

The strength of spray at this period is lime-sulphur 1-25 to 1-30. The spray may be used considerably weaker and still be effective, but when applied at the strength stated it also acts as a control for black-spot.

#### GRAFTING.

Unsuitable varieties of fruit-trees can by means of grafting be readily changed to varieties more suited to the requirements of the grower. Grafting can be applied to all classes of fruit-trees, but it is generally confined to pip-fruits. The work can be commenced during this month, or after the sap begins to move and the bark lifts freely from the wood. The process is simple, and has previously been described in the *Journal*. (See September, 1915.)

#### PLANTING.

Planting can still be gone on with, particularly in respect of pip-fruits. Early-blooming fruits, such as peaches, are better planted in August if the soil conditions are favourable, otherwise it is better to hold them over until the soil is warmer. Before planting all young trees should be dipped in oil emulsion, if this has not already been done at the nursery. The introduction of the regulations governing the sale of nursery stock, which have just come into operation, should in future do away with the necessity of the orchardist having to dip the trees himself before planting. However, until the regulations are in proper working-order dipping before planting will be a wise precaution to take.

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## THE POULTRY-RUN.

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#### THE HATCHING - PERIOD.

THERE should now be no delay in getting the bulk of the chickens required for the season hatched out, especially those of the heavier breeds, which should be in the brooder by September at the latest. In fact, it will generally be found that even with the lighter breeds the chicks brought out at the end of September or early in October are the most profitable. It should not be forgotten that the right season for hatching chickens extends over a very short period of the year. When they are brought out too soon—say, early in July—there is a great risk of their going into moult just when high-priced eggs are expected. On the other hand, if the hatching is delayed until November or December the chickens seldom or