

CONNECTICUT
Agricultural Experiment Station

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

E. H. JENKINS, Director

BULLETIN OF IMMEDIATE INFORMATION No. 24

MAY 21, 1923

THE CALYX SPRAY FOR APPLES, PEARS AND QUINCES

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

It is nearly time for the calyx spray, which is perhaps the most important of all treatments of the season. As soon as the petals have nearly all dropped the calyx spray may be applied, but trees in blossom should not be sprayed; some of the pistils may be injured so that fruit will not set, and there is great danger of poisoning bees—which are very desirable guests of the orchard as they pollenate the flowers, increasing the crop of fruit.

The materials to be used in the calyx spray and the order of mixing them are as follows:

Clean water in tank.

½ pint 40% nicotine sulphate.

½ pound calcium caseinate spreader (Kayso).

1½ pounds powdered arsenate of lead.

1¼ gallons liquid lime-sulphur.

Water to make 50 gallons.

The lead arsenate is to kill the codling moth and other chewing insects. The lime-sulphur is for scab and other fungus diseases. The nicotine is to destroy aphids, red bugs and other sucking insects. The spreader gives a more uniform coating of the spray, makes it stick better and go farther and prevents chemical reactions between the different ingredients of the mixture. Bordeaux mixture may be substituted for lime-sulphur on russets and certain other non-russetting varieties. Bordeaux mixture is apt to russet the fruit, and for this reason has been largely supplanted for this and subsequent sprays by the lime-sulphur. However, some growers still use it, on account of its good fungicidal value, where experience has taught them that the injury does not exceed that of the lime-sulphur in their orchards.

This application should be very thorough, covering all sides of fruit and leaves.

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