

Most apples and pears can receive this winter application later. Where woolly aphid is present, tobacco wash can be added to the lime-sulphur with advantage.

Spraying with red oil for scale on deciduous trees and woolly aphid on apple trees should be done during the latter part of this month.

Brown Spot of Mandarin.

Although we do not advocate the general pruning of citrus trees till the spring, it is advisable to cut out and burn all dead and diseased wood of Emperor mandarin trees that have been previously attacked by Brown Spot, so that they will be ready for their first spraying of Bordeaux mixture. Growers in districts where this variety is liable to Brown Spot should read the report in the *Agricultural Gazette* of March, 1917, on the results of the experiment carried out by the Department on the control of this disease. These experiments have been carried further, and the results confirm those given in the former report.

Harvesting.

In districts where oranges do not hang well, the bulk of the crop will have to come off this month; and even in the later-hanging districts, if prices warrant it, it is a good plan to lighten the trees by marketing the largest fruit, after it has coloured, throughout the season.

Lemons should be picked regularly as they come up to size. If prices are not satisfactory, and they are grown in districts that will produce a keeping lemon, they can be stored away in boxes; the peel will reduce considerably in size, and they can be marketed when prices warrant.

But it must be remembered that a lemon should be cut from the tree and handled with the greatest care to avoid bruises if it is to be stored, otherwise decay will set in.

The same applies to oranges intended for shipping. When packing either for the home market or for shipping, size and grade should be uniform throughout a case.

NOTE ON THE JUICE OF THE CHOKO (*Sechium edule*).

THE following note on the juice of the Choko is sent to me by Mr. Ernest W. Smith, of Bexley, near Sydney, and I should be glad if any of your readers could throw any light on the subject. Mr. Smith says:—

A few weeks ago my wife informed me that when she was peeling a choko her hands became numb, and she thought that her hands were becoming paralysed. A fortnight afterwards she told me that the same thing happened again under similar circumstances, and I came to the conclusion that the juice of this vegetable must have local anæsthetic properties. I have since had this opinion confirmed from questions I put to another lady whose experience was the same. I feel sure that the concentrated juice of this vegetable would prove a very powerful and valuable local anæsthetic.

I may say that on speaking to a member of my household on the subject she at once replied that the peeling of Chokos makes her hands cold and rough, and therefore she always uses a fork in order that she may touch them as little as possible.—J. H. MAIDEN.