

Importance of Controlling Increase of Codling Moth

pest has gotten such a foothold in some sections of the country and is so favorable for its multiplication, that every means must be taken to keep it under control. Spraying alone is not doing the work in some of our sections.

A survey of the codling moth conducted in one county we found that the amount of damaged fruit, including apples and pears, averaged from 3.5 per cent to 65 per cent, with the average being 30 and 40 per cent. Yet a close examination shows that this county alone has been spraying during the past season, 1930.

Do not want to minimize the necessity of thorough spraying, but rather to point upon the growers having badly banded orchards, the importance of other methods.

Most important of these are the banding and banding of trees. As all growers know, the larvae of this pest winter over very largely under the bark of the tree trunks.

Thorough scraping of these at this time of the year will destroy a large percentage of the larvae. The Summer brood will go under the same rough bark bands, so if the trees are scraped now and fresh bands placed about the tree before the Summer larvae begin to pupate, the larvae will go under these and can be destroyed.

What can be done toward keeping this pest under control? This was conclusively brought out in our codling moth survey work the past Fall. A summary of our counts on banded orchards is decidedly in favor of the banded orchards—enough to make it well worth the extra work and expense of our experimental orchards, and with five sprays and bands gave the cleanest fruit than another orchard with seven sprays and no bands. Does this mean that bands are better than sprays?—George M. List, Colorado Agricultural College.

Storage and Curing Gladiolus Corms

TOGETHER too much stress is laid upon the necessity for drying or curing before storing. The more drying there is done, the greater the vitality, and only enough drying should be practiced to free the bulb of moisture contained in the skin, so there will be no tendency to rot. After that the bulbs can be stored in layers safely in a reasonably dry place at a temperature of 32 degrees F. to 40 degrees F., for almost an indefinite period.

Do not our idea to suggest that no more be done, but to caution against over-drying. A comparatively small amount of drying is all that is really necessary, especially if this is done in full sun and a full circulation of air. Sun-drying tends to not only dry out the husk, but it is a great purifier and kills mold spores and germs of fungus growth. The sun-drying tends to eliminate various scab diseases, and is a valuable help in curing troubles of this kind.

The storage of gladiolus corms has not given the care and attention that it should have had, and very little is known on the subject except as to general details have been worked out by each individual himself. It is not the right place for gladiolus bulbs, they are so stored we believe that they are carried, as before suggested, at a temperature of 32 degrees F. for almost an indefinite period and practically without attention.

It would seem that bulbs might be held in the Fall until the end of the Winter, but only by way of suggestion, but it will doubtless make the experience of it is well known that plant life is retarded in this way by cold temperatures, and at its natural season of growth it will grow much more quickly; Lily valley especially are a good illustration, and there seems no good reason why the same principle will not apply to the forcing of the gladiolus. If the method is properly worked out, we expect, within the next few years to see many different varieties used for forcing, and the gladiolus will thus be an all-the-year-around flower.

Garden Notes.

When spraying is practiced, it is not necessary to spray until the tree is covered. Stop spraying just before the rain begins.

A slow-down, handy wagon is of great use in the orchard. These wagons are loaded. The tires are wide and are taken into fields where the ground is soft to use narrow-tired wagons. The best way to get after the tent caterpillars is to put on an old mitten and pull them by hand.

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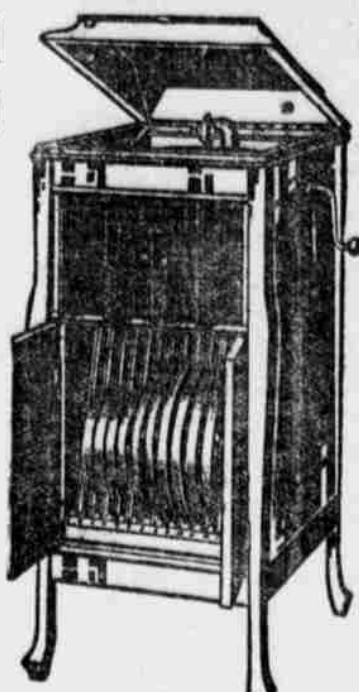
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Flowering Plants That "Make Good"

