

A BLIGHT OF YOUNG BUDDINGS.

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Inquiry as to the diseases that may be expected on young buddings before they are fully established has always elicited the reply that none may be expected that are not already known to attack seedlings of the same age and vigour. Observations so far in Malaya and Sumatra indicate that this is the correct point of view.

A blight of young buddings which may prove to be important has recently been studied. The budding is attacked at its extremity and unless prevented the blight will extend downward and destroy the entire shoot. The disease is first noticed by a browning and blackening of the tender tip. Ordinarily the blight is confined to the more succulent parts of the shoot and stops when the older tissues of the bud patch and stock are reached. Damp weather favours the blight especially if the buddings in the field are closely surrounded by a cover crop. In nurseries where there is a clear sweep of air beneath the budded plants the blight is not so likely to occur.

The blight has been observed at three different stations in Malaya and twice in Sumatra. In one case a small white grub had entered at the base of the dead shoot. The grub appeared to be secondary. Seedlings are also attacked by the blight.

Examinations of the affected sheets have not yet been sufficiently conclusive to enable the causal organism to be definitely determined. The investigations so far disclose among two other fungi the presence of a *Phytophthora* which may be the responsible agent. Mites are sometimes present. Planters are requested to send in blights affecting young bud shoots for experimental purposes.

When bud shoots are observed to blacken and shrivel at the tips the diseased parts should be pinched off well below the affected tissues and burned. Cover crops should not be allowed to grow closely around the budded stumps. This promotes moisture and for the same reason damp situations should be avoided unless adequately drained. Most blights of the kind may be successfully controlled by spraying with standard Bordeaux mixture or, if good stone lime is not available, sodium carbonate (Sal soda) may be used (Burgundy Mixture).