

these cultures, those who have not had good strikes with these crops in the past may well try inoculation. The cost of inoculum for each 200 lb. of lupin-seed is 2s. 6d. Those desiring to participate in this service should get into touch with the local Instructor in Agriculture at least ten days before they intend to sow the seed.

*Picking* : Although the crop of a suitable size for picking is light at present, growers should resist the tendency to lengthen the interval between each picking, even though the cost of harvesting becomes greater. The market-values are higher at this time of the year, and every effort should be made not only to participate in the increased prices, but also to keep up the supply of good locally grown lemons so that shortage does not necessitate importation. During the period the picking is light an opportunity should be taken to overhaul the equipment of the picking gangs. The clippers should be kept sharpened and should be examined to see that there is no excessive slack between the blades. Picking bags should be repaired if there are any holes which allow fruit to fall out and be damaged. Now that the orchard-boxes are not being used so continuously, time should be found for an overhaul of these also. Protruding nails—a source of many an injury—should be removed, and rough splinters of wood should also be dealt with. In cases where pieces of the bottoms or sides have split and fallen away so that the lemons protrude beyond the bounds of the case or rest on sharp edges, the damaged pieces should be removed and new boards fitted to make the cases again serviceable. The boxes may be strengthened by means of a wire around each end tightly applied and made secure by means of light staples driven in, say, two on each side. One of the wire-tying machines is very serviceable for this job. The cases should be disinfected from time to time, a suitable dip being a 40 per cent. formalin solution used at a strength of 1 part by volume to 120 parts of water. While this can be most conveniently done at a central curing-shed, growers should make a point of seeing that this treatment of the boxes is not neglected. Instances have not infrequently occurred in which boxes arrive back at the orchard containing one or two blue or green mould-infected fruit firmly attached to the inside of a case. Obviously growers placing fruit in cases in this condition do not fully realize the necessity for orchard sanitation.

*Manuring* : The question of autumn manuring of citrus trees is one about which there has been considerable controversy ; but space does not permit a review of the position, nor would this serve any useful purpose. Many of the approved manures for citrus trees are of slow action. Because of this, a number of successful growers make only one annual dressing of fertilizers, generally in the spring. The best position is one in which there is an ample supply of fertilizers in the soil which can be drawn upon by the trees as required and when soil conditions permit. The annual dressing of manures should be looked upon as a replacement of what the trees have taken from the soil during the previous year. If the quickly acting forms of nitrogen, such as sulphate of ammonia and nitrate of soda, are used, it is desirable to make two applications annually, one in early spring and the other in early autumn—February—March—no later. Some growers contend that the application of nitrogen in the autumn is often the cause of frost damage, owing to the fact that the trees produce sappy growth which has not had time to harden off before the advent of frost. While there may be some ground for this contention, a point which is often overlooked is that if good growing-conditions continue late into the autumn and then a change to winter temperatures comes suddenly, damage occurs irrespective of manuring.

*Disease Control* : The February—March period is one in which sprays usually should be applied. Scale insects, where present, require attention according to the programme (summer-oil 1-33) outlined in December notes. The work should be done thoroughly. On inspection immediately after spraying, a tree should show no dry spots on trunk, limbs, fruit, or foliage.