

When we plant our cuttings it is somewhat difficult to realise that within ten or fifteen years they will be from twenty to thirty feet high with a corresponding spread of roots and branches. This must be taken into account when arranging for a shelter of high growing trees around the vegetable garden or fruit orchard. To be on the safe side it is not well to try to determine the smallest possible area that might answer the purpose, but rather make provisions for every conceivable development that can be thought of and then allow for just a little more room still; for ten chances to one, some necessity will arise later on for which no provision has been made.

To arrive at a definite conclusion, it may be stated that no buildings should be within thirty yards as a minimum of the main belt, unless there is outside of this belt a narrow wind break with an intervening vacant strip a few rods in width.

Secondary wind breaks.—During the earlier years the trees are small and their sheltering influence would not be apparent except in their immediate vicinity. It is therefore well, during these early years, to arrange for what might be termed "secondary wind breaks," preferably of single or double rows at convenient distances within the main belt. They are only intended to serve a temporary purpose and are to be cut out as soon as they have outgrown their usefulness.

Danger of snow break.—An outside wind break of one or two rows is most desirable in connection with the main shelter belt. Until the trees in the main belt have reached a fair size they are quite liable to be broken down by the weight of snow they themselves collect. This can be avoided if an outside row of one of the shrub varieties having a dense growth is planted a few rods back from the main belt. For this purpose a row of Caragana is most suitable, the plants of which should be placed from one foot to eighteen inches apart.

PREPARATION OF THE GROUND FOR TREE PLANTING.

In prairie tree planting a thorough preparation of the soil is of the utmost importance; as a matter of fact, the success of the plantation depends on it. Our average prairie soil requires deep cultivation to secure a suitable root room and also to furnish a reservoir for water storage, hence it is apparent that the land should be ploughed at the proper season.

Summerfallow may be considered as the best preparation for tree planting. In some seasons it is the only preparation that can be absolutely relied on. There are cases, perhaps not infrequent, where success has followed planting on root ground, back setting, or even stubble, but as the trees will remain where planted for years and years, it will be impossible to remedy any defects due to improper preparation in later years. Old ground, *deeply* summerfallowed in May, and then conscientiously surface cultivated throughout the summer, will be comparatively free from weeds and contain a maximum of moisture which will insure the success of the planting in the following spring. *New land* should be broken early, backset as soon as the sod is rotted, and then *immediately* disced and thoroughly surface cultivated till freeze up. Next season treat as summerfallow. Don't imagine that it is a loss of time to put two seasons' work on new land. The extra labour and time spent will be more than compensated for by the results obtained.