinions or to make them hesitate to assert and reassert them in their communications to agricultural journals and in meetings of societies where such questions are discussed.

One of these is that under certain climatic or other conditions wheat seed is transformed to chess seed; and another—much vouchered for at this season—is that bees are injurious to grapes, says a writer in the Farm Progress.

Again and again have the most careful observers announced in lectures and published horticultural journals that they had never seen a honey bee cut the skin of a ripe grape or of any other fruit.

Of course, it was freely admitted that bees were often seen sipping the juices of grapes that had been pecked by birds or clipped by the sharp jaws of wasps and other insects; and in this they do no harm, for a punctured or injured grape is of no further value to the vineyardist.

In an endeavor to settle this matter beyond dispute, Dr. Riley, while entomologist of the Department of Agriculture, authorized one of his assistants to investigate the matter thoroughly; and to do this a portion of a grape trellis with bearing vines enclosed in the most secure manner under a wire screened tent of considerable size, together with a hive of bees, with sufficient honey for their sustenance. As the grapes ripened the clusters were under almost constant inspection during the daylight hours, and though the bees buzzed about them, never once during a period of several weeks was a bee seen to cut a grape, though when some were partly crushed by the attendant, the bees were eager for a sip of the fresh juice.

It would seem that nothing could be more conclusive for the exculpation of the bees from the charge of being depredators in vineyards, backed, as it is, by many other observations on

the actions of bees in the open; and yet the same charge is made, year after year, by grape growers who experience loss in having their clusters mutilated, and who seem determined to consider the harmless bees as the principal source of the trouble.

**FERTILIZER FOR GREENHOUSE USE**

Many Weed Seeds and Disease Germs Contained in Ordinary Stable Manure.

The use of rotted stable manure as a source of greenhouse plant food has been the custom for so many years that more effective forms of plant food make headway slowly; yet this rotted stable manure has many disadvantages. It always contains more or less weed seeds as well as disease germs, and it supplies plant food in available form very irregularly.

Also by fermentation it materially influences the temperature of the peat bed, a temperature we have no means of regulating. The ammonia it contains is not nitrated, hence for forcing it cannot be safely relied upon. For greenhouse work the fertilizer chemicals should be used, such as nitrate of soda, acid phosphate, and sulphate of potash. They should always be used in such proportions that 100 pounds of ammoniate nitrogen are always accompanied by 20 pounds of phosphoric acid and 70 pounds of actual potash.

The quantity to be applied should correspond to about three-fourths of an ounce of ammoniate nitrogen per square yard of surface; that is, to each yard of bench, use about five ounces of nitrate of soda, three ounces of acid phosphate and two ounces of sulphate of potash. A mixture of these proportions may be dissolved in water and applied in small proportions every few days, taking care, however, to cease applications with those plants it is desired to fully mature as soon as the desired growth is made.

**Good Pasture Requirement.**  
Time was when the hogs were supposed to have had excellent care when they had all the grain and slop they wanted in an 8x10 pen. Nowadays a good pasture of clover, alfalfa or rape is considered an indispensable adjunct in the hog raising business by all farmers who are interested in economical pork production.

**FOR THE AFTERNOON TEA**

New Sandwich Idea That Carries With It a Distinct Sense of the Appetizing.

America has the best oysters and salads of any country in the world. Mrs. Lily Hawthorn Wallace, the English cooking expert, told the women at a pure food show cooking lesson at New York.

"The best way to cook an oyster," said Mrs. Wallace, "is not to cook it at all. There is an English saying, 'The more you do to an oyster the more it will do to you.' That means that the more you cook it the less nourishment you get."

But she gave them recipes to cook the best oyster in the world, the American oyster, if they were not content to eat it raw. The American salad is the best in the world, Mrs. Wallace says, because America has the greatest variety of fruits, vegetables, and other products of the garden and field. She gave the women a recipe for a new sandwich that a number of them said they were going to try immediately for afternoon tea.

Two ounces of almonds are salted and ground for the egg and almond sandwich and passed through the meat chopper. Two finely minced hard-boiled eggs, blended with two tablespoonsful of butter, are added, and the whole is seasoned and spread between thin slices of bread.

**DOES AWAY WITH DRUDGERY**

Dish-Drying Racks, Home Made, will Lighten Labor Always Considered Disagreeable.

In the removal, washing, and replacing of dishes there is room for much improvement. This duty is usually disliked, but under proper management it should not be distasteful. First, there is the use of the service truck. This is a small table of two or three shelves, mounted on rather large wheels, used to transport dishes between the table and the serving pantry. There are several dish-washing machines, but for the average household they are not required. However, every household can use, and should adopt, drying racks. These may be easily made. If made of metal and glass, with shelves of round wooden rods, lamps placed near the bottom will give sufficient heat to dry dishes quite rapidly. The drying rack should be placed near the washer, so that as the dishes are washed they may be placed within. The washing and drying process may be accurately timed, and a half standard determined.

**IN THE KITCHEN**

To give an alabaster effect to plaster casts dip them in a strong solution of alum water.

To remove hot water marks from japanned trays use sweet oil. Rub it in well till all the marks disappear, then polish the tray with flour and a soft cloth.

When packing plaited skirts for a journey, back the plait down, lay them straight, and they need not be pressed when you arrive.

A good place to pack necessary bottles of liquids is to place them in an old shoe. They are less likely to be broken, and if they are the shoe will absorb nearly all of the contents and liquid will not be seriously injured.

