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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY

E-134.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FOREST ENTOMOLOGY BRIEF 23.

LOCUST LEAF-MINER,

CAUSE OF THE BROWN APPEARANCE OF THE LOCUST LEAVES

AND THE REMEDY.

Appearance and Extent of Injury. The brown and apparently dying condition of the yellow or black locust in the States of Virginia, Maryland. Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio, is caused by a leaf-mining and leaf-skeletonizing insect known as the locust leaf-beetle. Nearly every summer the brownish appearance of the locust in small to extensive areas attracts attention and is the cause of considerable inquiry and some alarm. However, with a few exceptions the trees recover and come out fresh and green the following spring.

Appearance and Habits of the Insect. The flattened, yellowish beetle, with a longitudinal black stripe, passes the winter in the adult stage among the leaves and surface rubbish. It appears on the wing in May and deposits its eggs on the leaves. The eggs soon hatch into minute flattened larvae which mine between the upper and lower layers of the leaf, causing brownish blister-like injuries. As soon as the larvae have attained their full growth as such, they transform to pupae which in turn transform to the adult beetles. The beetles of the new generation, which usually occur in great numbers, feed on the surface of the leaves, leaving nothing but the skeleton. Thus, these leaves, as well as the blistered ones, turn brown, giving the entire foliage the appearance of that of a dying tree.

Remedy. The foliage of a few choice shade trees might be protected by spraying with an arsenical (see attached Brief) but no attempt to protect the trees of groves or of the forest would be justified by the results.

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Forest Entomologist.

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