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THE PINK SPRAY FOR APPLE ORCHARDS

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The right time to apply this treatment is when the pink color shows on the unopened blossom buds. Some of the pests to be controlled at this time are apple scab, apple aphids, European red mite, tent caterpillar, canker worms, bud moth, case-bearers, fruit tree leaf roller and leaf crumpler. Apple scab is a fungus and on susceptible varieties and in localities where it is serious, the best remedy is to spray thoroughly with Bordeaux mixture. The tent caterpillar, canker worms, bud moth, case-bearers, leaf roller and leaf crumpler are chewing insects which may be controlled with lead arsenate, one and one-half pounds of the powder in 50 gallons of water or of Bordeaux mixture. Aphids are sucking insects and will not be killed by the lead arsenate and Bordeaux mixture, but may be killed by nicotine sulphate. This may be added to the Bordeaux, but when so mixed loses some of its insecticidal value on account of the chemical reaction which takes place. Many growers prefer to omit it, but to make a separate application of nicotine sulphate, one-half pint in 50 gallons of water, if aphids are abundant.

Where apple scab is not troublesome, liquid lime-sulphur (1 to 1½ parts to 50 parts water) in combination with lead arsenate may be used.

The European red mite is not an insect but has mouth parts fitted for scraping the tissues and sucking the juices. The application of lime-sulphur and lead arsenate with nicotine added will kill some of the mites which have just hatched at the time of the pink spray. It is not known whether or not nicotine and Bordeaux will kill any of them.

This pink spray alone will not control most of these troubles unless followed by the calyx spray, to be discussed in a later bulletin.

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