

The question of cost has been raised in considering the amount of spraying given to the plots under test. This has not been lost sight of. The material used, also time taken to carry out the work, are as follows: Bluestone (130 lb.), £5; lime (three tins), 15s.; lime-sulphur (8 gallons), £1 12s.; time (five days), £3 15s.: total, £11 2s. This works out at about 8d. per tree, which is not a very great item. It must also be remembered that the above is the maximum of spraying required. If weather conditions were favourable it could be reduced probably to about half, but "better sure than sorry." It is worth noting here that the crop of pears this season was light. The cost of spraying a heavy crop would be very little more.

In conclusion I may state that nothing less than thorough application of the sprays is of any use. It is quite necessary for a covering of the fungicide to be kept on the fruit to prevent infection, and more especially when conditions are such as to favour the development and spread of such a disease as black-spot.

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## THE AILANTHUS-TREE FOR WOOD-PULP.

INTEREST in the wood-pulp industry is being aroused in various quarters. The proposal is in the first place to utilize various native plants in certain areas. Before the industry can be established on a sound and permanent footing, however, it will be necessary to provide for regeneration of supplies.

In this connection a notice in a recent issue of the *Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Intelligence and Plant Diseases*, Rome, of an article by an Italian writer, V. Fedele, is interesting. It states, "The author, as a result of experiments he made, mentioned the ailanthus as an excellent paper-yielding plant. It has the advantage of growing well everywhere, even in arid or purely rocky soils. By pollarding every three years and keeping the crown about 3¼ ft. to 4¼ ft. above the ground the author obtained about 200 lb. of wood, which yielded 44 per cent. of easily bleached cellulose of a quality suitable for paper-pulp. One acre may contain from 240 to 280 trees."

*Ailanthus glandulosa* is vernacularly known as tree of heaven. It thrives admirably in New Zealand, and has the remarkable habit of only making its strongest growth after pollarding. This habit, together with its rapid growth, particularly fits this tree for replanting worked-out timber areas. The ailanthus is readily propagated by root-cuttings, and transplants well at any age. An acre of trees would yield approximately 25 tons of wood every third year.—W. H. Taylor, *Horticulturist*.

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*Cereal Yields at Moumahaki.*—Recent threshings of this season's cereal crops at the Moumahaki Experimental Farm gave the following results per acre: Oats, 100 bushels; barley, 73 bushels; wheat, 42 bushels. The yields for oats and barley are said to be records for that part of the coast.