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No. 19

PLANTING TREES UPON OUR FARMS

John R. Philip, Grey Co. Ontario.

If you would have trees about your home, plant them now. Your home, beautified by trees, may act as a loadstone to keep your boy upon the farm.

PLANTING trees is generally greatly neglected on the majority of Ontario farms. It is next to impossible to make our homes beautiful and attractive without trees and shrubs of one kind or another. How often we hear the excuse, "I have not time," and still we have time to lean over the line fence, and talk to neighbor Jones for a couple of hours at a time. Another excuse is sometimes made, "I do not know where to plant them." If you watch your stock for a month or six weeks, you will find them on hot days under a tree that, perhaps, some of your forefathers have planted, or protected from destruction when the land was being cleared.

There are many places to plant trees where they will be both beautiful and beneficial, such as along fences, on waste land, and on hill-sides that are too steep for cultivation. Trees for reforesting such waste places for stock protection, and for wind breaks, may be obtained from the Forestry Department of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, the only cost being the express to your nearest railway station.

For shade and ornamental purposes, the majority of farmers can have all the trees they require for the digging. Just go to the wood lot and get our native trees, such as ash, elm, maple and butternut, and evergreens such as cedar, spruce and balsam. These cost practically nothing but the time spent in getting them. This time in a very short period, will prove to be time both well and profitably spent.

WHERE TO PLANT

Deciduous trees, such as the ash, elm, maple, or butternut may be planted along the road in the fence line. It is surprising how quickly they grow to the size and the required strength to string a wire fence upon. A fence can be strung on them by first nailing a strip of soft timber to the tree, then stapling the wire to this picket. Such a fence row will greatly beautify the front of your property. Trees may be planted in other places, such as along the lane, and in the fence-rows between fields. Here they will protect the stock from the burning rays of the midsummer sun. I am convinced that not one per cent. of the farms have too many trees planted on them. However, it is possible to get

them too thick around the dwelling. When such is the case it causes a dampness and unhealthy surrounding to the house. It is a wise policy not to plant too thick, for once a tree is well established it takes a stout heart to destroy it.

Then for evergreens, cedars make a beautiful hedge, when they are planted around a small lawn. I do not advise the average farmer to lay out too large a lawn. A small one, well kept, is much better than a large one ill kept. The cedar makes a nice ornamental tree as well, and can be trained to almost any shape. The spruce



A FARM HOUSE WITH "HOME-LIKE" SURROUNDINGS

The home of Mr. Robt. Hunter, sr., Maxville, Ont., one of our foremost breeders of Ayrshire cattle. Conditions such as pictured cannot be made in a day, but a day's work spent now in tree planting will do much to bring about these conditions in the future.

is also good for this purpose, and can also be clipped, which causes it to become much denser.

HANDLING AND PLANTING

It is not wise when selecting deciduous trees, to take them from land that is too high and dry. They are liable to have one or more large roots and few small feeders, and they will be difficult to start. In the lower land they are much easier to lift, besides a great many more roots are lifted without injury. In no case allow the roots to be exposed to the sun and wind. Once they are dried out, it lessens their chances of life considerably. Throw an old sack over them and keep them wet.

Large trees should never be selected for this purpose. A little patience, and they will soon grow. Always prune back the top to counteract or balance the injury done to the roots in lifting. Cut the trees to a uniform height. They

will then make a much more finished appearance when set in. There are places where certain species of trees do not seem to thrive. For instance, suppose you set out a row of maples. A few are almost certain to die, and next year they may be replaced with no better results. If, however, you are very anxious to have the whole row of the same variety, it may be necessary to dig a large hole and fill it with earth from some other place. If you do not care to go to this trouble, try some other kind of tree. In all cases dig the hole large enough to receive the roots without crowding, or bending the roots out of their proper position. It may not be necessary to set trees in their former position, but it is a very easy matter to mark the natural position of the tree, and it may insure its ultimate growth. Take a pocket knife, and mark, say, the south side of it; then set it out with that mark facing the south.

THE EVERGREENS

The same principles as for deciduous trees apply to evergreens in regard to selection from high or low land. We can often get cedars growing on fairly high dry land, but they are difficult to start, for the reasons before stated.

The planting of evergreens is similar to that of deciduous trees, excepting for hedges, when it is necessary to set them in a trench. Be careful to get fine earth well in around the roots while setting. Keep them cultivated, or mulch with strawy manure for a year or two.

The best time to clip evergreens is in spring, before growth begins. Care should be taken, especially with cedars, not to clip to the bare wood. As this species throws out no fresh shoots, it would never again fill up with green as it was before. Any shape desired may be obtained from trimming, but where heavy snows are liable to come in winter, it is not wise to make flat tops on hedges, as snow lies very heavy, and does considerable damage. They will resist the snow better if trimmed round or peaked on top. Then the snow will split and fall off, doing no damage.

Planting may be done at any time when the tree is in its dormant stage. The best results are obtained, however, from spring planting, before growth starts.

To get fine trees is not like building a dwelling or outbuilding, which can be built and made to look their best in a season. It takes time to bring them to maturity, and, therefore if one would have them in the future he must make an effort to get some started. To some it may not appear worth while to plant trees, but it is a certainty that in a few years they will enhance