

CONNECTICUT
Agricultural Experiment Station

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

E. H. JENKINS, Director

BULLETIN OF IMMEDIATE INFORMATION, NO. 19

March 14, 1923

It is the purpose of the Station during the coming year to issue at intervals timely notices regarding crop pests and general agricultural practices. These Bulletins of Immediate Information will be sent to a limited list of fruit and vegetable growers already at hand and to those particularly interested in the special subject discussed, and to such others as request them.

E. H. JENKINS, *Director.*

Winter Pruning of Fruit Trees

BY

W. E. BRITTON, *Entomologist*, and G. P. CLINTON, *Botanist.*

The first thing to do in the orchard is to trim the trees. This is the time of year to do this work if it has not already been done. The amount and manner of the trimming will depend on the varieties grown, the age of the trees and their condition, and the orchards we have in mind here are more particularly the bearing ones. Take out first all dead and badly injured limbs. If certain limbs show much scale or the black rot fungus, take out the worst of these. Many insects and fungi in certain of their stages winter over in both dead and living branches and pruning out the superfluous branches helps get rid of these as well as opens up the tree to allow more sunlight and air drainage later to the leaves. Such open trees are much less subject to severe attacks. The primary object of pruning is of course to shape the trees and to get rid of interfering and superfluous branches and these objects should be kept in mind also. Look out for winter injured branches that may not show except on close examination. If such are common the tree may need more drastic and careful pruning. Take out all unnecessary water sprouts. Finally gather all the pruned rubbish together and burn before the buds begin to develop.

Apparently the weather this winter has not been severe enough to cause serious injury to the branches or the fruit buds. Likewise the snow mulch on the ground during most of the time has probably protected the trees against severe collar girdle or root injury. The ice on the under side of the snow has lessened danger of mice injury. If any of these troubles have appeared conspicuously in your orchard, let us know.

Your next step is dormant spraying. Look for the next Bulletin, No. 20, for this information.

Insects and fungi or other specimens may be sent to the Station for identification.