

PROPAGATION OF TREES BY LAYERING.

Layers are really nothing more than a form of cutting, the only difference being that they are allowed to adhere or remain attached to the parent stock—drawing sustenance therefrom until roots are emitted, after which they are detached and become individual plants. In making layers of trees or shrubs, we bend down a branch, and cover that portion with earth upon which we wish to produce roots.

An incision is usually made on the under side of the branch before it is laid down, and the knife inserted just below a bud if there is one convenient, passing into the wood, and then an inch or more lengthwise of the branch forming what is termed a tongue. A hooked peg, may be employed to hold the layer in place, or a stone laid on it, as it is quite important that the branch be held firmly in place. If the branch is large, the end may be tied up to a stake. It is not often that forest trees, except some ornamental varieties, are propagated in this way, but it is well enough to know how to do it, when necessary to increase the stock of some choice or rare specimen. Layers may be made at almost any season, but they will root sooner if made when the trees are growing rapidly, than at any other time.

Some kind of trees will produce roots when layered without cutting the branch, and exposing the alburnum—in fact, all will, in time, but the surest way to cut the branch as described. With some kinds, roots will be emitted so slowly that the layer must remain at least two seasons before it will be safe to sever it from the parent stock. Evergreens may be layered in the same way as deciduous trees, but the operation should always be performed during the period of active growth, else the wound made on the layer is likely to be covered with resin, which may prevent the emission of roots.

Sometimes a part of a tree or a small branch will vary from the original; when this occurs on a large tree and where the branch cannot be made to reach the ground, we are compelled to elevate the soil, or some similar material to the part we wish to propagate, unless it is some species which can be readily propagated from cuttings, buds, or grafting. If we desire to obtain a layer, we have only to place a pot or box of soil near the branch, so that it can be covered with earth, the same as if near the ground. After the branch is layered, the soil surrounding it must be kept moist until roots are produced. If the pot is surrounded with cloth or moss, it will in a measure prevent the earth from drying, and therefore less frequent waterings will be required.—*American Agriculturist.*

Bush Fires.

Bush fires are already doing much damage in the lumbering districts of the Ottawa Valley, and yet we are only at the beginning of the heated midsummer period in Canada. These fires are too often caused by criminal carelessness. Millions of dollars damage have resulted from the want of ordinary care on the part of individuals who kindle camp fires or light their pipes in the woods. Too often the railway companies, who do not look after the roadside flames kindled by sparks from their locomotives, are to blame. The forest laws of Sweden should be carefully studied and adapted to our country.—*Witness.*

A Great Consumption of Sapling Pine.

Keene, N. H., is the centre of a great tub and pail industry, which largely consumes sapling pine. A contemporary says that there are 40 pail and 30 tub lathes in operation in Cheshire county; each lathe turns out on an average 100,000 pails a year, consuming 450 cords of saplings, which gives a product of 4,000,000 pails from 18,000 cords of pine. The 20 tub and bucket lathes use a proportionately large quantity, and as great quantities of staves are sawed and sold for use outside the county, it is probable that 40,000 cords of sapling pines are cut every year.

Downs in Dixie.—The wife of Mr. J. Kennedy, dealer in drugs in Dixie, was cured of a chronic cough by Hagyard's Pectoral Balsam. The best throat and lung healer known.

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