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 Established in Lincoln in 1890

**HORTICULTURE**

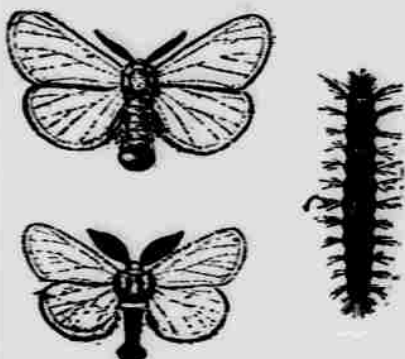
**HARMFUL BROWN-TAIL MOTH**

In Addition to Injury It Does to the Trees It Carries Disease Germs.

There is but one generation of the brown-tail moth annually in New England. The insect winters as a tiny larva or caterpillar within a web or nest made of silk and leaves woven together tightly. The nests will vary in size usually from three to four inches in length and will contain 200 or more caterpillars.

These nests are securely attached to the tips of trees or plants on which the caterpillars were working before hibernation.

In early spring, as soon as the buds of fruit and shade trees appear, according to Howard, these one-fourth grown caterpillars emerge from their



The brown-tail moth; female moth above male moth below, larva or caterpillar at right, slightly enlarged.

winter quarters and immediately commence feeding upon the buds and blossoms and later the foliage. The young caterpillar is of a blackish color and covered with very small hairs. The full-grown larva is about two inches long, reddish brown in color, with a broken white stripe on each side and two red dots in the back near the hind end. The body is covered with numerous tubercles bearing long barbed hairs. The tubercles along the back and sides of the abdomen are thickly covered with short brown hairs in addition to the long ones.

The full-grown larva changes to a pupa within a cocoon which it previously makes with silk and leaves. These cocoons may be in groups or singly in some secluded spots or at the tips of branches of trees on which they have fed. The cocoon is so loosely made that the pupa may be seen through it.

The moths of both sexes are pure white with the exception of the abdomen, which is dark brown. The tip of the abdomen of both sexes, more pronounced in the female, bears a small tuft of brown hairs, from which the insect gets its name. The female moth has an expanse of about one and one-half inches while the male is somewhat smaller. The moths are strong fliers and are readily attracted to lights.

In addition to the severe injury that this pest will do to fruit, shade and forest trees, and the consequent cost of fighting it, there is another feature connected with its presence that is very troublesome, if not alarming, that is, danger to the health of people.

The larva or caterpillar bears tiny hairs which are barbed and when the insect molts these hairs are shed with the skin. Upon drying, these skins and hairs float about in the air and are a source of constant trouble to persons living in an infested district. When the caterpillars' skins, or even loose hairs, come in contact with the skin they cause a severe irrita-

tion. A large part of the popular feeling in New England that the brown-tail moth must be exterminated is due quite as much to the prevalence and annoyance of this rash as to the loss of vegetation from the work of the caterpillar.

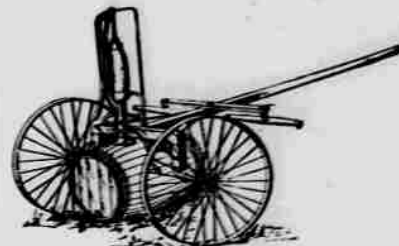
With this pest undoubtedly the easiest and practically the only effective means of artificial control where established is by cutting off the overwintering nests during the late fall, winter or early spring and destroying the tiny larvae within. This, of course, can be supplemented by spraying with an arsenical mixture, when the larvae appear on the foliage in spring.

**HOME-MADE SPRAY OUTFIT**

Suitable One Can Be Put Together in One Day by Any Workman Who Is Handy with Tools.

The spray pump described below cost me \$11. One of standard make and not so powerful was priced at \$45. Any ordinary workman who is handy with tools could put my sprayer together in a day. It has proven so valuable to me that I wish to make it known to everybody, says Charles A. Vanoselle, in Scientific American. It was assembled from the following: A riding cultivator frame, pole and wheels (old scrap iron), a good coal-off barrel (price \$1), a three-inch cylinder cast-iron force pump (\$6), a plain brass two-inch cylinder and valves (\$2), a piece of good three-quarter-inch hose and a spraying nozzle (\$2). Total cost, \$11. After putting the above material together I was able to get easily a pressure of 150 pounds per square inch, a very necessary prerequisite to apply the Bordeaux mixture with the right force.

Directions for assembling are as follows: Take the valves out of the cylinder of any castron force pump.



The Home-Made Sprayer Complete.

Replace these valves with the plain brass two-inch cylinder and valves. Cut off with a hack saw the two-inch cylinder to the right length to just fill the cast cylinder. Fill in the space between the cast cylinder with plaster or cement, being sure that the brass cylinder is in the exact center of the cast cylinder. Attach the plunger valve of brass cylinder to the plunger piston of the force pump, and couple up the piston to the handle of the pump so as to get a full stroke. As only a small amount of liquid is needed in spraying, the object of this reduction of cylinder is to lessen the flow and increase the pressure. The reduction of three to two halves the flow and doubles the pressure. Mount the pump on the barrel and the barrel on the riding cultivator frame. Make an agitator as follows: In the barrel, near the bottom, on the end or head of the same, hang with a T-hinge a board made of oak 1x6x2 feet to swing up and down. Connect the board with the pump plunger by a steel rod so that it will swing up and down with the stroke. The steel rod should enter the barrel through an opening made to pour in the liquid.

I use this machine to spray my hen house with lime and coal oil at the rate of 100 square feet per minute. It makes a good job at whitewashing as well and is death to bugs and microbes on my fruit trees.

**Cut Off the Suckers.**

Cut off, at any time, any suckers you may find growing at the foot of fruit trees or on the trunk or main limbs where branches should not grow.