

common steel trap. Fasten the trap to a board about a foot square; dig a hole eight or ten inches square down to the blind run-way where it forks or runs off at an angle from the main run-way; place the trap here, cover the hole with the board and the board with the soil so that it will be dark in the hole. They are also poisoned by using crystals of strychnine in raisins, prunes, or roots.

These little animals have our sympathy for we believe that they once lived in the trees with birds and squirrels, but that on account of some great wrong they did, they were sentenced to live underground in the dark where they are fast losing all their outdoor habits.

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One of the worst enemies with which the orchardist has to contend is the Fire Blight. This disease first appeared in the orchards on the Atlantic coast a few years ago. Gradually it has worked its way westward and southward until now there is no section entirely free from its ravages.

Fire Blight affects the apple and pear orchards, principally, though it will work on quince, apricot, and plum tree to some extent.

It is easily recognized from the dead twigs on the trees. On apple trees the twigs and leaves turn brown; on pear trees they will turn black as if scorched by fire, hence its name. The bark will swivel; if in doubt cut off the bark and the outer portion of the wood will appear brown instead of green or white. The younger and tender twigs of the tree are affected more often than the older twigs, hence the tree while growing is more apt to be affected than after it has made its growth. Hot, dry weather has a tendency to check the growth of the tree and so the spread of the disease.

The disease is spread in many ways; flies, millers, and especially the sucking insects will spread it from one tree to another; bees, gathering honey, carry the germs from the diseased flowers to the unaffected trees, while careless handling of the pruning tools is another mode. Blight cannot be cured by spraying. The only way to eradicate the disease is to cut off the diseased twigs and to burn them at once. Cut the diseased twig well below the line of demarcation; this line can usually be seen; if it can't cut ten or twelve inches below where it appears to be; in other twigs cut five or six inches below, burn diseased twig and disinfect tools before using again. Cut out the twigs wherever and whenever seen; make weekly inspections for this purpose during the growing season for thus only can the orchard be freed from this disease.

This is our most dangerous fruit disease and the worst to check. Every citizen whether interested in growing of fruit for commercial purposes at for home consumption should aid in combatting "Fire Blight."—M. L. D.