

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CORRESPONDENTS are requested, when desiring information through the *Journal*, in regard to disease in animals and plants, to forward, where possible, affected specimens, in order to facilitate a correct diagnosis of the trouble, and to ensure the best advice. In stating a question the most complete descriptive details should be furnished.

SHELTER.

“SHELTER,” Hobson Bay Road, Parnell, writes as follows:—

Will you please inform me through the columns of your *Journal* what you consider the most suitable trees to plant for shelter on the Hauraki Plains?

The Orchards, Gardens, and Apiaries Division replies as follows:—

The following trees are recommended as very suitable for shelter planting in your district: Black-wattle (*Acacia decurrens*); *Pinus muricata*; *Eucalyptus amygdalina*.

FRUITGROWING.

“SUBSCRIBER,” Auckland, writes as follows, under date of the 10th December:—

Would the Department, through the next *Journal*, please give me advice on the following questions:—

(1.) I have some two-year-old peach-trees (Royal George and Briggs' Red May), planted last spring, having been pruned right back to the trunk then, leaving three and four well-placed buds to form a good low framework. The trees have made good growth, and the leaders are now from 2½ ft. to 3 ft. long, and have commenced to throw out numerous laterals. I would like to know if it would be advisable to choose one or two of the best-placed laterals on each leader and encourage them, as I believe by doing so a good-shaped tree could be formed quickly. Perhaps it should be understood that the above method of treatment should be adopted when summer pruning.

(2.) What is the best manure, or other treatment, to encourage vigour in young peach or nectarine trees which have had the leaf-curl and appear to be stunted in consequence?

The Orchards, Gardens, and Apiaries Division replies,—

(1.) In young trees such as those you mention three or four good leaders should suffice. All laterals should be summer pruned, and the leaders cut back at the winter pruning.

(2.) A good manure to encourage vigour in young peach or nectarine trees which appear to be stunted would be 12 oz. superphosphate, 8 oz. bonedust, and 2 oz. sulphate of ammonia for each tree.

BORER.

MR. J. G. FINLAY, Wellington, writes,—

On inspecting my fruit-trees last week I noticed an apple-tree with one of its branches withered. An examination showed me that an insect in the form of a borer had entered the branch, and was working its way towards the top. I should be pleased if you could tell me through the *Journal* the name of this insect and the best way of dealing with it?

The Orchards, Gardens, and Apiaries Division replies,—

The insect described by you is probably the borer *Aenoma hirta*. The simplest method of dealing with this pest is to open with the point of a penknife the tunnel made by the pest, cut off and insert the head of a wax match, and then plug the mouth of the tunnel with a little hard soap.