



That China will support trees is quite apparent from the number of sacred trees everywhere in evidence. The picture shows a sacred grove in one of the very numerous graveyards. These trees would long ago have succumbed had they not been protected by their religious associations. The area covered by these groves is of course infinitesimal as compared with the total land under cultivation.

Precautions in Planting Shade Trees

By John Mackintosh, Acting Parks Sup't of Regina

“THE hole or pit which is to receive the tree,” advises Mr. Mackintosh, “should be dug to the depth necessary according to the size of the plant. It should be large enough to get all the roots spread out and not closer to the edge of the pit than four to six inches.

“The general practice is to dig a hole about four feet in diameter to the depth of one foot six inches. The soil in the bottom is then broken up to a depth of another four to six inches to provide drainage in case of excess moisture, the rootlets being very susceptible to either excess moisture or excess drought.

“The material from the pit should be well broken up as it is thrown out, so as to get well aerated and release the plant food on which the rootlets will rely for future development.

“Having selected the variety of tree to be planted it is important to ensure its being planted in the best possible condition. The tree should not have been dug so long that its roots have become dried by the sun. Before planting immerse all the roots in a barrel of water for ten minutes or so.

Examine the roots for shattered ones, which should be cut clean across. Reduce the top so as to have only as many branches as will give the tree enough reserve sap to supply the newly-formed roots.

“In planting or setting, the tree should have the very best of care. The pit should be refilled to such a height that the tree will be planted not more than six inches deeper than it stood in the nursery. Too deep planting must be carefully avoided especially in the case of elm or ash.

“The roots should be evenly spread out across the surface of the soil dipping them slightly towards the edge of the pit. They should then be covered to a depth of six inches with the finest of the excavated soil. From this depth up to the level of the surrounding earth, the soil should be firmed with the feet. The remaining soil loosely placed over the top of the pit will form a basin.

“If the weather is not too dry, the basin filled with water twice at time of planting should provide sufficient moisture. Spraying the tree every evening at sundown and in the mornings before sunrise should ensure a successful job.”