

WORK FOR THE COMING MONTH.

THE ORCHARD.

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THE earlier part of September can, where necessary, be devoted to the completion of certain orchard-work which through unavoidable circumstances may have been impossible to attend to earlier in the dormant season, such as the application of winter sprays and the pruning of pip-fruits. Even the pruning of stone-fruits, although the trees are in bloom, may be continued where necessary. But to adopt this plan unnecessarily is a great mistake; not only does it create many unnecessary problems, such as "My trees are bursting into bloom: is it too late to spray with oil?" or "Should I spray with Bordeaux first and oil afterwards?" and so on. The advance of the season brings with it more than sufficient seasonable work to keep the average orchardist fully occupied, and much of the future welfare of the orchard depends upon the manner in which the work at this period is carried out, particularly that in connection with the control of black-spot and other fungus diseases.

The principal work for the month will include—Cultivation; the application of a fungicide for the control of peach leaf-curl, and fungus diseases affecting the English plum (where this work has not been completed during the previous month); the application of a fungicide for the control of black-spot and powdery mildew in respect to those pip-fruits sufficiently advanced for the purpose; the second oil spray for the control of woolly aphis (where not done during the previous month); and grafting and planting.

CULTIVATION.

It must be remembered that spring ploughing is the last and most important instalment of this form of cultivation for the season, therefore the work should be thoroughly done. September, as a rule, provides the best conditions for the work—depending, of course, on locality and climate conditions. Ploughing should not be done while the soil is wet and claggy, nor should it be deferred until the soil becomes more or less baked and hard through the