

# Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

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

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### THE ORIENTAL PEACH MOTH.

PHILIP GARMAN.

The Oriental peach moth is due to appear shortly in peach orchards in southwestern Connecticut. A close watch should be kept for it in fresh, rapidly growing shoots, the attack usually beginning when the shoots are about an inch long. Such shoots are tunneled by the young larvae which pass to another twig after they have eaten a half inch to an inch of the core. The larvae themselves are most commonly found in freshly wilted twigs. When the tree stops growing and the twigs harden, the larvae enter the peaches to feed, the natural result of this habit being a heavier infestation in late ripening peaches than in early varieties.

The eggs are laid singly on the underside of the leaves, often some distance from the tips of the twigs, and resemble codling moth eggs, though somewhat smaller, being flat and closely applied to the surface. In fact, the whole life history is similar to that of the codling moth, except for twig feeding habits of the larvae, and the number of generations, which in Maryland and Virginia number four in all, with sometimes a partial fifth. In Connecticut there are possibly three generations only, but the dates when they will appear cannot be stated with certainty. The first generation will doubtless appear at the time of the shuck-fall spray, when the first twig injury should be noticed. This will probably be about June first.

#### DISTRIBUTION.

The Oriental peach moth has been recognized as occurring in Fairfield, New Haven and Hartford Counties. In other States it has been found in quince and apple (fruit) but so far it has only been seen in peach twigs and fruit in Connecticut.

#### CONTROL.

Two factors prevent satisfactory control. The first is the habit of the larvae of rejecting the first few mouthfuls when entering a new shoot, or a peach; the second is the very rapid growth of the

peach tree when the insects are multiplying most rapidly, preventing a complete coating of arsenical or other poison. The only points of attack remaining are the egg and pupal stages, the latter being passed in small silken cocoons hidden in crevices on the bark, under bark scales or on the ground. The over-wintering larvae may often be found on the trunks of the trees near the ground, similar to the codling moth. So far there is no treatment known which is effective in killing the hibernating larvae or the pupae.

About 70 per cent. of the eggs, however, may be killed with nicotine sprays, and, if timed correctly, have proven successful in controlling infestations in Virginia. The first of these sprays should apparently be given at the shuck-fall application and may be added to the regular sprays for curculio and fungous control. It is also the belief that many of the first brood larvae will pick up considerable poison at this time and be killed. The dilution of the nicotine used should be about 1 part in 800, or one-half pint in 50 gallons. Nicotine sprays for later broods are also necessary, but the exact time for this application has not been determined for Connecticut.