

seen the little bluffs of native poplar now taking possession of the Prairie in certain districts will remember that this is just the way that nature does. The trees in the little bluffs are very close together and no wind can blow through them to dry up the moisture, and the leaves form a more or less dense shade which keeps out the sun.

Take a Lesson From Nature

This is nature's way, and in our planting we just follow nature and plant our trees close together using varieties that will give us plenty of shade. We plant them four feet apart each way and use a lot of Manitoba Maple along with the other trees to shade the ground, because their leaves are large and close, making it one of the very best trees for the purpose.

Very small plants are used. They are best only about a foot high, and of course while they are so small they can not keep much wind or sun out, so we cultivate the soil between them to act as a moisture keeper till trees are big enough to do it for themselves. This is easy to understand, for after all, surface cultivation only creates a dry loose layer of soil which lies on the ground and keeps the wind from touching the moisture down among the roots and also keeps the wind from shining directly on it. It is only a kind of artificial sunshade and wind shield and has to be renewed every week or two for the first few years till the trees are big enough and branchy enough to protect the moisture by themselves. Usually three years of this cultivation is enough if the trees have been planted four feet apart and the right varieties used. To help out the trees in protecting their moisture and also to save a year's work with the cultivator, it is a good plan to spread four or five inches of manure or straw under the trees. The best time to do this is at the end of the second year when the trees are bushy enough to keep the wind from blowing the protection



How the approach to the school door at Assiniboia, Sask., has been improved by the planting of trees and shrubs. The children of the prairie communities are entitled not only to splendid school buildings but to beautiful school grounds.

away and at the same time not too bushy to make it difficult getting the straw or manure mulch, as it is called, in among the trees. This mulch is useful in two ways for it is always loose and open enough to allow rain and melted snow to find their way down to the soil below, and, as we have seen, it acts as a screen which keeps the sun and the wind from stealing the moisture from the soil. The mulch is never taken off and may be added to every five or six years as may be considered necessary.

Plant Broad Solid Blocks.

To still further assist in moisture preserving, the strip of trees should be about four rods wide, as a broad, solid, block of trees keeps the wind out of a plantation far better than a narrow one.

Besides, the broad belt provides a far better shelter in winter when the leaves are off and when shelter is most needed.

It will now be easy to understand how this close planting and mulching helps to keep down the cost of establishing the

plantation, for if the trees were planted wider apart they would have to be cultivated for several years longer till they were big enough and branchy enough to take care of themselves.

Cultivation takes time and money, so that in reality it is far cheaper to plant trees four feet apart than six feet or wider.

You may require more trees but the time taken up in cultivation is very much less.

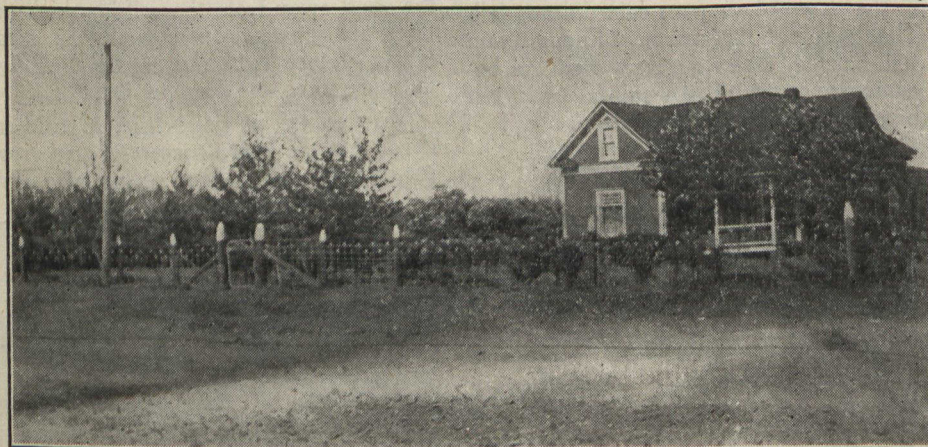
This matter of expense in establishing a plantation is one of the three principal points that must be borne in mind in planning a plantation. The other two are, "Rapid growth" and "Permanency", and we get both of them by using certain kinds of trees.

Rapidity of growth is very important for we don't want to wait any longer than we can help for the shelter we need. The best tree to give us rapid results is the Russian Poplar (*Populus Petrowskiana*). It is very cheap and grows readily from cuttings ten inches long, which also have the additional advantage of being easily planted. A cutting of this size will grow to about eight or nine feet in three years and as many of them will be from twelve to fourteen feet in four years and from twenty-five to thirty in ten years, it will be easily seen why we should plant plenty of Russian Poplar.

Russian Poplar a Favorite.

But Russian Poplars are supposed to live only about thirty years. That is to say, we have only had them growing in Western Canada for about that time, and we really do not know how long they will last, but, to help out the life of the plantation we use a few Ash and Elm among the other trees.

They are native and, with the maple will grow for 60 or 70 years or even longer.



In 1907 Mr. C. Gardiner, of Cayley, Alberta, took a few days off to plant trees about his home and part of his farm. To-day he has not only a better looking home but one much more comfortable to live in than would have been the case had he believed "you can't make trees grow on the prairie."