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244 Notre Dame Street West : : : Montreal.

Does a Shelter Belt Pay in Dollars?

By Carlos G. Bates, U.S. Forest Service

Windbreaks are, in more ways than one, a farm asset. They tend to prevent the soil from drying out quickly and they protect grain and orchards from mechanical injury by the wind. A belt of trees by the farm buildings protects them from extreme winter cold and summer heat, and makes the farm a pleasanter place in which to live. The windbreak may also be a source of wood supply for use on the farm or for sale.

The effect of a windbreak on crops is not beneficial in every respect. There are certain ways in which it is plainly injurious. Trees in a windbreak always spread their roots extensively into the adjoining fields in search of moisture; and they take not only the moisture but some of the nitrogen content of the soil. Furthermore, by shading the ground they may prevent crops from developing properly.

Whether the total effect of a windbreak is good or bad depends upon whether the benefits derived from its

influence on wind movement, temperature, and evaporation are greater or less than the injury resulting from the sapping and shading of the ground near them. To determine the total effect, crop measurements have been made in Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, and Minnesota. Average rather than exceptional conditions were measured, the object being to discover the effect of those influences which are continuous and affect every annual crop grown.

Measurements made in fields of small grain indicate that the crop gain

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Having supplied a number of the Forest Protective Associations, we are thoroughly familiar with the specifications of their requirements for fighting forest fires, and carry in stock, and are prepared to furnish such equipment on short notice.

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REPRESENTATIVE FOR PROVINCE OF QUEBEC FOR
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