

diseases to which they are subject. All of these can be both easily and economically kept in check if the necessary measures recommended by the Department are adopted. One disease, due to attack by the fungus commonly known as "brown-rot," requires the attention of growers during the month of May, and certainly not later than June. "Brown-rot" first made its appearance in New Zealand in the year 1908. Unlike many other parasitic fungi which require moist warm weather for germination and dissemination, the fungus that causes brown-rot thrives in cold wet weather. For this reason it is necessary to adopt preventive measures not in the early part of the season, as is usually the case with diseases of this class, but in the latter part shortly before winter weather sets in. A treatment that has been proved to be thoroughly effective is to apply around the trees a soil-dressing of pulverized sulphate of iron, at the rate of 1 lb. to 4 lb. per tree, according to size and age of the trees. This should be scattered beneath and round about the trees and lightly worked into the soil. The object of this is to, as far as possible, destroy the spores of the fungus, which during the summer months remain dormant, only to become active again when winter weather is approaching. To further protect the crop the trees should be thoroughly sprayed with the Bordeaux mixture, 4-5-50 formula.

Provided the trees are kept healthy and vigorous, successful results in lemon-culture depend mainly upon the careful handling of the fruit. There is perhaps no other fruit that requires such careful preparation for marketing. Lemons should be gathered not according to ripeness but according to size, a diameter of $2\frac{1}{4}$ in. producing a lemon which when cured will realize the highest market value. In order that lemons may keep, cure, and carry well, every care should be taken to avoid bruising when gathering from the tree and in the necessary handling afterwards. It does not appear to be generally recognized by growers in the Dominion that lemons carefully handled and cured will keep in excellent condition for some months, thus affording an opportunity for supplying the markets when the fruit is most in demand and values correspondingly high.

SPRAYING PEACHES AND NECTARINES.

In some of the colder districts of the Dominion peaches and nectarines will have shed their leaves before the end of May. In order to protect the trees from attack by the fungus *Clasterosporium carpophilum*, commonly known as "die-back," they should be thoroughly sprayed with the Bordeaux mixture, 10-10-40 formula. This is desirable because "die-back" fungus attacks during the winter months the bark and buds of the young twigs of the season's growth—that is, the