

MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE
of Agriculture and Applied Science

EXTENSION DIVISION

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CHERRY LEAF-SPOT CONTROL

The results of a series of cherry spraying and dusting experiments extending over a four-year period show that liquid lime-sulphur is the most satisfactory material for summer applications on cherries in Michigan. The following schedule of applications is recommended.

1. Just after the petals have fallen.
2. Ten days to two weeks after petal-fall.
3. Four weeks after petal-fall.
4. Just after harvest.

Liquid lime-sulphur should be used at the rate of 3 gallons in 100; to each 100 gallons of diluted spray add 2 pounds or more of lead arsenate powder. The foliage of sweet cherries is susceptible to foliage injury and for use on them, lime-sulphur should be diluted at the rate of 2 gallons in 100.

These experiments have shown that lime-sulphur will control leaf-spot; that there is little danger of foliage injury from its use on sour cherries and that it does not seriously reduce the size of the fruit. Bordeaux has excellent fungicidal properties but frequently causes severe foliage injury and may also cause the fruit to be small. The use of sulphur and copper dusts has not occasioned foliage injury in this series of experiments and the size of the fruit has not been seriously affected, but the dusts have not controlled leaf-spot satisfactorily in seasons when conditions were favorable for its spread.

The Seriousness of Defoliation by Leaf-Spot. Heavy defoliation usually occurs on unsprayed or on poorly sprayed trees when leaf-spot is present in epidemic form. This loss of foliage may result in the death of the trees but more frequently weakens rather than kills them. The production of fruit in the year following defoliation is usually seriously reduced. This lower yield is the result of both fewer and smaller cherries. Furthermore, the growth of wood and leaves is reduced, fewer new spurs are formed and there is a general slowing down of the trees' activities that may be registered in lowered yields for years to come.

This bulletin presents in more condensed form the more important points covered in detail in Special Bulletin, No. 147, of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station. A copy may be had upon request.

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