

and, which is most widely destructive, hibernates as an adult in the soil or crevices on the bark of trees as well as on other plants. Adults of this form appear about May or June and continue feeding and egg laying throughout the summer. Summer oil and sulfur sprays and sulfur dusts seem to be effective against this pest. Red spiders are less injurious in orchards that are well supplied with soil moisture than orchards that are suffering from drought.

Gophers.—There are five methods used for destroying gophers, namely, (1) poisoning, (2) trapping, (3) fumigating, (4) flooding, and (5) protection of the gopher's natural enemies, especially the barn owl and the gopher snake. A combination of two or more of the above methods is more certain than any one of them. Traps are especially satisfactory for individual gophers in orchards. Poisoning and fumigation are used when gophers are numerous over a large acreage. Flooding is automatic when the orchard is irrigated and it is easy to kill the gophers which are flooded out.²²

Ground Squirrels.—Ground squirrels may be controlled by the methods employed for gophers except that flooding is not effective. These methods are used at various times depending on the dampness of the soil and the habits and life cycle of the squirrels. Poisoned grain is used to a considerable extent and is perhaps the most satisfactory remedy.

Rabbits and Deer.—Rabbits and deer are sometimes abundant and become serious pests in young orchards. Shooting, poisoning and fencing are the principal means of protection.

SPRAYING AND DUSTING

It is practically impossible to grow peaches commercially without the use of sprays or dusts, or both, because of the various disease and insect pests. The use of fungicides and insecticides has become a regular part of the orchard business. There are many kinds of standard spraying and dusting machines as well as reliable materials at the fruit grower may purchase for use in his orchard.

As has been stated previously, peach trees require spraying at critical times with certain materials. In order to do this efficiently a power sprayer is almost essential. For emergency purposes, where quick and economical methods are imperative, a power duster is often advisable.

The spraying or dusting machinery should be kept in good condition and ready for action when the time arrives for its use. The

²² Dixon, Joseph. Control of pocket gophers and moles in California. California Agr. Ext. Cir. 29:1-16. 1929.

