

ORCHARD WORK FOR DECEMBER.

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CULTIVATION.

It is most important that the soil of the orchard or garden should receive proper attention. This applies equally to districts where December is usually dry and to others where there is generally more or less rain. Thorough working of the soil is essential; in the former case to destroy such growth of weeds and grass as may have followed the last cultivation, with a view to the conservation of as much moisture as possible, and in the case of the latter to prevent the growth becoming so rank that the ordinary light orchard cultivator would prove valueless for its removal and render the use of the plough necessary.

CODLIN-MOTH, LEAF-ROLLER CATERPILLAR, APPLE AND PEAR SCAB.

Spraying for the control of codlin-moth will require the careful attention of all growers in districts infested with this pest, as, with warmer weather setting in, the moth will be on the wing in increasing numbers. The first spraying of the season always presents some difficulties on account of the irregularity with which different varieties come into bloom, necessitating the spraying of some and passing-over of others for the time being. This difficulty should be obviated at the second spraying, for, the blossoming period being over and all fruit set, it should be possible to spray all apples and pears without distinction.

Growers may again be reminded that careful and thorough work is essential for the control of the pest. The underlying principle upon which successful spraying with arsenate of lead for the control of the moth depends should not be lost sight of. Arsenate of lead will not prevent the laying of the eggs by the moth or the hatching of the young grubs, so that prevention of infection can only lie in depositing a thin coating of poison on every part of every fruit, in order that the newly hatched grubs may find it impossible to penetrate the skin without taking sufficient of the arsenate to cause instant death. Complaints are occasionally received that the use of brands of arsenate of lead known to be of standard quality and thoroughly reliable has not prevented infection. In such instances there can be no doubt that failure has been due to the method of application and not to any defect in the material used; in fact, in some cases this