

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

THE MOST LARGELY CIRCULATED FARM WEEKLY PUBLISHED BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND NEW ORLEANS.

Vol. XIX. No. 15.

RALEIGH, N. C., TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1904.

\$1 a Year.

## The Progressive Farmer.

CLARENCE H. POE, - - - Editor and Manager.  
B. W. KILGORE, }  
C. W. BURKETT, } - - - Agricultural Editors

### TALKS ON INSECT PESTS.

#### VII.—The Cabbage Louse.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

We have previously discussed the Harlequin cabbage bug, and Circular No. 8, of this office (which can be had on application), deals with it in detail. We will now consider the cabbage louse or cabbage aphid, which also frequently does severe damage to cabbage, collards and related crops.

Within the last few weeks we have had several complaints of this cabbage louse, two of which complaints were from Raleigh, so that we were thus given an opportunity to make some experiments and observations.

The lice appear on the plants soon after they are set out in the spring and gain nourishment by sucking the juices from the plant through their slender beaks which are thrust into the tissues of the plant. The fact that they thus suck the sap instead of eating the leaves is important, for it at once precludes the use of a poison like paris green for the reason that it would only remain on the surface of the leaves while the louse would continue to suck the sap from within. The lice multiply very rapidly by giving birth to living young (instead of laying eggs as is the case with most insects), and soon, as a result of their attacks, the leaves begin to curl in such a manner that the lice are hidden, even though abundant. Later, the leaves wilt over and the plant dies.

Nearly all of the plant-lice are more apt to be destructive during cool, damp seasons, and the abundance of this pest this spring is no doubt due to the prolonged cool weather. When it gets dry and hot, they are apt to disappear. This same statement holds true with regard to the cotton-louse also.

#### REMEDIES.

After the heads have been taken out of the cabbages, the remnants should be destroyed so that the lice cannot continue to live and multiply upon them. Vast numbers of the lice are thus produced after the crop for the year has been made, and they make provision for a large crop of lice for the next spring. It is of great importance, then, for the cabbage grower to clean up the remnants as soon as the crop is gathered.

The direct remedy to be applied when the louse is present and destructive is simple, though it is very difficult to make the application sufficiently thorough so as to reach them all, and two, or even three, applications may be necessary at intervals of five days or a week in order to check them effectually. We used an ordinary laundry lye soap, which we shaved into pieces in a kettle of water and dissolved over a fire. One and one-half pounds of the soap were thus dissolved in two gallons of water, when more water was added to make four gallons in all, which was then applied with a

knapsack pump. In other words, the remedy is to use lye soap at the rate of one and one-half pounds to four gallons of water, and applied as a spray.

Owing to the fact that the lice are covered with a fine grayish powder, they have a strong tendency to shed water and there must be enough pressure on the pump to throw the spray with considerable force so that the lice shall be completely wet with the application.

The curled leaves offers another difficulty, for they prevent the ready entrance of the spray. We found it perfectly practicable (and best) to have a boy, barefoot and with sleeves rolled up, to protect clothing, to go along and nimbly turn the leaves to and fro with the hands as they were being sprayed so that the treatment should reach them more thoroughly.

We made tests of other strengths of the soap and of kerosene emulsion, all of which were effective, but we decided upon this as being the most desirable from its simplicity and results. We made the first tests personally on the premises of Mrs. H. M. Sasser, near Raleigh, and later gave full directions for a similar treatment of the field of Mr. Wm. B. Jones, near Raleigh. In each case the treatment was fatal to all the lice that were hit by the spray, but as stated before, care must be taken to make the applications thorough and two or three applications at intervals of five days, or a week, may be necessary to secure best results.

Of course you must have a pump to do this work. If our fruit-growers and market-gardeners are not willing to provide themselves with good efficient spraying apparatus, they must expect to lose a great deal from the attacks of insects.

FRANKLIN SHERMAN, JR.,

Entomologist of Department of Agriculture,  
Raleigh, N. C.

