

seeded down to grass. It is desired to make this part of the grounds as attractive as possible in order to impress visitors with the beautifying effect of trees and shrubs when planted round otherwise unattractive buildings. The absence of anything of this nature is one of the most prominent features on the majority of prairie farms, in some cases from indifference but in most owing to the general impression that a great deal of skill and labor are necessary to produce a good effect, whereas only the most elementary principles of plant life have to be observed and the labor entailed is surprisingly small compared to the result obtained and the additional value of a property when the grounds are neatly and attractively laid out.

The varieties of trees principally grown for distribution are the native maple or box elder and the native green ash; besides these the native elm and white birch are grown from seed in smaller quantities, Russian poplars and willows from cuttings. A small number of conifers have been raised from seed each year, principally the native white spruce and Scotch pine. Other varieties such as Jack pine, *Pinus cembra*, *Pinus ponderosa*, *Pinus flexilis*, Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), balsam fir, Norway spruce and European larch are also being tried. The Colorado blue spruce, judging from specimens grown on the Experimental farm and individuals seen elsewhere, is a most promising tree for the North West.

The conifers are grown under a completely different method to that used for raising the broad leaf varieties. The seed of the latter is sown in such a manner that as much of the subsequent cultivation as possible may be done with horses. Drills are made, with a horse cultivator, 30 inches apart, and in these the seed is sown by hand, the drills being covered in again by a harrow toothed cultivator. The horse cultivator is used among the seedlings all summer and in the fall a tree digger is employed for the removal of the crop. Comparatively little hand work is employed as in this country land is comparatively cheap so that at present there is no advantage in growing the seedlings more thickly, horse labor is not so expensive as in some other countries and laborers' wages are very high. Conifer seeds are sown in very carefully prepared seed beds and the young plants protected by lath screens for two years. When two years old the seedlings are transplanted to rows, the rows are made about 10 inches apart and the plants set 3 to 4 inches apart in the row. Cultivation between the rows is done with the double wheel hand hoe. The seedlings remain in the transplanting rows two years and are then ready to set out in permanent plantation. The manual labor entailed in sowing, weeding and transplanting coniferous seedlings together with the length of time they must remain in the nursery, makes the raising of this class of stock