

fire ought to sweep completely over the ground and burn everything up clean (except a few of the bigger tree trunks), leaving the ground quite bare except for a fine covering of ashes. It is better to chop only five acres and pile everything up thoroughly, than chop 10 acres and do it carelessly, as the work of branding up after the fire in the former case is trifling, but if a good burn is not obtained the picking up is sometimes a big business.

If the chopping is done by contract instead of personally, it always pays to give a dollar or two an acre more and get an A1 job, than get it done cheaply and badly piled. Spend a dollar extra in money or time on the chopping and piling, and save two dollars on the picking up.

Advice as to Chopping.

Here are a few hints as to chopping:—

Pile the brush and trees in continuous rows (called windrows), not in heaps, and if there is standing timber on the south side of the clearing, as there probably will be the first year, let the windrows start at the standing timber and run north for about eight rods or thereabouts. Do not build a pile parallel to the standing timber, as it will never dry out properly. When there is once an opening to the south of the clearing it is better to let the piles run east and west, as they dry out better.

Do not pile any brush on logs; leave the fallen logs clear, for a cedar log would probably burn up, and all the cedar logs are wanted for fencing, draining and buildings, and a fir log is prevented from drying out if brush is piled upon it and, more important still, brush piled over a big log leaves a hollow alongside the log under the brush, and the brush does not burn well.

All deciduous trees (and particularly hazel, vine maple and willow three inches in diameter or less) should be cut right into the ground. The reason for this is that they are sure to sprout more or less the following spring, and if there is six or eight inches of a sharp stump sticking up the cattle cannot browse on the young shoots, but if cut into the ground the cattle will keep the shoots trimmed down and they will nearly all be killed out by the following fall. Fir, cedar or hemlock seedlings need not be cut so close, as they do not sprout; in fact, it is better to leave them six or eight inches long, as they are more readily knocked out by the cattle tramping among them. Anything above three inches diameter should be cut "stump high," about 2½ feet. Do not cut anything above twelve inches in diameter (as above that thickness will make good cord-wood), except alder or maple, which should be cut along with the brush. If you are going to live on the place it is a good plan to limb the trunks of the larger alders and maples, cut them in convenient lengths and, instead of piling them on the brush pile, leave them on the ground between the piles, and when the chopping is finished and before you start to burn, haul these logs out of the way, cut them into four-foot lengths and split them for cord-wood for your own use. They should not be allowed to lie on the ground all summer without splitting, or they will be dozey by the fall.

It is a good plan to leave a few of the larger trees that are to be burnt until the last, and then chop them so that they will fall over your brush piles. This compacts the piles and leaves the larger trees on the top, where they have the best chance to dry out and burn, but be careful not to leave them lying *across* the piles, and always limb them and cut them into two or three lengths, so that they lie close and snug.