

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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something for the cause in the munition factory or on the farm. There are great opportunities through the latter channel to expend some energy for the benefit of mankind during this period of a world-wide food shortage. Men, munitions and food are needed; all should keep this in mind for 1917. Those who have amassed and are still accumulating wealth must contribute to the funds; human effort must be so directed that our factories may yield the greatest possible production, and the fertile soil of Canada must be so tilled as to bring forth an abundance of food to nourish the soldiers in the trenches and the people of the United Kingdom, who are now working hard in the humming mills of Britain.

Attend Agricultural Meetings.

Winter is about the only season that farmers have time to meet together to discuss problems of interest. In many localities the annual Farmers' Institute or Board of Agriculture meetings are the only events which draw the members of the rural community together for educational purposes during the entire year. Sometimes this is varied by a two-days stock judging course, a seed or a fruit meeting. The speaker provided by the Department, sometimes has things his own way, but there are localities in which the farmers and their sons cause a lively discussion; this is the way it should be. It is one of the best means of securing information. Every man has an idea, and in many instances it assists the neighbor in his work when he knows about it, and it does the other fellow no harm in telling him. It has been claimed that farmers, as a class, carefully guard any new method they evolve for fear the neighbors might excel them. Jealousies of this kind are bad for a neighborhood; it is a very selfish spirit, and we know that it does not exist in all localities. One meeting a year is not sufficient. There are problems enough confronting the average farmer to furnish topics for discussion for many evenings during the winter. It is not essential that farm subjects be constantly adhered to; economic topics might profitably be introduced. At many such meetings which we have attended there was a noticeable absence of young men, and, on making enquiries, it was found

that the young men did not consider the meetings of sufficient interest to warrant them attending. Is it not possible to have a program that will attract the young people? A two-days stock judging course was recently held in a community and one father stated that he had difficulty in persuading his two sons to attend. However, they had not been in the building very long when it was noticed that they were taking a keen interest in what the speaker was saying. There was no difficulty in getting these two young men to attend the following day, and their interest in solving some of the farm problems was aroused to such an extent that they have since become ardent students of agriculture.

The young men and boys should be encouraged to attend and take part in such meetings. In one locality the directors of the local Farmers' Institute made special arrangements for part of the afternoon meeting to be specially for the boys. One year they had a competition in judging oats and giving reasons for the placings; another year the speaker gave a talk on weeds and then had the boys present identify a number of specimens which he had with him. Needless to say, the adults were also interested and there was always a crowd in attendance at the Institute Meetings. The Farmers' Club and Literary Society in which the members meet regularly once or twice a month, are training schools for future leaders, and many of the prominent business men to-day owe part at least of their success to the training they received at their local debating club. If there is a literary or agricultural meeting held in the community, everyone should plan to attend, and, if need be, take part in the program. We may not agree with all that the speaker has to say, but we can at least agree to disagree, and no doubt there will be some remark or hint dropped during the meeting that can be put to good use at some time during the season. All who have not been in the habit of attending these meetings in the past, should plan to do so this year and take the boys along.

Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M.A.

If in the wood-lot there are comparatively large, open spaces in which grass and other herbs have obtained a hold, these places should be disk harrowed just before the seed is about to fall from such species of trees as it is desired to stock with. If there are no large seed trees of desirable species at the margins of the openings, seed should be gathered and sown. It is important to see that trees of undesirable species do not start in such openings.

When logging operations are under way in the wood-lot it is very important to see that such operations make for the betterment and not the marring of the future

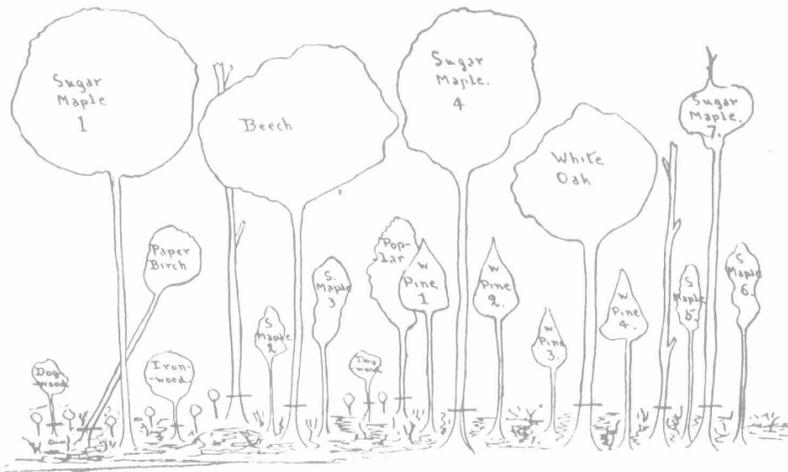


Diagram of Uneven-aged, Mixed Stand of Trees.

