

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
NEW HAVEN, CONN.

W. L. SLATE, JR., *Director.*

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SPRAY FOR THE IMPORTED CURRANT WORM.

B. H. WALDEN.

Nearly every spring the foliage of currants and gooseberries is injured by the imported currant worm, *Pteronidea ribesi* Scop. Often the owner does not notice the pest until many of the plants are partially stripped. This insect came from Europe nearly seventy years ago.

The adult is a four-winged fly, the female being about one-third of an inch long, with the head and thorax nearly black and the abdomen yellow. The male is somewhat smaller with a black abdomen.

The flies appear about the middle of April or soon after the foliage is well started, and lay rows of eggs along the veins on the under side of the leaves. The eggs are about one-twentieth of an inch long, nearly white in color, and hatch in about seven to ten days. The young worms are at first white in color, but soon change to green. After the first molt the worms are green, spotted with black. They become full grown in two to three weeks and are about three-fourths of an inch long when they descend into the ground and spin brown cocoons under leaves or rubbish. In late June or early July the adults of a second brood appear. The winter is passed in the cocoon stage.

TREATMENT.

The currant worm is a comparatively easy insect to control. As soon as the eggs begin to hatch, spray the plants thoroughly with lead arsenate, using $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of the powder to 50 gallons of water, or one ounce to a gallon for small quantities. Double the amount for paste. The application should be repeated in about one week to protect the leaves that have developed since the first treatment. Any of the dusts containing lead arsenate can be used in place of the spray if more convenient. These treatments

should protect the foliage from serious injury. If, however, it is necessary to give a treatment after the fruit is two-thirds grown, fresh *hellebore* should be used instead of lead arsenate, using two ounces to one gallon of water, or as a dust by mixing one pound of hellebore with five pounds of air-slaked or hydrated lime. While hellebore, if fresh, will readily kill the currant worms, lead arsenate is preferable for the early treatments as it will stick better to the foliage and remain effective for a longer time.

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STUDY FOR THE REPORTING CURRANT WORM

Edw. K. Kistner

It is very important that the foliage of currants and gooseberries be kept free from the currant worm, *Parasphaca prunivora*, during the growing season. This pest is one of the most common and most injurious of the currant and gooseberry pests. It is a small, green, leaf-miner which feeds on the foliage of these plants, causing them to become distorted and to drop their leaves. The damage is especially severe when the worms are present in large numbers. The following information is given for the purpose of assisting growers in the control of this pest.

The first sign of the presence of the currant worm is the appearance of small, white, irregular spots on the foliage. These spots are caused by the feeding of the worms, which are very small and are not easily seen. The worms are most numerous in the early part of the season, but they may be present throughout the growing season. They are most injurious when they are present in large numbers, causing the foliage to become distorted and to drop. The following information is given for the purpose of assisting growers in the control of this pest.

TREATMENT

The most effective treatment for the currant worm is the use of lead arsenate. This should be applied to the foliage of the plants in the early part of the season, before the worms have become numerous. It should be applied in the form of a dust, and should be mixed with a fine material, such as kieselguhr or talc, to make it more effective. The following information is given for the purpose of assisting growers in the control of this pest.