

It was especially gratifying that Concord and Fredonia, two of the varieties whose fruits have been most outstanding, also proved to be hardy enough in vine to survive the very severe winter of 1950-51. These two varieties can be planted with reasonable assurance that they will not be winter killed. However, most varieties if planted on well-drained sites can be expected to survive all but the most severe winters.

DORMANT SPRAYS IMPORTANT THIS WINTER

W. D. Armstrong

As a result of the record sub-zero weather of February 1951, a number of Kentucky orchard men failed to apply a dormant oil spray, for fear of causing additional tree injury, since it is a well known fact that dormant oil sprays have caused additional damage when they were applied just before or just after sub-zero cold periods. Also, due to the fact that most Kentucky peach orchards received no summer sulfur sprays, there would be a special need for a dormant spray to head off serious peach leaf curl damage. Recent experiences in Kentucky and nearby states have shown that heavy sprays and dusts of sulfur for summer control of brown rot will also control peach leaf curl the following spring without the use of a dormant fungicidal spray. However, where the summer spray applications were not applied to peaches, as in 1951, there is a special need for fungicidal dormant sprays

Since the 1951 season was warm and favorable for the increase of scale insects, growers who have a scale problem should make preparations for a dormant oil spray on both peaches and apples. Where an oil dormant spray is to be used, experience has shown that it is safer to wait until February to make this application than to do so in December before heavy winter weather sets in. For apples, a 2 or 3 percent dormant oil emulsion spray or miscible oil spray, well applied, will take care of the scale insects as well as eggs of the European red mite. When a DN material is added to this mixture, eggs of the rosy aphid will also be controlled. For peaches, a 2 or 3 percent dormant oil spray combined with a 4-4-100 bordeaux mixture, applied before any growth starts in the spring, will control peach leaf curl and will also go a long way toward checking scale.

Where scale is not a problem in peach plantings, a dormant spray for leaf curl will still be needed and this spray of either 4-4-100 bordeaux mixture or six gallons of liquid lime sulfur per 100 gallons can be applied safely in either the late fall after the leaves come off or early spring before growth starts. The reason this spray is absolutely safe in the fall is that it contains no oil. As a final word of warning to all orchard men: Consider your dormant sprays for 1951-52.