

interlocked with one another. It should have a good, strong, moist soil, but not one that is wet. When several varieties of trees are grown, the Norway spruce should be put on the most exposed side.

**493. Suitable Widths for Windbreaks.**—A single row of Norway spruces, planted from four to eight feet apart, will soon make an effective windbreak ; but some prefer to make two or three rows out of the same number of trees, since this plan allows more room for development. On the side of a farm that is much exposed, windbreaks may be planted to a depth of several rods. A windbreak of such magnitude assumes the character of a plantation or forest, and may be made a source of revenue. In every case the evergreens should be planted on the side of the windbreak that is most exposed.

**494. The Planting and Cultivation of Windbreaks.**—The ground intended for the windbreak should, if possible, be well cultivated for the year previous to planting in order that it may be clean and loose. When the time for planting has come, the plough should be used to make light straight furrows in which to place the young trees. If Norway spruces are used, they may be put in when only a few inches high, at which age they may be obtained from the nursery-man at low rates. The ground along the rows should be kept clean and well-stirred until the young trees are several feet in height.

**495. Pruning.**—The best time for pruning forest trees is in the autumn, for then the wood is ripe and there will be no loss of sap from the wounds made by cutting. Some, however, would recommend the early spring, just before the sap begins to ascend. The pruning consists mainly in removing the lower branches, so that the trunks shall be smooth and shapely. When the trees are planted singly, and are intended for shade, the branches should be allowed to grow on at least two-thirds of the stem. Planting trees thickly at first, and afterwards thinning them from time to time, has the effect of making their stems straight and tall.