

required during the season. The earlier ones are the most important. Sulphuring the vines should never be omitted.

*Red Spider* (*Bryobia pratensis*).

This tiny sucking insect is capable of doing considerable mischief if allowed to multiply. When numerous its presence will be indicated by the brown or rusty appearance of the foliage. Examination of the under-sides of the leaves will show the pest in various stages of existence. Usually along the midribs the brown- to red-coloured eggs as well as the adult spiders will be seen. This insect may always be expected to make its appearance during dry seasons or in houses that are allowed to become too dry. When a daily syringing of the foliage is carried out, as recommended under the head of "Syringing the Vine," the chances are that it may never make its appearance, as it does not like moisture.

*Thrip* (*Thrips minutissima*).

This insect is also found in the vine-houses of the Dominion. The same conditions that favour red spider also encourage thrip. These are not easily seen, and may disfigure the fruit a good deal before being noticed, particularly that of the late kinds, such as Gros Colman. If the house is regularly syringed these insects do not often get a firm hold.

SCALDING OF THE LEAVES.

This is a very common trouble in the cultivation of vines under glass in the Dominion. It may also occur on the fruit. It is due to improper ventilation. A delay in opening the ventilators on a summer's morning and a hot sun coming on the moisture-laden leaves is the chief cause. When spraying the vines in the afternoon the top ventilators should be open to permit free circulation of the air to dry the vines again. It has been already stated under the head of "Ventilation" that there should always be some circulation of air, and where this is attended to the chances of scalding are greatly reduced.

OVERCROPPING.

Overcropping is the cause of much of the trouble met with by the vinegrower. It weakens the vine by giving it too much to do. The fruit cannot colour properly, and the effect it has on future crops for several seasons is very marked. Weakening a plant by overbearing is much more far-reaching in its effects than many vinegrowers suppose. It has somewhat the same effect as over-defoliating, which may be described as a slow starvation of the plant. To obtain fruit perfect in colour and size should be the aim of every grower, and it is possible to do this every year if the foundation of the plant is well established and careful culture maintained in after-years.