MANY people at this season of the year are considering what flowering plants they shall put in their gardens. The average housewife, who has not much time to spare on the matter, the child who is just becoming interested in growing plants, and the teacher who is laying out a school garden for the benefit of her pupils will undoubtedly welcome some simple suggestions along this line. The United States Department of Agriculture's specialist particularly recommends as satisfactory and easily-grown flowers, the ageratum, the nasturtium, the petunia, the California poppy, and the zinnia. Here are a few pointers on each of them:

Ageratum.

The ageratum is one of the few blue flowers we have. In its form it somewhat resembles the heliotrope but has no odor. Ageratums grow well upon almost all soils and through a wide range of climate. For that reason many combinations with them are possible.

The plants are neat, bushy and erect, and produce a profusion of brush-like flowers throughout the season. The dwarf blue sorts make fine borders and are much used where contrasting color effects are desired. For early bloom the seed should be sown in cold frames or in boxes in the house early in the season (March), but for Summer and Fall bloom the seeds may be sown in April or early in May in well-prepared beds in the open. Seeds sown in August will produce good plants for Winter flowering.

Nasturtium.

The large seeds of the nasturtium require to be planted much deeper than the fine seeds of the petunia. Sow them in rows where the plants are to grow, placing the seeds about six inches apart in the row and cover them about an inch deep. When all plants are up, thin so that they stand a foot apart if the soil is rich; if rather thin, it will be as well to allow them to stand at the planting distance.

The plants should be given clean cultivation to induce rapid growth. If planted in the open at the same time that beans are planted, very satisfactory results will follow. For earlier bloom plant in advance of this date in hotbeds, cold frames or window boxes.

Petunia.

While the petunia grows readily and rapidly from seeds sown in the open about corn-planting time, earlier bloom can be secured by sowing the seed in window boxes or hotbeds and transplanting the plants once before placing them in the open.

For localities north of New York the most satisfactory method of handling these plants will be to start the seeds in window boxes about April 1, and to transfer the young plants to the open when the weather permits—about the middle of May. The seeds are very small and should not be covered with earth in the ordinary way. They should be sown on the surface and brought in contact with the earth by firming it with a board.

California Poppy.

The eschscholtzia, or California poppy, is an annual of striking character both as regards the form and color of its flowers,

which are bright and rich in their tints of yellow and orange. The plants average about a foot in height, have attractive silvery foliage, and produce their large poppy-like flowers quite lavishly from early Spring until frost.

The seeds of eschscholtzia may be sown in window boxes or in a hotbed in March, or in the open where the plants are to bloom as soon as the soil is in fit condition, in April or May in the latitude of New York. In latitudes south of New York the seeds may be sown in the Autumn for early bloom. The plants enjoy a rich loam and should be allowed about five or six inches of space in the row. When used in beds they may be sown broadcast.

Zinnia.

The zinnia is easily grown from seed sown in the open ground. When sown in April the plants will bloom abundantly and continuously through the entire season. During the month of August zinnias are at their best. To secure large flowers and a profusion of bloom the plants must be given ample room for full development, as well as an abundant supply of food. Strong, rich soils suit the zinnia.

If the seeds are sown in a dwelling-house or in a hotbed in March and the young plants are pricked out once or twice before being placed in their permanent situations, more satisfactory results will be secured than from outdoor-sown seeds unless equal care in thinning or transplanting is given. In addition to their use in the school garden, zinnias can be used for groups, beds, borders, garden lines and Summer hedges. Their average height is 1-2 feet. The zinnia is a rather large, formal flower whose colors range through the shades of red and yellow.

Their season of bloom is through the late Summer and Autumn and the individual blooms last for a long time, both on the plant and as cut flowers.

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