

## WORK FOR THE COMING MONTH.

### THE ORCHARD.

At the conclusion of the fruit-picking season in May most growers will have made up their minds in regard to extending their orchards and replacing unsuitable varieties with better kinds. It is a wise policy to place orders for fruit-trees as early as possible, so that nurserymen will have ample time to select and execute the order.

In connection with ordering, growers may be reminded of the regulations governing the grading of fruit-trees for sale. These will be in operation this season for the first time, and all nurserymen are required to grade their trees according to the standards laid down. In regard to apples and pears, the "A" or commercial grade includes trees whose diameter is not less than  $\frac{7}{16}$  in. nor more than  $\frac{10}{16}$  in.; "B" or nursery grade includes every tree whose diameter is less than  $\frac{7}{16}$  in.; while the "C" or special grade includes all those whose diameter is more than  $\frac{10}{16}$  in. All diameter measurements are taken 2 in. above the union.

In placing the order for apples and pears the grade desired should be stated, as this will ensure that the trees are up to the specified standard. On the other hand, if no specific grade is stipulated, the nurseryman will have the option of filling the order with one or more of the three grades, provided that such apples and pears are sold solely in accordance with the grade assigned to such trees. Apples and pears of all grades must be well rooted, and, if branched, of fair shape, and are to have three branches averaging 18 in. in length.

The requirements in regard to the grading of apricots, peaches, and nectarines are that every graded tree shall have a diameter of not less than  $\frac{8}{16}$  in., and be well rooted and branched, and of fair shape.

Orchard work for the coming month is fully outlined in the district reports which follow.

—*Gordon Esam, Acting Assistant Director of the Horticulture Division.*

#### AUCKLAND.

Orchardists can regard May as the finish of the fruit season, and attention may be turned almost entirely to a general cleaning-up of orchards, sheds, sprays, pumps, &c. This work should include the collection and destruction by burning of all mummified fruits that may be yet left hanging to the trees, or on the ground.

Intending planters are advised to get the work of preparation of ground for planting well in hand. The autumn rains will have put the soil in good condition for this work during the month. If left until after May the ground will probably be in too wet a state to permit of the carrying-out of successful preparation, more especially on the heavier type of gum-lands.

Opportunity should be taken, before all the leaves fall from the trees, to mark all those affected with silver-blight, in order that the desired treatment may be given whilst they are in the dormant and semi-dormant stages.

Spraying for woolly aphid and San Jose scale on apples may be carried out at the end of the month, if necessary, at strength 1-25.

—*J. W. Collard, Orchard Instructor, Auckland.*