#### Bees on the Farm.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

Last year I received stacks of letters from farmers in different portions of the State in regard to the improved methods of keeping bees. Now, I wonder of these farmers are still keeping their bees in the "old way"—in box hives and hollow logs, cracker boxes and nail kegs? Bees can be made to pay handsomely if cared for in the right way, and are not worth keeping unless given proper attention. With a little money invested in improved hives and modern fixtures, a big crop of honey may be obtained from a few hives with a reasonable amount of attention.

I take one of the improved hives and produce more honey, I will venture to say, than the average farmer can with a dozen or more box-hives—and get it out, too, in a shape that will command a fancy price. I produced on one box last year (spring count) over two hundred pounds of fine section honey. This was done, too, in town. If I can do this in town, with a comparatively poor field, what can the average farmer do with his clover fields and unlimited range? What I want to emphasize is, that bees can be made to pay, and pay well, on the farm, but the farmer will have to get rid of his old box-hives to do it. He will have to use an improved box of some kind. Some are better than others, of course, but the poorest patent is better than the box-hive. I have been corresponding with a bee-keeper in Florida, recently, who produced, in 1895, with one hundred

and sixteen colonies of bees, twenty and one-half tons of honey. Of course we people up here cannot, and do not expect, to do such wonderful things with bees, but we can do better than we are doing. With an improved box, and reasonable and intelligent attention, we can average anywhere from forty to sixty pounds per box. I have some boxes on my yard that will give me, in about ten days, from sixty-four to eighty pounds per box. The honey is now stored in the section boxes, and the bees are capping it as rapidly as possible. With the improved box, you can take your honey off continuously from May until frost. The boxes that now have sixty-four and eighty pounds in them will double that quantity before the spring and early summer flow is over, and with a good fall, another crop can be made.

I would like to say to the farmer, keep bees, but keep them in the right way; and if you won't keep them in the right way, then don't keep them at all.

Next week I will give you some points in regard to the management of bees, so that a big crop of honey may be obtained.

WALTER L. WOMBLE.

#### The Shiftless Farmer—Do you Know Him?

Editors Progressive Farmer:

Blake Johnson says he knows farmers who go to town six days in the week and leave little boys at home to do the work. Unfortunately, their name is legion. They are in almost every neighborhood. Their places look like widows' houses and their wives have to pick up wood along branches and glean the fence to get fire wood to cook their meals of Western pork and such vegetables as they can raise themselves. They have no houses for the fowls which sleep in trees and under the leaky shelter on his wagons and buggies. The wife had some chickens she had raised, but the gate was all to pieces and the sow got in and ate them up. The fruit trees are never trimmed; they have run away to wood till they bring no fruit but knotty, wormy things unfit to eat. These men have no time to do anything at home; their interest seems to be centered in town. They are deeply interested in the war in the Far East, and will go to the postoffice and wait for hours to get the news, and if perchance they happen to stay at home one day, they will stop at the end of the row, and talk politics with whoever may chance to come along, till the signal for dinner is given and then wait for their little boys, or even girls, to come and take their horses to the lot and feed them the best they may. The stable is a miserable pen, unfit for any animal to stay in, and is only cleaned when manure is obliged to be had.

Tell these men of the duties they owe to their families, and it is to them a fable. Tell them of the great possibilities that lay before them, and it is an iridescent dream; is it any wonder that hard times are present with such? Would it not be in any business followed the same way? Is it any wonder that the occupation under such management has fallen into bad repute?

Now, I don't know Blake Johnson, but he seems to be a man that has the courage of his convictions. I think he is right. In the interest of humanity, such men as he speaks of should be sentenced to the roads or some other penal servitude that they may have opportunity to reflect on their ways and think of the good women they are murdering. Perhaps some brother may get mad at this, but I have heard that as long as men get mad at being told of their faults, there is chance for reformation. They tell us this is a free country, and they have the right to do as they please, but freedom does not mean license to do wrong; and this conduct is unpardonable.

J. H. PARKER.

Perquimans Co., N. C.