

be three or four weeks after the Bordeaux applied at fruit-set period. Where the pest is very prevalent, the nicotine sulphate should be included in the Bordeaux spray as an additional check. A good pressure and thorough work is very desirable.

In connection with the use of Bordeaux mixture, it is now standard practice to add a summer oil at a dilution of 1 per cent. This improves the wetting and spreading properties of the spray.

Reworking.—Unfortunately, just as with other kinds of orchards, many citrus groves contain a number of trees which have to be worked over for some reason or other, such as variety unsuitable to the locality, unpopularity of fruit on the market, poor bearing strain, or perhaps the production of rough off-type fruit.

Although grafting may be practised, the method almost universally used for citrus trees is budding. Grafting, particularly when the stock wood is heavy, necessitates very careful work, and very often there is a weakness owing to the large wounds, which take years to heal over, during which time there is a danger of the entry of borer or fungous disease. Small trees or light wood on older ones may be grafted by the whip or rind graft. Citrus trees should be grafted in the late spring, when they are in active growth.

Budding.—Except during the winter, when there is little or no growth and the bark does not lift freely, citrus trees may be budded almost at any time. The two main periods for this work are spring and autumn. Spring budding may now be proceeded with. Any approved method may be used such as the inverted "L" or "T" or even the erect "L" or "T." The buds should be obtained from trees which are known to be producing heavy crops of fruit of good quality. Care should be exercised in selecting the type of bud-wood, and sticks which are round should be taken in preference to angular ones, and they should be of good normal growth of about the diameter of an ordinary lead-pencil. If the trees to be worked over are young, there is no difficulty in locating suitable wood for budding. In small-branched trees it is best to insert a bud into each of the limbs, fairly close to the trunk. By inserting a number of buds one ensures that the failure of one or two buds does not cause any delay in starting off the new variety. The reworking of old trees is a more difficult task. Here again it is advisable to work on the younger wood as much as possible. It is desirable that the process of changing to the new variety should extend over a period of two or three years. By this procedure the balance of roots over top is well preserved, and the young growth from the buds is less liable to be flooded by an excess of sap.

General.—Cultivation and cleaning round the trees should be continued. Particular attention should be paid to any newly planted trees to see that they do not become loose, as root damage may develop in loose trees and a soil pocket may be formed round the trunk, and this may hold rain-water if the soil is retentive. Picking should be kept up to date.

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POULTRY-KEEPING.

The Breeding-pens.

At the close of the breeding-season many poultry-farmers are faced with the breaking-up of their breeding-pens and the disposing of all surplus cock birds. Before doing this, it is well to consider the advisability of retaining one or two of the very best for special matings during next season. Where flock mating has been practised and the leader of the pen is observed to be an outstanding bird, it would be advisable to hold him until at least there has been time to test out his pullets.