

B. "The trees arrive about the time you are sowing oats. Open the packages, and place the roots in damp soil in the shade, not forgetting that the roots of trees are unfitted by nature to stand the air. In the wind or the sun or in dry air, or in the open air, roots will live just about as long as a black bass will live out of water; not much longer. Prepare some thin mud in a pail filling it a third full. In this mud place the roots of the trees one sort at a time. Of course you have staked or marked out your ground. Dig a small hole with a spade and let the boy drop a tree in the hole; straighten it up; replace the soil, not omitting to step your full weight with one foot each side and near each tree before leaving it. This is important, as it packs the soil close to the roots, helping it to retain moisture, and preventing the air from entering. One after the other, all the kinds are planted."

C. "Then what?"

B. "If you are now careless and lose all your interest in the subject, and keep busy at something else, you will very likely leave the young things to look out for themselves. The grass and weeds will choke them, and your little enterprise will cause deep regret, every time you think of it and prove the laughing stock of all your neighbors."

C. "I am not that kind of a farmer, to drop a thing before I give it a fair trial."

B. "Then you will cultivate this land as you do your best cornfield, with level culture, only continue to cultivate all summer."

C. "What shall I do next?"

B. "Keep on cultivating during succeeding years, as long as a horse can get through the rows, perhaps four or five years or more, then the trees will not need it any longer. From time to time you will very likely pick up some other kinds of very small trees, or shrubs from the neighboring woods, and set them in among the others in the grove. If the cultivation is attended to, and the land is not too wet, you will be surprised at the rapid growth of the trees."

C. "Why can't I mulch the ground all over with straw from the old stack and save all further trouble?"

B. "It is not a good plan, and if you try it you will be disappointed. Cultivation is much better, and with the trees near the house, it is but a light chore to cultivate each time. If black walnuts, chestnuts, butternuts, hickories and oaks are desired in any places, plant the nuts where the trees are to remain."

C. "Thank you. I feel sure now that I understand the plan. It is so much cheaper and easier than I had supposed, that I am going to plant a grove, even a small one started this year will be much better than a larger one long delayed and perhaps never planted."

B. "In older States like Massachusetts farms already bring a better price if they contain some suitable groves or lots of young thrifty timber. As the grove improves with age, you will be reading every good thing you can get on forestry. You will take a deeper interest in the work of the State Forestry commission. You will want to see their last report and all that may be issued in the future. You will have a good right to consider yourself as one of Michigan's most enterprising farmers. You will be planting for study as well as for producing a grove to shield animals or growing crops from the severe winds. You will be an experimenter, a pioneer in a good cause, and the longer you live the more will you see the importance of a knowledge of forestry."

"What is the custom in this neighborhood in regard to pasturing wood-lots?"

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