

namely, as to whether the act of top-dressing without renewal by cultivation might not bring farm No. 2 to the condition of farm No. 1. This is more than doubtful. Whereas good-class clovers and grasses may be retained in a pasture by top-dressing, it is practically impossible to bring them back by such means after they have been replaced by couches and weeds.

WOOD-BORER IN FRUIT-TREES.

N. B. COLLINS, Ohura :—

Please advise me as to the best way to deal with the small wood-borer in fruit-trees. It enters the dry wood and works down the green limb, causing it to die.

The Horticulture Division :—

If by "dry wood" you mean dead wood, it should have been cut off and burned. When borers are in twigs or small branches these are best cut off low enough to remove the insect, which works downwards. Portions cut off should be burned. On larger limbs benzine injected in the hole by means of a small oil-can will kill them, or a small piece of cyanide may be forced into the hole. In either case the holes should be stopped up with a spill of wood or by plugging them with hard soap.

AREAS UNDER PRINCIPAL CROPS.

The following tables, compiled by the Government Statistician, afford a comparison of areas under the principal arable crops in New Zealand at quinquennial intervals since 1900-1, and in the two last seasons :—

GRAIN AND PULSE CROPS.

Year.	Wheat for all Purposes.	Oats for all Purposes.	Barley for all Purposes.	Maize for all Purposes.	Peas and Beans for all Purposes.	Other Crops.	Total Area under Grain and Pulse Crops.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1900-1 ..	208,084	641,041	35,337	15,751	8,960	6,146	915,319
1905-6 ..	223,571	599,256	32,914	13,110	15,718	5,532	890,101
1910-11 ..	336,389	593,396	38,131	18,857	17,336	11,713	1,015,822
1915-16 ..	335,423	642,125	32,244	8,710	9,209	2,515	1,030,226
1916-17 ..	224,352	564,812	30,886	7,070	11,905	5,617	844,642
1917-18 ..	286,071	488,176	19,494	8,764	11,685	4,979	819,169

GREEN AND ROOT CROPS.

Year.	Potatoes.	Turnips.	Mangolds.	Other Green and Root Crops.	Total Area under Green and Root Crops.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1900-1 ..	28,524	404,333	7,341	130,859	571,057
1905-6 ..	26,834	469,579	7,090	141,780	645,283
1910-11 ..	29,023	450,959	14,082	219,618	713,682
1915-16 ..	29,809	572,137	13,046	232,585	847,577
1916-17 ..	26,156	526,283	9,073	220,338	781,850
1917-18 ..	22,854	450,819	8,712	183,415	665,800