

The effect of this has been actually opposed to the forester's teachings.

Arbor Day is the time for disseminating sound, practical knowledge regarding forestry in its broader aspect. The mere act of setting a few trees, without reference to the commercial utility and the protective value of forests, is but a small part of the work of the day.

The proper season for planting is not everywhere the same. South of the thirty-seventh parallel, especially in the more humid regions, fall planting is perhaps preferable, but north of this the winter comes on so quickly that the trees have scarcely time to develop roots strong enough to support them until spring, and spring planting is therefore more advisable. The right time to plant in spring is when the ground has ceased to freeze and before budding begins. Evergreens may be planted somewhat later than hardwoods. The day to plant is almost as important as the season. Sunny, windy weather is very unfavorable; cool, damp days are the best. For this reason it is well to leave the date for Arbor Day unfixed, so that the best opportunity may be chosen. Such exercises as are desired can follow when the planting is done.

The careful selection of trees for a specific use and situation is essential to success, and proper planting is equally important. Though less fastidious than agricultural crops in their demands upon the soil, trees can not be set in a rough soil at random and then expected to flourish. They should be planted without allowing their roots time to dry out from exposure to the air. When delay between procuring the trees and their planting cannot be avoided, the roots must be kept moist by standing them in a "puddle" made of earth and water mixed to the consistency of cream, or "heeled-in" by nearly burying them in fresh earth. In setting the trees it is important to place them about three inches deeper than they stood originally, and to spread out the roots and pack the soil firmly about them. Two inches of soil at the top should be left very loose, to act as a mulch to retain the moisture.

Large trees are by no means always the best to plant. Small seedlings may be secured easily and cheaply, and are much more likely to live. If these are set out in good numbers after the pattern of a commercial plantation they will become in due time a true forest on a small scale.

If only a few trees are planted, as is usually the case, it is still possible to make plain the true relation of such work to forestry. No matter how few the trees, they may be made to illustrate planting for commercial or protective use.

The scope of Arbor Day planting may be sometimes broadened by securing permission from some public-spirited citizen or