

Questions and Answers for Prairie Tree Planters

Q.—My laurel Willow Hedge has been planted three years but it does not appear to be hardy and freezes down every winter. We water it well every summer and it grows as much as four feet in the season but always freezes down. Other people seem to get theirs to winter. What is wrong? Have I the wrong species or what?

A.—This looks like a case of over-irrigation. Water should not be applied to trees on the Prairie after the middle of July, unless in a very dry season. Examine the ends of the branches and if they are not getting firm and woody, trim off a few inches. This will stop their growth and enable them to harden up before frost comes. The Laurel Willow is quite hardy if it gets a fair chance.

Laurel Hedge Withered

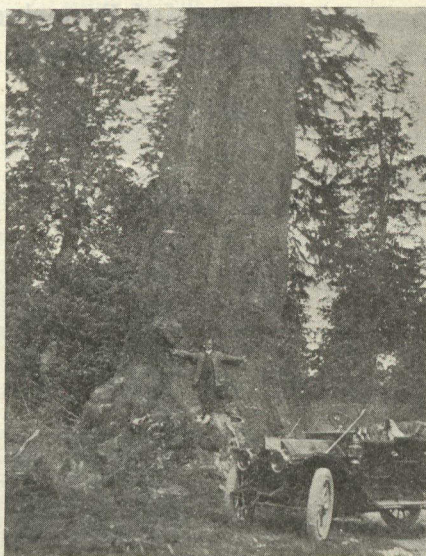
Q.—One of the plants in my Laurel hedge is all withered up and looks to be dead. It was just as green and glossy as the others till three weeks ago. What can I do about it?

A.—We presume you mean Laurel Willow hedge since you write from Calgary. Your plant is dying from a kind of disease on the roots which occurs occasionally but which is not yet well understood. Dig the plant up and burn it and see if the adjoining plants are getting yellow. If so, dig them up too. Then mix some quick lime in the soil, leave for a year and then fill up the gap with fresh plants. As a rule this trouble does not spread very far if taken in time.

Firm Planting Needed

Q.—I live in Calgary. This spring I planted a Caragana hedge on land that has been used for the past two seasons as a garden, the soil being well cultivated and in good condition. The plants used were from twelve to eighteen inches high and although all have grown the leaves are very small and the plants not vigorous looking. What can be the matter?

A.—This looks like a case where the plants were not packed firmly into the soil when they were planted. There seems to be no question about the plants being alive, and as the soil was in good condition and free from alkali, this is about the only conclusion to arrive at. Firm planting is very important in the prairie country, even with an abundant supply of water.



B. C.'s UNRIVALLED GIANTS

We publish the above picture by kindness of Rev. Dr. Charles T. Scott, Pastor of Howard Park Methodist Church, Toronto. It was taken near Chemainus, Vancouver Island. Dr. Scott is standing at the base and his outstretched arms measure five feet, eight inches.



A DISTINCTIVE TREE

Photographed by Rev. Dr. Scott near Royal Bay, Vancouver Island. A horizontal limb extends about 18 feet, at the extremity of which two trees are sustained, one about 18 inches, the other 12 inches in diameter.

Machines help the rangers

Q.—What mechanical equipment is used nowadays by fire rangers in detecting and suppressing forest conflagrations?

A.—Lookout towers for detection with here and there the service of seaplanes for the same purpose. Fire finding machines are used in the

towers for fixing the location of the blaze. Motor speeders and velocipedes are widely employed for patrolling railway lines. Gasoline pumps are highly effective for fighting incipient fires. Small motor cars and trucks are used where roads permit. All these and other devices are helping to check forest fires.

What a planted forest can do

Q.—How large an area would be required to be planted with timber trees in order to give enough timber to support a small pulp mill?

A.—The Chief Forester of the Laurentide Company estimates that 250 square miles will yield 100,000 cords of pulpwood in perpetuity. Please bear in mind that this refers to a planted forest which should yield 75 cords an acre, whereas the natural forest in Eastern Canada now yields only from four to ten cords an acre.

Driftwood on our northern shores.

Q.—I understand from explorers that enormous masses of logs are found at the mouth of the Mackenzie River. Where does this material come from?

A.—The Geological Survey, Ottawa, reports that the 'derelict' logs massed at times at the mouth of the rivers flowing into the Arctic have been carried all the way from Siberia, Norway and the St. Lawrence.

Forest fires and the newspapers

Q.—As a newspaper editor, I have always maintained that the daily and weekly press are paying the bills for forest fires. I refer, of course, to the destruction of paper making woods, spruce and balsam.

A.—Your statement is not exaggerated. Spruce and balsam are the raw materials of newsprint paper. Dear wood automatically follows forest fires, as the United States paper mills are finding today. When Ontario loses 700,000 acres of timberlands by fire in a single season, and Quebec another 600,000 acres, it is not difficult to understand that the price of depletion must be paid by the ultimate consumer of wood products. We cannot hold down the price of newsprint paper and at the same time allow forest fires the right of way.