

Farm and Garden

FRUIT TREE ENEMY.

Called Pear Thrips, but May Feed or Work on Other Plants.

A recent surprise to entomologists is the finding of pear thrips in New York state, says a bulletin of the state agricultural experiment station. This insect has been present in California in destructive numbers for several years, but it was unidentified in the east until the spring of 1911.

In 1910, when the loss from the thrips was greatest, pear growers in the region about Germantown, N. Y., found their Kieffer crops reduced from one-third to nine-tenths or even more.

The mature thrips is a very minute insect, only one-twentieth of an inch long. It is dark brown in color, appearing almost black on casual view, and bears four peculiar long, narrow, feathery wings, which gave the thrips its old name, "fringe wings." The wings are simple, and each consists merely of a single strong rib bordered by closely set long hairs.

These adults come from resting cells in the soil, where they have spent the winter. The date of emergence varies with the season, but is apparently timed to precede by a few days the swelling and opening of the pear buds.

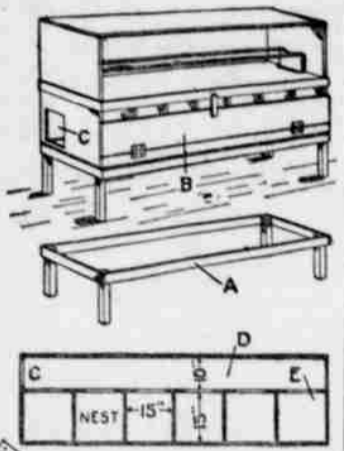
While commonly called "pear" thrips, this pest may feed or work on quite a range of plants. It was found in New York during 1911 on apple, apricot, cherry, peach, plum and quince as well as on pear, and in California it also attacks almond, fig, grape and English walnut. If it becomes established in the east it may have to be fought on the above fruits and probably others.

As a sucking insect the thrips cannot be reached by internal poisons, but must be destroyed by contact insecticides. It is not difficult to kill if reached, as the spraying experiments of

MAKING BIDDY HAPPY.

Try to Please Your Hens With Combined Roosts and Nests.

I think I have studied out and made a perfect combined nesting and roosting box, says a correspondent of Farm and Fireside. The nesting boxes are of easy access and at the same time so secret as to please the hens and make them very secure from the hens learning that pernicious habit, so often learned in the winter, of eating their eggs. The roosts are in a position to allow all possible access of fresh air without draft and at the



COMBINED ROOSTS AND NESTS. [From Farm and Fireside.]

same time allow protection from a severely cold night. The third important advantage lies in the fact that it is made so much in section as to be moved with ease. Every part is perfectly accessible, so as to be easily oiled or whitewashed, to prevent and remove disease or lice. The foundation is a bench, A, fifteen inches high which allows the hens to use the floor space underneath, so that is not wasted; twenty-five inches wide and as long as desired, conforming to the space available and fowls to use it. Remember the nests E should be fifteen inches square, so the length should be an equal multiple of fifteen. The nest boxes should have a door, B, to turn down in front, with sufficient open space in cracks to allow the hen a little light and yet dark enough to encourage them in hiding their eggs and also to discourage the idle hens from hunting after the newly laid eggs. You will not the hens enter an entrance, C, at back right (or left) hand corner, at the end and into an alley, D, that runs back of the nests E and opens into each. On top of the nest is a cleated cover of matched boards that carries an open faced box without top or bottom, that sets on the cleated cover and in turn supports a cleated cover. In this box is placed a roost of two poles nailed to 1 by 3 inch strips, twenty-four inches long, for supports. At the front edge of cover is fastened a piece of burlap or strip of blanket to turn down on very cold nights after the hens are at roost. Large fowls need a cleated board set slanting, in order to walk up to the roost. A small box should be set at the entrance of the nest boxes.—Farm and Fireside.

ADVICE TO AMATEUR FARMERS.

Never set a fried egg with the expectation of hatching a fried chicken. In excessively hot weather place canvas over the potato patch in order to shield the eyes of the potatoes from the blinding sun. Investigations of modern science have disclosed the fact that there is no essential connection between duck raising and quack grass.—Farm Journal.

Using Nitrate of Soda.

The North Carolina plan of using nitrate of soda in growing field corn or other corn is to cover it in near the roots, but not on them, as soon as the stalks are eighteen to twenty inches in height. The paying value of nitrate of soda when used as directed is greatly underestimated.—Farm and Fireside.

"Critter" Wisdom.

The Merino ewe and the mutton ram make about as profitable a sheep combination as it is possible to get.

When you buy a beef or dairy animal insist on getting an official certificate showing that it has been tuberculin tested with no reaction.

The farmer in New Zealand provides his horses and cows with a heavy canvas cover during the winter and in wet weather, the covers being generally used for animals turned out to pasture.

Nine parts of corn and one part of tankage make the best and cheapest ration for growing shotes and will operate to reduce the amount of corn consumed for each pound of grain when compared with a ration of corn only.—Kansas Farmer.

You can make your harness last twice as long by giving it proper care, and it takes but a very little time to do it. "A good set of double harness," says C. F. Chase, assistant in farm mechanics at the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station, "if properly cared for should last the working lifetime of a horse."

