

ventive of injury by either will be found in the Bordeaux mixture, 4-5-50 formula, to which  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lb. arsenate of lead will be added. Spray at intervals of about three weeks.

#### BLACK-SPOT AND MILDEW OF THE GRAPE.

Conditions that are favourable to the rapid reproduction and distribution of parasitic fungi occur frequently during December in many localities. Constant care at this season is therefore necessary to prevent attack involving injury to canes, foliage, and crop. Consistent spraying at regular intervals with the Bordeaux mixture, 4-5-50 formula, may be regarded as the only safeguard.

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#### APRICOT - DISEASE.

AN obscure disease, that has so far baffled investigation as to its origin and cause, appeared some time ago in the apricot-trees at the Waerenga Farm. I have noticed trees affected in a similar manner in fruit-growing districts throughout the Dominion. The first indication of attack by this disease is an unhealthy appearance of the bark at the branch crown—that is, the point where the main limbs branch out from the stem. Cracking of the bark follows, together with distortion of the wood on the limbs above and the stem below the crown. Later the disease travels up the main limbs, attacking by degrees the growth of each successive season. In one large apricot-orchard a considerable number of young trees died as the result of attack by this disease. Apparently caused by fungus, the usual methods of control were adopted, spraying especially with the winter formula of the Bordeaux mixture being carefully and thoroughly carried out. The result was quite unsatisfactory, for the disease remained unchecked. Experiments in soil-treatment were then attempted with the object of endeavouring to control the trouble through the action of the sap. The trees being fairly large, a soil-dressing of 3 lb. of common salt and 10 lb. of lime was given to each, the method of application being to spread over the surface away from the trunk, and above the feeding-roots, and lightly work in with spade or fork. The result appears to have been entirely satisfactory, for a number of trees so treated seem to have thrown off the disease and recovered their vigour. It is important to note that this and other soil-dressings, such as for the control of silver-blight, &c., should be made in early spring, just before or about the time that the buds begin to swell, so that the spring rainfall may incorporate the dressing or a portion of it with the soil about the feeding-roots. If applied later and dry weather sets in, the dressing remains inert throughout the season.