

The need for care in picking and handling cannot be too often emphasized. Fruit must be picked with stalk intact. Picking-bags should not be overfilled, nor should picking-boxes be made too full. Fruit should be taken in the palm of the hand and lifted, not pulled. The latter method often damages fruit-spurs and wrenches the stalk from the fruit. Picking of fruit at the right stage of maturity is most important. Immaturity is a particular evil which should be avoided. Several picks should be made, the first usually being moderately light, when the fruit should have taken on a perceptible change in ground-colour.

In the actual packing care must be exercised to develop a good pack. Excessive bulge is deprecated, but a medium bulge with no looseness at the sides of the cases will ensure good carriage.

#### SPRAYING.

Although the main spraying operations may have been completed by this time, some consideration must still be given to the matter of control of diseases and pests. Damage by codlin-moth and leaf-roller caterpillars must be prevented, and attention still be given to the later varieties. Late infections of black-spot sometimes occur, and leaf-hopper may have become troublesome. Care must be used in the employment of future sprays, avoiding as far as possible spray-stains. Heavy combination sprays, especially such mixtures as lime-sulphur, arsenate of lead, and Black Leaf 40, may be avoided. For the latest spray prior to picking, arsenate of lead only with a spreader will reduce stains to a minimum. The use of an excessive amount of lime leaves an objectionable white residue. Apple leaf-hopper, if allowed to become prevalent at this period, causes the fruit to become unsightly. Black Leaf 40, at 1-800, if applied at short intervals, will reduce this pest. Certain varieties, such as Dougherty, often develop black-spot quite late, and applications of lime-sulphur, 1-125, may be advisable up to the end of the coming month in a season when black-spot has been prevalent.

#### MISCELLANEOUS WORK.

Sanitary methods in and around the packing-shed should be exercised. Fruit affected with brown-rot and grubby apples and pears should be destroyed, as these are a prolific source of infection for the following season.

Cover-crops may still be sown if the land is in good order. A dressing of super., 3 cwt. to the acre, will benefit the cover-crop and give a far greater bulk of growth for ploughing under.

Grafts will still be making strong growth, and may require tying to prevent injury in strong winds.

Implements and the spray outfit, when finished with for the season, will have a longer life if given a little consideration. Place them under cover, and well grease all bearing surfaces.

Heavily laden trees may require some tying or propping. Every effort should be made by these means to prevent the splitting of trees or the fracture of large limbs.