

How to Eliminate Grass in Prairie Shelter Belts

By Archibald Mitchell, of the Western Staff of the Canadian Forestry Association.

A question that comes up continually is that of grass in the plantations.

"What can I do to get rid of grass among my trees?"

"What have you tried for it?"

"Well, I have tried to hoe it out but it just seems to make it worse, and you can't plow it, the trees are too close."

"Have you ever tried mulching it with straw?"

"Yes, at least I have covered it with manure but it does no good."

"When did you apply the manure?"

"I put it on in the winter, just as it came from the stable."

"Suppose now, you had a fine rose bush, or a bunch of rhubarb or something to keep over winter, how would you protect it?"

"Oh well, I suppose I would mulch it with manure."

"Of course you would, and the mulching would protect it too. It would come out in spring in fine shape. Now, don't you think if a mulch protects a rose bush over winter it would be likely to do the same for a perennial grass, such as the 'blue joint'?"

"Well, it does seem reasonable."

"Yes, a winter mulch protects the grass, while a summer mulch destroys it."

"The best time to apply the mulch is about the middle of June, when the grass is in the flush of its growth. And use plenty of straw, ten inches to a foot deep, sufficient to smother it up and keep out the light."



A daily event at the Tree Planting Car of the Canadian Forestry Association in its visits to prairie communities. The school children march to the car and enjoy heartily an hour's description, through word and picture.

"Why sure" says another man "I remember laying a door down on the grass when it was growing, and when I lifted it a month later, the place was all black where it had been lying."

Yes, that's it, a summer mulch rots the grass, and the way to kill it among your trees is to apply it about the third week in June.

Many a plantation throughout the country is today in bad order just from

the want of this kind of mulch, and many a one that has been abandoned as a hopeless job, would have been saved if straw had been applied in time, and at the right time.

When to Defeat the Grass.

Remember the right time is the month of June.

One objection to the use of straw mulch in a plantation is the fact that mice sometimes find a lodgment there, and damage the bark of the trees. While this is perfectly true, it is also just as true that many plantations are flourishing because of the straw mulch and without any injury from mice.

Indeed, so important is this matter of a straw mulch, that many a plantation is destined to become completely ruined by grass unless this method of giving it a new lease of life by smothering out the grass in June is adopted. If mice are likely to be plentiful, the straw can be raked back from the tree stems before winter."

A parallel question that is often asked is "How soon in the life of a plantation may the mulch be applied?" The answer to that is, anytime after the second or third year, but it must be applied in June if it is to kill grass.

Your Initial Preparations.

Grass in a plantation is usually a sign of poor preparation previous to planting and the lack of information regarding its nature and the danger of allowing it to



Does the Public Respond to the Canadian Forestry Association's Campaigns? Here is a typical Audience Waiting for Our Cars to Open the Doors.