

PLANTING TREES ON PRAIRIE FARMS

Beneficial Effects of Shelterbelts on Agricultural Production in Western Canada

The planting of trees on prairie farms in Western Canada is having an appreciably beneficial effect on the quality and variety of agricultural production in that part of the Dominion. The large and growing annual distribution of planting material made from the nursery stations of the Department of the Interior at Indian Head and Sutherland, Saskatchewan, is gradually changing the general appearance of the prairies in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and the development of shelterbelts is being followed by the setting out of apple and small fruit orchards, gardens of fine vegetables and by the further beautification of prairie homes with shrubs, flower beds, and extensive lawns.

A recent report from the Tree Planting Division, Forest Service, Department of the Interior, indicates the growing success of tree planting and the new avenues of development opened up as a result of this work. Further an affidavit word of the success of the work is being carried and requests for stock are now received from practically every part of the prairies. At present the demand for trees is greater than it has been at any time in the twenty-seven years since the inauguration of free tree distribution, and in 1927 these shipments were the largest so far with a total of 7,330,000 broadleaf seedlings and cuttings. These were sent out to over 11,000 farmers under the Department's co-operative plan. There is every prospect that the 1927 figures will be exceeded in 1928 as inspections have been made of 12,528 proposed new plantations, and trees to meet the requirements of these new applicants will be sent out next spring.

To ensure success in the establishment of shelterbelts active and helpful control is exercised by the Forest Service. From early June until freeze-up a corps of nine experienced field inspectors travels continuously, inspecting proposed new plantations, advising farmers who are actually planting, and taking careful census of the plantations of the previous years. Incidentally they take note of the effect of the plantations on the social and economic life of the settler. The outstanding point has been the encouragement given to the growing of fruits and to the building up of really attractive home surroundings by the planting of ornamental shrubs, and flowers and the setting out of lawns.

Twenty years ago the number of prairie farms with really first-class vegetable gardens was small while only rarely was the growing of

fruits attempted. Reports to the end of August, 1927, covering 3,812 farms visited show that of this number 3,411 had good vegetable gardens; 4,258 were growing small fruits; 379 had ornamental shrubs; 265 were testing standard apples and crab apples; while 213 were growing plums.

Although the development of tree planting in the Prairie Provinces has been rapid in recent years, its rate of progress during the few years immediately following its inauguration in 1901 was comparatively slow. Settlers and others were very sceptical as to the possibility of growing trees successfully on the prairies, and although the trees were to be had free only 47 farmers could be induced to set out plantations, and the total number of trees distributed in that year was but 54,800. The success of these early plantations encouraged other farmers to take advantage of the opportunity to beautify and improve their homes, and ever since there has been a gradual increase in the demand for tree-planting stock.

Up to date the number of trees shipped from the Indian Head and Sutherland stations has reached 93,131,000 broadleaf seedlings and cuttings of maple, ash, caragana, poplar, and willow; all of these were furnished free of charge to those applicants who had ground in a satisfactory state of preparation. Of evergreens, 1,645,145, have been distributed. These were white spruce, Scotch pine, jack pine, and lodgepole pine. Only limited numbers of evergreens are grown and on that account a nominal charge of \$3. per hundred is made. Although the primary function of the nursery stations is to supply trees for farm shelterbelts and woodlots, nearly 1,000,000 evergreen seedlings and transplants were supplied for planting on various national forests under the Dominion Forest Service.

It is evident that in addition to beautifying the farm and thus greatly improving the environment of the prairie home, the establishment of shelterbelts directly benefits the farmer by raising the quality and increasing the quantity of the products of his farm. The results obtained from fruit growing are most encouraging. With the further development of shelterbelt planting and the production of hardier varieties of fruits by the institutions now carrying on that class of work, it is reasonable to expect that in the not far distant future almost every prairie farmer will be raising supplies of fruit for domestic use.

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GET FULL FOOD VALUE

Many housewives frequently spoil what might be a good dinner by not knowing that there is an art in boiling. It requires more care than is usually given it.

If meat is allowed to boil too quickly it becomes tough and flavorless. Here are some boiling rules:

Just sufficient water to cover the meat should be used and the saucepan should be large enough only to hold the meat. The water should not be allowed to boil violently. That will only make the meat tough and it will not cook faster. The temperature of water is the same whether it boils gently or furiously.

The meat should be plunged into boiling water for a few minutes to harden the outside slightly and prevent the juice from running out. Then it should simmer on a slow fire and the scum removed as it rises or it will settle on the meat. Scum will be found on the meat if it is first put into cold water as many housewives have a habit of doing.

To get best results use the softest water you can get. Water previously boiled and allowed to cool is good. The time allowed for boiling should be regulated by the size of the meat and the kind of meat. Beef or mutton usually require 20 minutes. Salted meat should be soaked in cold water before cooking, but on no account should fresh meat be soaked.

Meat to be used for soup should be put in cold water as in this case the meat juice goes to the making of the soup, but the meat itself will be tough and dry. In the case of soup the meat should be cut into small pieces, put into cold water and heated slowly to boiling point.

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MOVIES

LOTS OF COMEDY IN MILTON SILLS' LATEST PICTURE

"Hard-Boiled Haggerty" Has Serious Moments, However, When Star's Life is Imperiled in Plane Fall.

"Hard-Boiled Haggerty," Milton Sills' latest starring vehicle from First National Pictures, playing at the Veteran Star Theatre, has more emphasis on comedy and on the love element than is usually seen in the rugged star's film dramas.

But speaking of tough experiences in filming a picture—and every Sills' picture takes the star through hardships innumerable—"Hard-Boiled Haggerty" gave him a thorough taste of the World War, from falling a thousand feet in a burning airplane, for the camera, to being gassed, but not for the camera!

The gassing came from the burning airplane. A "cold fire" used on the star's clothes and in the plane cockpit released chlorine gas, used by the Germans during the war. It nearly put Sills down for a count of ten!

"Hard-Boiled Haggerty" was produced for First National Pictures by Wid Gunning, and directed by Charles Barbin. Carey Wilson adapted it from a magazine story by Elliott White Springs. Molly O'Day a new leading lady of great promise and ability, plays opposite the star, and Arthur Stone, Mitchell Lewis, George Fawcett, and Yola d'Avril figure prominently in the cast.

A touch of airplane warfare starts the plot with thrills that are multiplied in subsequent action in Paris and other locales behind the lines, in colorful World War days.

LLOYD HAMILTON IS SEEN AS BUTLER IN LAUGH HIT

Lloyd Hamilton will be seen as a chauffeur-butler in his newest Educational Hamilton Comedy, "Breezing Along" which will be at the V. S. Theatre, Friday and Saturday, December 16 and 17. His appearance in this new role is said to offer many opportunities for the introduction of novel gags and trick comedy.

Estelle Bradley, who has been Hamilton's leading lady in many comedies, this year, will appear opposite the star. Al Thompson and

Eva Thatcher head the large supporting cast of comedians and comedienne.

A modern child that clings to his mother's clothes may become a trapeze artist.

It isn't universal language we need so much as one that will be adequate when your shin meets a chair rocker at night.

IN MEMORIAM
Keller—In memory of Mrs. Adam Keller, who passed away one year ago today, December 15, 1926.
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Sadly missed by Husband, Son and Daughters.
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Such lovely colors are black, maroon glaze, tawny birch, spruce, maple, navy and pleasing brown.

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Quality Handkerchiefs, assorted colors, single or boxed at 10c. to \$1.00 each.



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