

for the individual case. In some lands it might take two men with mattocks to, prepare ground for one planter.

PLANTING OF NUTS.

Species which have seeds and seedlings subject to many dangers if sown in rough, wild places should be reproduced by using the nursery plant.

Many of the nut tree species, however, can best be propagated by planting the nuts in final position rather than by using nursery stock. Nut tree seedlings are generally quite hardy after germination, making it quite safe to plant them in rough places.

The common nut trees growing in Ontario are White Oak, Bur Oak, Red Oak, Black Oak, Beech, Chestnut, Bitternut Hickory, Shagbark Hickory, Butternut, and Black Walnut. Of the above species, Red Oak and Chestnut give promise of being the most useful and practical in waste lands, especially where the soil is light and sandy. Red Oak, White Oak, Chestnut, Shagbark Hickory, and Black Walnut are found naturally in loamy soils. Bur Oak and Bitternut Hickory are found in the heavier classes of soils.

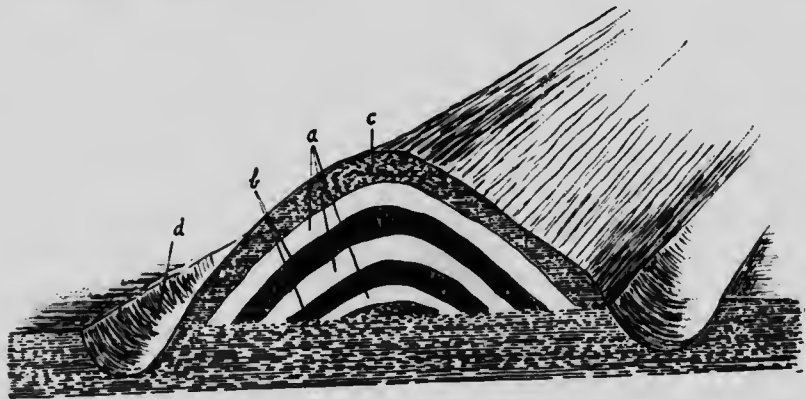


Fig. 26.—Cross section of pit for storing nuts.

The collecting of nut seeds need not be described, as everyone has had some experience. Care should be had not to gather such nuts as Black Walnuts too green. The safest time to collect is after the nuts have naturally fallen to the ground.

White Oak acorns in the southern part of the Province frequently germinate in the autumn shortly after falling. Acorns which have started to germinate will need careful treatment in handling. If the acorns are collected upon falling to the ground and placed in a cool, dry place, there will be little danger of autumn germination.

Nuts may be planted in the autumn or stored and planted in the spring. Autumn planting has some drawbacks. The edible nuts are frequently found by squirrels or other rodents before they have germinated. In wet soils and cold, damp seasons the nuts may lose their germinating power from decay.

The care and storage of nuts needs some attention. The nut may have the husk taken off, although there is less danger of drying out if it is not removed. Drying out is the greatest danger to be feared after nuts have been collected. In no case should they be placed in artificially heated rooms. After collection the nuts should be spread out in some dry, cool place for a few days until they are