

The trees present a solid obstacle to the sweeping winds of the prairie, which pass over instead of blowing right through them. The shelter on the lee of the plantation is thus much better, and, as the drying winds are kept out, the maximum of moisture is conserved in the plantation for the use of the trees.

ARRANGEMENT OF PLANTATIONS

As immediate shelter for the home is of the greatest importance, the first effort in the way of planting is usually put forth in establishing a windbreak for this purpose. Afterwards, when the farmer gets firmly established and has more time and means at his disposal, he usually branches out into either sheltering his whole farm by planting round it, by two or three strips across it, or by extending his home plantations to inclose one or more small fields in close proximity to his buildings.

The small fields are very useful for grazing young stock or hogs, and for sheltering the ten-acre seed-lots which some farmers are finding so useful in raising pure seed of high productive quality for the farm.

HOME PLANTATIONS.

In arranging what may be called 'home plantations,' it will be well to keep them at least 100 feet from the buildings, in order to avoid trouble from snowdrift, and sufficient room for the garden, orchard and farm yard should be allowed for inside the shelters. Some of the earlier plantations in Manitoba are a good illustration of the necessity of this, for many of the narrow strips of garden set out in the early days are now overshadowed by trees 40 to 50 feet high, and the currant bushes, which no doubt used to be laden with fruit when the trees were small, are now scarcely able to clothe themselves even with leaves.

Settlers from Manitoba and the earlier-settled western states remember this when they come further west, and their plantation arrangements are usually characterized by having plenty of space inside, allowing plenty of room for garden, buildings and grounds. The whole area covered by the plantations and inclosed space is thus often 150 to 200 yards to the side.

BUILDINGS ON HILL-TOPS.

Many a farmer, in his anxiety to have a good site for his house and a view of the surrounding country, places it on the top of a hill; and where the top is flat enough and of sufficient area no difference need be made in either the distance from the house or the width of the plantation. But it often happens that the hill-top is too narrow for the usual arrangement, and the slope of the ground may be such that the trees, if planted 100 feet from the buildings, will be probably 15 or 20 years of age before they can afford the necessary shelter. In such a case it will be found good practice to place the plantation farther down the hill, or even on the level, and let it shelter the garden, and provide shelter for the house by a hedge of willow, caragana or other shrubs as close to the house as is convenient. The outer plantations will hold the snow, and there will be no trouble from that source inside the inner shelter. The strip of land for the shelter hedge need not be wider than 10 or 12 feet, and the hedge itself should consist of perhaps a double row of plants at three feet apart each way, with the plants alternating. This will give a sufficient thickness of hedge to make a good shelter, and enough spread of branches to shade the ground and lessen the labour of cultivation. The growing shoots of such hedges may be trimmed up on one or both sides, and when this is properly done they become quite ornamental. The regular trimming at the same time serves to thicken the hedge and increase its usefulness as a shelter. The best time to do the trimming is the month of July.