

## WOOLLY APHIS.

### SALT FOR THE CONTROL OF THE DISEASE.

T. W. KIRK, F.L.S.

At the Conference of Orchard Instructors held in August, 1911, it was mentioned that several growers believed they had succeeded in controlling American blight by the use of salt. It was therefore arranged that the Instructors should endeavour to secure the co-operation of one or more growers in each district in order to carry out experiments in this direction. I suggested they should spray one tree with salt solution, and leave one untreated near it; take another tree and apply a dressing of salt to the soil; and a fourth tree which should be sprayed with the salt solution, and also have an application of agricultural salt to the soil. It was arranged that from 2 lb. to 4 lb. of salt should be used for the soil-dressing, according to the size of the tree.

The co-operation of the Fields and Experimental Farms Division was also solicited. Following are the reports received, from which it will be seen that the tests do not support the belief that dressings of salt will control the woolly aphis:—

#### SUMMARY OF REPORTS OF EXPERIMENTS CARRIED OUT AT THE EXPERIMENTAL FARMS AND UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ORCHARD INSTRUCTORS IN PRIVATE ORCHARDS.

*J. W. Collard, Orchard Instructor, Whangarei.*

Following are the results of experiment:—

Quantity.	Variety.	Date applied.	Result.
<i>Whangarei.</i>			
4 lb. ..	1 Warren's King ..	20/9/12	Nothing noticeable by way of improvement.
6 lb. ..	1 .. ..	20/9/12	Ditto.
<i>Northern Wairoa.</i>			
10 lb. ..	1 Reinette du Canada ..	30/9/12	No improvement.
8 lb. ..	1 Ohinemuri ..	30/9/12	..

*W. R. L. Williams, Orchard Instructor, Auckland.*

Acting on your instructions, I treated three affected trees with salt for the control of woolly aphis. There were a number of other trees similarly affected adjoining them, and which were not treated for comparative purposes.

(a.) Sprayed with salt at the rate of 1 lb. to 4 gallons water. (b.) Sprayed with salt at the rate of 1 lb. to 4 gallons water and the soil top-dressed around with 3 lb. salt. (c.) Soil around top-dressed with 3 lb. salt.

An examination was made on the 26th January, 1912, with the following results: (a.) Showed a considerable amount of live woolly aphis, although probably a slight