

ORCHARD WORK FOR MARCH.

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THE majority of fruitgrowers rightly consider that clean cultivation of orchard lands during the spring and summer months is desirable. Yet if this system is continued for a number of years the result in time will be a deficiency in humus. This will bring about a soil-condition which is more or less injurious to the trees, and tends to increase the difficulty of maintaining satisfactory cultivation. Especially is this so in the case of clay soils which, as the humus disappears, will have an increased tendency to run together after heavy rainfall, and to dry out again rapidly under the influence of sun and wind. Therefore it becomes essential that the humus should be periodically renewed. This is most satisfactorily accomplished by sowing a clover crop to be ploughed in in spring or early summer.

For preference, clover, rape, or mustard should be selected, as the orchard trees will then benefit considerably, not only by the humus, but also by the nitrogen which such crops will renew in the soil. In order to secure the best results, whatever crop is selected should be planted early while the soil is warm, so that good growth may be made before cold weather sets in. If the sowing is deferred until late, little more than the germination of the seed will take place, and the crop will remain in a stagnant condition during the winter months, permitting probably an undesirable growth of weeds. Under such circumstances the clover crop will have made poor headway when the time arrives in the spring for it to be ploughed under. In that case but little will be gained either in humus or nitrogen, probably not sufficient to compensate for the cost of seed and labour.

INSECT PESTS AND FUNGUS DISEASES.

As a general rule, insect pests and fungus diseases require less attention during the month of March than at any other period during the year. Still, there are two troubles that it will always pay the grower to keep under observation.

Codlin-moth.

This pest is usually most troublesome during the early part of the season, but it depends entirely upon locality and weather-conditions