

The best-cropping trees are usually well known—indeed, they are often the centre of considerable admiration. Suitable wood cut from such trees should be saved for any reworking that has to be done, carefully labelled, and heeled in damp, sandy ground in a cool place.

The preparation of land for further planting may be proceeded with ; but so important is this preliminary work that if it cannot be completed satisfactorily planting should be deferred for this season.

If fruit is sound and properly stacked in a good, well-ventilated shed there should be little loss from decay, but it is always well to keep acquainted with the condition of stocks. Do not fail to market varieties at the right season. Heavy losses are incurred annually by overstocking. Do not be tempted to store cull fruit or market it either ; it is not wanted, and is much better fed to stock.

—L. Paynter, Orchard Instructor, Christchurch.

CITRUS-CULTURE.

To control *Lecanium Oleæ* scale an application may now be made of either red oil, 1-40, or commercial lime-sulphur, 1-35, without fear of defoliation. Where there is doubt as to the condition of the tree being suitable to stand an application of the compound necessary, growers will have to take a certain amount of risk of defoliation, as if the spray is not applied very shortly the scales will have become sufficiently matured to withstand the spraying to a considerable extent, and a maximum kill will not be obtained.

Measures for control of brown-rot on citrus-fruits should now be put in hand. Precautions which would appear to be most important are : Firstly, to remove all bottom branches from the trees, so as to leave none that will hang any nearer than 18 in. from the ground. Secondly, to keep all matured fruits picked periodically. Thirdly, to keep the centre of the trees as open as possible, so as to allow free ventilation. Further, in cases where infection occurred last year the grower is advised to spray the soil beneath the tree, as far out as the spread of the branches, with pure bluestone, 1-15, giving a liberal dressing. It must be explained that the spores of brown-rot are motile, and travel chiefly by means of a thin film of water—infection taking place firstly from spores in the ground. By this means the source of infection through the branches sweeping on the ground and thus picking up the infection, or by heavy rains splashing the spores to the low-hanging branches, will be considerably lessened. Further, there is little doubt that the spores may travel up the trunk during very wet weather when the tree is saturated with water over a considerable period. Spraying of the trees with bordeaux, 4-4-40, at the latter part of May, as a preventive, may, of course, be resorted to, but the adoption of the method outlined will tend to get right at the source of the trouble and kill the spores themselves in the ground before maturity.

The soil is now in excellent condition generally for putting in hand the work of preparation of new citrus-orchard sites. Those growers who are intending to plant should place their orders as early as possible with reliable nurserymen.