

within the drip area of each tree. If runways are scarce, one or two bait placings beneath each tree will suffice. Placing two kinds of bait to give mice a choice is worth the added trouble.

"No one can fortell with accuracy the infestation that may occur in orchards this winter. Mice increase rapidly. It is therefore advisable to make mouse control a regular practice, baiting the orchard thoroughly and at the proper time each fall. This is the sure way to avoid mouse injury.

"The last week in October is the best time to bait the orchard but, if work interferes, bait early in November."

Growers should **re-check** their orchards from time to time during the winter and put out more poison, if conditions warrant the treatment. In order to reduce mouse injury to trees of all ages and especially to young trees, it is helpful to rake all mulch material back about two feet from the trunk of each tree. Also, grass and weeds growing up close to the trunks should be removed, since these, as well as mulch material close to tree trunks, furnish ideal protection for mice to hide under while injuring the trees. This practice pays whether poisoning is done or not. It also enables growers to locate any injury because the trunks can be seen.

Kentucky growers should contact their regular dealer for rodenticides. If he does not stock zinc phosphide rodenticide, order direct from Mr. L. C. Whitehead, Division of Predator and Rodent Control, North Carolina State College, Raleigh, N. C. Strychnine-treated oats bait may also be secured at this address. A few rush orders can usually be filled by the College of Agriculture, Lexington, Kentucky.

RABBIT INJURY

Let's not forget the serious above-ground damage often caused to fruit trees by rabbits. The common custom is to place a sleeve of hardware cloth or small poultry wire about the trunk of each small tree. A wrapping of newspaper, brown wrapping paper, black construction paper (non creosote), or thin wood veneer strips are often used. Also, in recent years certain preparations have been developed that can be home-made and painted on the trunks. One such mixture is the

alcohol-resin paint. Instructions on mixing and use will be forwarded upon request.

1947 FRUIT SIDELIGHTS

Peach thinning. The drouth in western Kentucky in combination with a heavy peach crop caused many small-sized peaches and a number of broken limbs. This was a season that paid high dividends for good fruit thinning and pruning. Where trees had been well-thinned, most of the fruit sized well in spite of the drouth and heavy load. The larger growers in Kentucky again used, to good advantage, the hose or hose-and-pole methods of thinning. With these systems, the excess peaches are tapped or rubbed off by use of a rubber hose twelve to fifteen inches long or by some other insulated device on the end of small poles, usually four to seven feet long. This system is fully ten times faster than the old hand thinning method and has been used successfully now for three years in many Kentucky orchards. The 1947 experiences again brought out the well-known fact that it is necessary to go over the trees twice, about 2 weeks apart, to get the peaches thin enough.

Peach pruning. It is well-known that pruning of mature peach trees is an important means of thinning the crop, as well as keeping the trees within bounds and promoting vigorous growth. In many orchards where pruning had not shortened the limbs, much breakage resulted from the heavy fruit load being too far out on the limbs.

Peach insects. The plum curculio made one of its heaviest attacks on Kentucky peaches in the early spring of 1947. In spite of this, most Kentucky growers managed to have very good control at harvest time, after a heavy spray or dust schedule or a combination of the two. In most Kentucky peach orchards the fruit count at harvest time showed more injury by the oriental fruit moth than by curculio. This indicates that Kentucky peach growers will likely use more DDT for the control of oriental fruit moth than in 1947 and will, thereby, create a red mite and red spider condition that will have to be solved later, also.

Benzene hexachloride looked fairly promising in 1947 tests for cur-