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PHONE 43

CODLING MOTH CURES CITED

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENT CORRECTS ERRORS.

Mistaken Theories Set Aright and Codling Moth Cures Explained.

By Claude C. Cate.

(County Agricultural Agent.)

As the time is near at hand when the fruit will be in proper stage for applying what is known as the Calyx Spray, it seems an opportune time to print a few notes in regard to controlling the Codling moth. I find from visitations to the various fruit districts that there is quite a misunderstanding of the nature and habits of the Codling moth and of the reasons for applying the spray at this time, and I also learn that many of the orchardists of the valley are seriously thinking of omitting this Calyx spray. Various reasons and arguments are presented in defense of their attitude or belief; the principal one is, that the nights are cool and that the moths do not appear until late in the summer, hence not necessary to spray until they appear. Others have the opinion that the moth appear at the blossoming period and deposit their eggs in the Calyx end of the apple and enter the apple when they are hatched. Some are going to abandon spraying and catch the moths in a tray at night by using a light to attract them, (better not resort to this method as Codling moths are not attracted by light, premiums will be given for Codling moths caught by this method.)

The consensus of opinion of the best authorities on spraying for Codling moth, is that the Calyx spray is the most important application. This spray in order to be most effective must be applied within ten days after the petals fall, the idea is to fill the calyx end of the apple with poison, and this only can be done while the calyx is open, before the calyx lobes close, which is usually about ten days after the petals fall. The poison remains in the calyx end of the apple during the growing period and is effective for the first and second brood of worms. If it were not for the fact that the calyx closes soon after the petals fall, it would be best to apply this first spray for worms when the first eggs are laid, which would probably be the latter part of June or the first of July, but the fact, that it is impossible to get the spray into the basin of the calyx after it has closed, compels us to spray at this time in order to have the spray where it will be effective later on.

If we could destroy all of the first brood, naturally, we would not be bothered with the second brood, which is the most serious, and difficult to control. It has been proven that a large percentage of the first brood of worms enter the calyx end of the apple. If there has been thorough work in spraying and the poison is in the calyx, these worms will never complete their metamorphosis and cause more trouble later in the season.

To correct the erroneous idea that the egg is laid in the calyx end of the apple, I will say that the eggs are laid mostly upon the fruit, sometimes upon the leaves and stems, many times they are laid very near the calyx. When the larva hatches, it does not always enter the fruit at the exact place of hatching, but usually seeks some protected spot, as under a leaf that is touching an apple, or between two apples that are touching, or its favorite hiding place, in the calyx end of the fruit. It crawls between the calyx lobes and after it has escaped from exposure and safely hidden in the inner part of the calyx, it eats its way into the apple. If there is no poison in the basin of the calyx, the worm is not killed, and if of the first brood, completes its growth in the interior of the fruit in ten to thirty days, emerges, finds some suitable place to spin a cocoon, changes to the pupa stage and in a few days leaves the cocoon as a beautiful moth, ready to begin its work to produce more wormy apples for the fruit grower.

The spray in the calyx is effective

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for the fall brood, although spraying must be done during the summer and fall to keep the growing apple covered with spray to prevent the worms from entering the sides of the fruit. The summer and fall sprays to be effective must be applied at the proper time in the life history of the moth, which varies with the seasons. This will be taken up later and suggestions made as to proper time for action.

The calyx spray corresponds with the first scab spray, and I would advise using the Arsenate of Lead with the Lime Sulfur.

Formula: Lime sulphur 30 degree Baume test, 1 gallon to 35 of water Arsenate of lead, if paste form 2 lbs., if powder 1 to 50 gallons of the diluted lime sulphur mixture.

If green Aphids are noticeable add "Black Leaf 40," one part to 1,200 parts of mixture. Spray thoroughly, using coarse nozzle, high pressure. An angle of about 45 degrees at nozzle is advantageous.

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Adv.-p.

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