

Forest Restoration Needed.

In the forest history of any country we find three periods, forest destruction, forest conservation and forest restoration. Canada is now in the second period—that of conservation and a lapping of the periods is seen in the fact that to a certain extent forest restoration is receiving considerable attention. This is a form of reconstruction of the greatest possible benefit to the prairie farmer and for his guidance and assistance the forest nursery station exists.

Trees Check Soil-Drifting.

The one big object in tree-planting is to check soil-drifting and when forest plantations are well-planned and carefully tended the loss of crop from this cause becomes negligible. A row of trees will protect more than a rod in distance for every foot the trees are in wide plantations in rows about fifty rods apart, and working the land in strips, drifting may be overcome entirely.

Tree plantations also afford shelter from wind to crops, buildings and stock. They collect and hold the snow during the winters, preventing it from banking up around buildings. They preserve and retain the moisture in the soil by breaking the force of the hot winds in summer.

Timber From Plantations

Plantations will supply fuel, fencing material and wood for repairs, which is a very important point to many settlers who live far away from any natural supply of timber. Trees are of aesthetic value beautifying the landscape and making life on the prairie much more pleasant and less monotonous, and they add greatly to the money value of a farm.

As farm lands in the west become more thickly settled, a farmer to be successful must make every acre of his property produce the greatest possible revenue without deteriorating the soil. In the case of spots unfit for grain cropping, there is no doubt that the only way to obtain a revenue from them is to plant them up with trees. For a few years after planting, of course, no revenue can be obtained from a plantation, but the initial expense is not so very great and as an

investment would pay good interest in the future.

Shelter Belts at Nursery

Some of the best shelter belt combinations are to be seen in the plantations at the forestry farm. One which commends itself immediately both for beauty and utility is the mixed deciduous plantation. This is a six years' growth of Manitoba maple, poplar, golden willow and caragana. The caragana is a yellow-flowered legume which has more the nature of a shrub than a tree, although it grows often to a height of thirty feet. With its dense growth it is an excellent wind-break, while its flowers make it highly ornamental.

Another plantation which is most strongly recommended for an outside shelter belt is to be found running the entire length of one side of the farm. It is composed of four rows planted four feet apart, showing six years' growth. The outside row is of Manitoba maple, the next of Russian poplar, the next willow, and the inside row of caragana. Some of the maples in this plantation have reached a height of fifteen feet.

Tamarac Being Tried Out

One of the handsomest plantations is that of the native tamarac where the trees, three years old when planted, have been growing for the last six years. This plantation is being tried out experimentally and so far is proving successful, the saw-fly which has attacked it in other districts, not having made an appearance here.

The large plantation of white spruce makes a splendid showing and in their six years of growth in this plantation height of ten to twelve feet. The white spruce is one of the most useful trees from an economic standpoint. It is a most valuable lumber tree and is extensively used in the manufacture of pulp. For forestry purposes it will undoubtedly prove one of the most successful trees for western planting.

The plantation of Scotch pine, that, valuable European timber tree, has made rapid growth. Each year prairie farmers in increasing numbers visit the forestry farm in order to learn what may