A delicious and cheap dessert is made by pouring the juice of grapefruit over sliced bananas. They should be well chilled, and served in tall glasses with powdered sugar. One large grapefruit will serve eight people. Of course no cream nor lemon juice is needed with this.

**Cracker Omelet.**

Beat the yolks of six eggs until light, season to taste with pepper and salt, add one cup of milk and one cup of powdered crackers and fold in the stiffly beaten whites. Melt one tablespoon of butter in a large omelet pan, pour in the mixture, cook on the bottom, then finish the cooking in the oven or under the flame in the broiler of the gas stove. When firm to the touch, turn out on a hot dish and serve immediately.

**Delicious Pan Stew.**

Use for cold breakfast: Take pieces of cold beefsteak and cut them up small. Put in bottom of pan, dredge with flour, pepper and salt and one onion. Slice cold potatoes on the meat, add a few tomatoes cut up or half a can of tomatoes. Cover with water and cook half hour, and you will have a delicious pan stew.

**Orange Float.**

Two cups white sugar, juice of one lemon, one quart of boiling water, four tablespoons of cornstarch, wet with cold water, one tablespoon butter. Cook until thick. When cold pour over four or five oranges and the sugar, set on ice and serve cold.

**Consomme Jelly.**

Clear soup stock by mixing with cold with whites of two eggs beaten and two eggshells. Let come slowly to a boil, then strain. Add one teaspoonful of gelatine to ten cups of bouillon. Pack in ice and serve.

**Apple Dessert.**

Peel and core the apples, halve them, take one-half slices of bread and two eggshells. Let come slowly to a boil, then strain. Lay one-half apple on bread, core down, sprinkle more sugar and little cinnamon. Bake.



**DAIRY**

**FALL FRESH COWS ARE BEST**

If Bull is Confined and Service Controlled, Animals May Be Managed to Suit Owner's Wish.

(By W. H. UNDERWOOD.)  
It is a well known fact that by far a greater number of dairy cows are allowed to follow the most natural course, and either by indifference or intention, they freshen in the spring. The producer of milk for sale, if he has an even trade, may want to have an even number of fresh cows in every month of the year.

If the bull is kept confined and service controlled, this can be regulated as a rule, although unpleasant irregularities in breeding will sometimes occur and probably result in abortion.

First, if the prime object is to produce the greatest quantity of milk of the best quality and the greatest profit with any given number of cows with



Prize Holstein Cow.

In a year, evidence is overwhelming that the cows should be managed so as to calve during the autumn months.

For like reasons, September is the best month in most parts of the country, for a heifer to drop her first calf in order to best develop as a cow. This almost regardless of the animal at the first calving.

Calves born in the fall are made easily reared, and make better cows than those born in the spring and summer. It seems needless to rehearse the most argument on the subject, based on long experience of successful dairymen, but a brief recapitulation may be useful.

The cow or heifer calving in the fall needs the most healthful and nutritious pasturage just following the strain while coming into full flow. Just at this time, when some falling off is likely to occur, the animal is brought to the stable and receives good care; the winter feeding and the returns from it may be depended upon to exceed the midsummer results for any like period.

At the stage of milking and gestation, when another drop-off of the milk yield may be looked for, the fresh pastures induce a fresh cow, lengthen the milking season and increase the year's total product.

December and January are good months in which to control and supervise the service of a bull. Midsummer and the dog days are a good time for the cow to be dry and preparing to calve again.

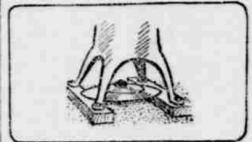
With fall-fresh cows, the greatest and richest product comes at the season when milk and butter are always comparatively high in price.

In actual practice four fall-fresh cows have been found equal to five which calved in the spring in 12 months' product and at about four-fifths the cost.

**MAKE THE SKIMMER SECURE**

Scheme for Fastening Cream Separator to Cement Floor Tried and Found Very Satisfactory.

Here is a scheme for fastening a cream separator down on a cement floor which we have tried and found very satisfactory. Before putting in the separator, a three-fourth inch bolt was threaded to the middle, then put through a hole in a small piece of scrap iron, writes Dan Bell of La Crosse, Kan., in the Farmer's Mail and Breeze. "The bolt and iron were firmly imbedded in the fresh cement, leaving the threaded end sticking out. The base of the separator was then firmly bolted to two pieces of two by four,



Fastening Cream Separator.

and the machine set directly over the bolt in the floor. Then an old disk from a disk harrow was slipped over the bolt on the edge extended out over the two by four on each side. A nut was screwed down tightly over the disk. In case the cement floor has allowed the bolt to sink out a hole about six inches square, making it laving at the bottom. Then set in your bolt and fill the hole with a mixture of equal parts cement and sand.

**Standing Water.**  
Standing water should never be allowed to remain where sheep and cattle can get free access to it, as it always has some kind of disease breeding purposes. And if they have the proper attention, so much required, nine times out of ten they will prove good breeders.

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**Bad Spells**  
"I suffered, during girlhood, from womanly weakness," writes Mrs. Mollie Navy, of Walnut, N. C. "At last, I was almost bed-ridden, and had to give up. We had three doctors. All the time, I was getting worse. I had bad spells, that lasted from 7 to 28 days. In one week, after I gave Cardui a trial, I could eat, sleep, and joke, as well as anybody. In 8 weeks, I was well. I had been an invalid for 5 weary years! Cardui relieved me, when everything else failed."  
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