

CITRUS FRUITS.

At this period citrus-trees should be showing considerable activity, especially those that have suffered in any way severely by frost damage; and as warm weather will have caused scale and other sucking insects to be on the move it is desirable that control measures be adopted at this juncture. For this purpose the prepared red oils are recommended as a spray, to be used at the rate of 1 part of oil to 40 of water. Owing to the difficulty at all times experienced in covering the under-part of the foliage of citrus-trees with spray material it will be found advantageous to adopt the use of a spray-gun for this work. The larger number of the young scale insects may generally be found on the under-side of the leaves alongside the leaf-rib, and these must be reached if effective control is to be obtained.

As citrus-trees that have been frosted come into activity growers will be enabled to see what portions of the damaged wood it is necessary to remove. Good clean cuts should be made when this work is undertaken, cutting to an outside shoot in each case.

Growers are advised to use those brands of red oil that have proved effective, rather than experiment with oils the qualities of which are, as yet, an unknown quantity.

STRAWBERRY-GROWING.

Fruit should be harvested immediately it ripens, not only to save depredations by birds, but also to prevent the taking of too much nourishment from the plant. Where necessary, spraying with Burgundy mixture for the control of leaf-spot may be continued, but it is not advisable to use this spray more often than is absolutely necessary. Watch for the appearance of runners, which should be pinched out during the fruiting season, before they grow too long and thus take nourishment from the plants.

Unfortunately, during the last few seasons a very unsatisfactory method of marketing strawberries has been adopted by quite a large number of the growers in the Auckland District—namely, the practice of "topping up" the chips with larger berries than those which are contained in the lower parts of the container. This is to be discouraged in any shape or form, and it is hard to realize how producers can be so blind to their own interests as to continue the practice, which must necessarily reflect back to them from the consumer.

FIREBLIGHT.

Any infection from this disease should be showing up at this time, and it is necessary that the very keenest lookout should be maintained, so that the diseased parts may be detected and immediately removed and burnt as already directed in previous notes.

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

POULTRY-KEEPING.

THE EXPORTATION OF EGGS.

With the object of ascertaining whether a payable outside market exists for New Zealand eggs when there is an excess over local requirements, the New Zealand Poultry Association arranged for two trial shipments of eggs to be sent to the London markets this season. The first consignment was shipped by the s.s. "Corinthic," which left the Dominion on 20th September. This comprised 1,580 cases of fresh eggs of thirty dozen each, six cases of preserved eggs, and about 2 tons of egg-pulp. The s.s. "Rotorua" left with the second shipment of about 2,000 cases on the 13th of this month. These shipments have been made up by various egg societies at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin. The South Island quota will be disposed of under the supervision of Mr. J. B. Merrett, late secretary of the New Zealand Poultry Association, who accompanied the first shipment. The North Island quota has been consigned to reliable agents for disposal.

The eggs are packed in standard white-pine cases, with special cardboard fillers and flats. Woodwool pads are also used, one being placed on top, bottom, and centre respectively of each case; these act as cushions to prevent jarring