

has led me to suggest the following lines of preventive treatment. Commence in the dormant season by picking off the trees all shrivelled and mummified fruit; cut off and burn all dead twigs; and gather up and burn all prunings and mummified fruit, including stones. This winter work is important in that it destroys most of the mediums by which the disease is carried from one season to another. To catch and destroy the spring spores, spray with a fungicide just as the buds show pi*к. In the Hawke's Bay District all growers spray for leaf-curl, so that operation will serve the double purpose. Of the four orchards mentioned as being practically free from brown-rot, two were sprayed at this stage with lime-sulphur and two with bordeaux—personally I prefer the latter.

Now comes a debatable point—that of summer control. In this the following three points are worthy of the most earnest attention of growers—namely, thinning of fruit, degree of ripeness when picking, and destruction of fallen fruit. Thin judiciously by leaving good spaces between the fruits, allowing no fruits to touch. The point of contact of two fruits is very often where the disease first makes its appearance. In regard to picking, the riper a fruit is up to a certain stage the more subject it is to brown-rot. This knowledge is helpful. If brown-rot is feared, pick the fruit on the green side, yet sufficiently matured to ripen properly. Avoid as much as possible picking and packing the fruit when wet, also wipe the hands after touching infected fruit, so as not to carry spores on to clean fruits. Gather up and destroy all fallen fruit, allowing nothing at any stage to rot on the ground. This will prevent infection being carried by flies and other insects.

Summer control by spraying is admittedly a phase we know very little about at present. Quite a lot of spraying has been done with more or less indifferent results. I think summer spraying coupled with the destruction of fallen fruit the best means of control. I am inclined to favour atomic sulphur, with lime-sulphur next. To me there seem to be two very important periods of application—namely, immediately the fruit has set, and again a fortnight or so before picking. I would also recommend one or two intermediate applications. A Henderson (Auckland) grower has stated that he had excellent results with atomic sulphur combined with arsenate of lead. The latter evidently acted against leaf-roller and other biting-insects, preventing wounds by which the fungus enters the fruit. The Horticultural Division at Arataki Station and in certain Henderson orchards is carrying out very extensive spraying experiments, the results of which, no doubt, will give us a more definite line of control for succeeding seasons.