stand. If the timber is not cut by the owner himself, all trees which are to be cut should be marked, and a careful supervision exercised to see that only marked trees are cut. It is unwise to allow only the good, sound trees of desirable species to be cut; the diseased and dying trees should be taken and also trees of inferior species. To induce the purchaser to take inferior trees it will probably be necessary to make some concessions in regard to price, but the loss from such concessions will be more than repaid by the improvement of the remaining stand. In felling trees, care should be taken not to throw them into the midst of a group of promising young trees which are likely to be seriously broken. Care should also be exercised in dragging logs out of the bush, so that all unnecessary breakage and trampling may be avoided. Many choppers clear the so-called "brush" from a far larger area round the tree they are about to fell than is really necessary, thus destroying many young trees of desirable species, young trees which have already made several years' growth, and which would, in a comparatively short time, take the place of the one which is felled.

In all logging operations the proper disposal of brush is important. All tops and branches should be piled and burned in the winter. They should be burned in small piles, and these should be located in the largest openings, which are sufficiently close at hand, so that the flames may not damage the surrounding trees. Proper brush disposal not only reduces danger from fire to a minimum, but provides good condition for the growth of young trees.

There are, on many farms, areas which would eventually yield far greater returns if under timber than from attempts to grow other crops on them. Such areas are pieces of rocky land, wet land, steep hillsides, and sandy knolls. Not only do such areas when reforested represent a valuable future asset but they act as wind-breaks, and it has been conclusively shown that the protection afforded by a wind-break increases the yield in farm crops to the extent of the value of the crop which could be grown on a strip three times as wide as the height of the trees.

We have now dealt briefly with the main things which have to be considered in the general management of the farm wood-lot. Every wood-lot presents particular problems of its own, and no general statements can be made which will cover all cases. I shall be glad, however, to give such advice as I can in regard to the management of any wood-lot if the owner will send a detailed statement of the condition of the lot to the Farmer's Advocate. Such a statement should include the following data: the part of the country in which the wood-lot is situated; kind of soil, whether wet or dry; kind of stand—uneven-aged, or even-aged—open or thickly stocked; and should be accompanied by a cross-section diagram of a typical section of the lot, made as shown in diagram. Such diagram can be prepared better in winter than in summer, and only the outline made by joining the tips of the branches should be drawn.

In the illustration I have indicated the trees which should be removed by a line across their base. In it the Dogwoods should be cut as they are interfering with Maple Seedlings beneath them, and the same is true of the Ironwood. The Paper Birch is dying and should be removed. The Beech is suppressing Sugar Maples 2 and 3. Sugar Maple 4 is suppressing White Pines 1 and 2, and the Poplar is suppressing White Pine 1. The White Oak has reached about its full growth and is suppressing White Pines 3 and 4. Sugar Maple 7 is dead at the top and is hindering Maples 5 and 6. The two dead trees should be cut.

THE HORSE.

The Horse's Coat.

The general appearance and comfort of a horse is greatly influenced by his coat. A well-groomed horse, like a well-groomed man or woman, is "pleasant to look upon." The coat of a horse, to a great extent, gives evidence of care or neglect, as the case may be. While a nice, fine, silky, glossy coat adds much to the horse's general appearance, it requires a great deal of attention to keep it thus, especially during the late fall and winter months. Some horses have, naturally, much finer and shorter coats than others, and, while breeding has some influence in this respect, we frequently notice a vast

difference in animals of the same breeding. Why this is we cannot determine, and are simply compelled to accept it as a fact. The age of the animal has an influence; we notice that it is not usually possible to keep the coat of a quite young or very old horse in as fine a condition as that of an animal between adulthood and old age. Horses under five or over twenty do not usually give the same returns for care and attention, as regards coat, as do those between these ages. In the former cases it may be that the more or less general fevered state of the system, consequent upon dentition, has an influence

upon the coat, and in the latter case we probably are justified in assuming that the general vitality of the animal is more or less impaired, and the coat, as well as other parts of the body, evidence this decrease in vitality. We frequently hear people say that they "do not like grey or white horses, as they are so hard to keep clean." A grey horse is no harder to "keep clean" than a dark colored one, but dirt or stains show more readily, and it requires more attention to keep him "looking clean." We often notice, when a team consists of a grey and a dark-colored horse, and when care is taken to keep them looking well, that on close examination the grey has a finer, shorter and cleaner coat than his mate from the fact that stains, etc., show so plainly on him that he receives more grooming. During the summer months there is little trouble experienced in keeping a horse's coat looking nice, but as the weather becomes cold in the fall nature demands that the horse be clothed accordingly, and there is a strong tendency to growth of hair, and we may say that "the coat loses its gloss in proportion to the length of hair." In order, then, that