

As to tools: All that is wanted the first year is a double-bitted axe, if you know how to use one, or a single-bitted one if you are only learning, (get a light axe with a blade not too wide and wrap some light fence wire around the handle close to the head—this saves many a broken handle). If there is no clearing on your place to start with, buy a small sized wall tent and about 100 feet sup. of 12 x 1 inch boards for your camp. Set up your tent on the south or east of your land (as that is the side you should start to chop first), and on the roadside not too far from water. Always start to clear, if possible, on the south side of your land first. This does not make very much difference the first year, but it makes a big difference every year afterwards, because after you have got a clearing once made, your subsequent clearings dry out quicker if they are open to the south.

The first thing to be considered is what should be chopped first; to chop down the whole bush, big and little, is a heavy task, a slow one, and nearly always spoils the clearing. The object should be to burn as little timber as possible, as the larger trees are valuable, or will be in the near future, at least to the extent of paying to take them away; therefore, leave all the first growth fir and cedar (the standing tree takes up no more room than the stump will occupy after the tree is chopped down, and in a very short time timber of this character will not only pay to remove but give a profit sufficient to pay for taking out the stump.) Another reason for leaving these big trees is that they are coniferous trees (that is, fir, cedar and hemlock), and if you burn them on the ground the fire is so hot that you burn the vegetable humus out of the soil and get none of the fertilising ashes left by deciduous trees to take its place. Still another advantage of leaving the very big trees is, that when all the other timber is burnt off they are more exposed to the wind, and often during the winter they will blow over and bring up the stump, thus saving the cost of stumping later on. The second growth fir, one to two feet in diameter, makes good cord-wood, for which there is a ready sale to the steamboats at \$2.25 a cord, a price which about pays for the chopping and hauling, besides which, it pays to take this away, as you save the burning and logging and do not injure the land. Deducting the heavy timber and second growth coniferous woods, which practically cost nothing to get rid of, as wages are made while clearing them, there are only the fir and cedar saplings and the deciduous trees left, the latter of which it is advantageous to chop and burn (even the heavy ones, of which there will be very few over 12 inches thick), as they make a lot of ashes, which enrich the soil and make a fine seed bed.

In chopping this kind of bush the time of the year should be considered: the best time to burn is about the middle of August; good fires are sometimes got a month earlier or a month later, but August 15th is a good average. During a dry summer bush will burn two weeks after it is chopped (that is if it is well piled), so it is a good plan to have all your chopping finished by August 1st if possible, or even a little earlier. Alder is almost the only deciduous tree which can be chopped when the sap is down and the leaves are off (that is in winter), without much danger of its sprouting, so that it is better not to start chopping until about April 1st, by which time the trees are all bursting into leaf; the more leaves there are when the trees are cut the better will be the fire, and remember that a good burn is the biggest half of the battle. If the brush is well piled and burnt at the right time the