Accepting the average price of commercial feeding stuffs at 239 a ton and considering one pound of dry matter in manure equal to one pound of dry matter in grain, manure may be used economically in the ration to reduce one-half the grain ordinarily fed when they can be produced and stored ready for feeding at \$4 per ton.—New Hampshire Station.

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FARMING FOR FUTURE PROFIT.

Tree Crop May Be Made Source of Income if You Look Ahead.

In an article on "The Care of the Farm Wood Lot" C. A. Scott, state forester at the Kansas Agricultural college, says:

The care of the farm wood lot is an item in farm economy that should deeply interest every farmer within the hardwood region. Timber when left to care for itself naturally deteriorates in quality and quantity. Invariably the best trees of the desirable species are cut for various purposes, and no thought is given to planting desirable trees to take the place of those that are cut. Consequently the harder species ultimately come to occupy the greater part of the land. Unfortunately these hardy species are often undesirable trees.

An investigation of the general conditions of our woodlands reveals the fact that the farmers usually class their timberland as waste land or practically such. Investigation reveals a further fact that this timber is growing on the richest land within the state, land that is capable of producing a maximum yield of valuable timber and capable of yielding a profit.

There is not a farmer in the state who would expect to make a financial success of farming if he were to handle his business on the same basis as most farmers are handling their wood lots. The problem in handling the wood lot is simply this: The unprofitable trees must be cut and cleared from the ground and the land stocked with a desirable species.

There are several trees that are entirely suitable for such planting. Where the ground can be cleared and put under cultivation the hardy catalpa is a profitable tree for planting on the low, rich bottom land that is occasionally subject to flooding. On such land it makes a remarkably rapid growth and



Photograph by Kansas State Agricultural college.

TWENTY-SEVEN-YEAR-OLD CATALPA TREES will when from twelve to sixteen years of age cut from 3,000 to 3,500 posts per acre.

The cottonwood makes a more rapid growth than the catalpa on the same character of land as described and will when from twenty-four to thirty years old cut from 15,000 to 20,000 board feet of lumber per acre. The cottonwood lumber is altogether satisfactory for farm building purposes and in many respects is superior to the pine. The lumber is light, but tough and strong enough to give excellent service for farm buildings. It is also used extensively at the present time for crating and other purposes.

Where it is impractical to clear the ground entirely of its present growth it is altogether possible that the stand may be improved by cutting out the least desirable trees and underplanting the remainder with such trees as the red cedar for the production of posts and poles or with white or Austrian pines for the production of lumber. These species will grow on almost any character of soil and, with the exception of the white pine, are entirely hardy and desirable for planting throughout the territory described. The white pine is subject to occasional injury by severe droughts or the extreme drying conditions of our summer weather, and when used for such planting it should be planted only on north slopes, where it will be protected from the summer sun and wind. The white and Austrian pines are trees of comparatively rapid growth and will when from thirty to forty years of age yield a cut of from 8,000 to 12,000 board feet per acre of excellent lumber for all building purposes.

A rank, untrimmed hedgerow is a detriment to good roads, and focusing to passers by and an eyesore to the premises it bounds.

Hornes tearfully—Dearest, if I were you I couldn't live without me.—London Tattler.

An Unlucky Sneezes. Tom—"Ave yer 'nird Bill's handed for three years 'ard? Harry—Wot for? Tom—Sneezin'. Harry—Sneezin'. Wot yer givin' us? Tom—Well, 'e was crackin' a crib, an' 'e sneezed an' woke the bloke up.—London Sketch.

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Photograph by New York state agricultural experiment station.

KIEFFER PEAR BLOSSOM AND LEAF CLUBS INJURED BY THRIPS.

1911 proved that it would be destroyed by a good wetting with any of the insecticides used. The difficulty is, however, that the adults very soon get into the buds, where spray mixtures cannot reach them directly. Early recognition of their presence and prompt, thorough, quickly repeated applications are necessary for success.

The nicotine preparations are very effective, especially when combined with an oil emulsion which has a penetrating quality.

In spraying two objects should be kept in mind—first, to kill the winged thrips working in and about expanding buds and blossom clusters to prevent injury to the tender flower and leaf parts and, second, to destroy the larvae after petals drop to reduce the number of insects which will mature in the ground.

Value in Straw Stacks.

Many farm leases this year contain a new and wise provision stipulating that straw must either be converted into manure on the premises or its equivalent in manure returned by those carrying it away. City dealers who have gone to the country recently to construct straw have met with flat refusals. Where straw has been sold to neighbors the return of manure has been demanded. The average farm owner even when a nonresident is learning that soil depletion is poor policy.—Breeder's Gazette.

In spring the farmer is down and out—down in the furrow, out in the field.

Melon Bugs.

To get rid of the melon aphids, the little bug that spoils your crops, spray the vines with a mixture of eight pounds of whale oil or laundry soap to fifty gallons of water or one part "black leaf 40," a tobacco concoction, to 1,000 parts of water to which whale oil or laundry soap has been added at the rate of four pounds to fifty gallons of water, says the professor of entomology at the Kansas Agricultural college.