

## WEEDS:

Weeds of New Jersey (1924)—New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, New Brunswick, N. J.

Some Farm Weeds, How to Know and Control Them (1924), Circular 171, Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

Idaho Weeds (1926), Extension Bulletin 56, Extension Service, University of Idaho College of Agriculture, Moscow, Idaho.

Pennsylvania Weeds (1927), General Bulletin 448, Pennsylvania Dept. Agr., Harrisburg, Pa.

Weeds—How to Control Them—U. S. Dept. Agr. Farmers' Bulletin 660.

## A Plea For the Care of Young Trees

By H. Hunsucker

MUCH has been written about the care of old trees and they certainly merit all the care and attention prescribed. But what about young trees? Each spring, thousands of them are planted, with the very best of intentions, and through lack of care from 40 per cent to 90 per cent die during the first summer. Of course they can be replaced the following fall or spring, but one year's growth is lost thereby, together with the probability of losing a large per cent of the replacements.

Properly planted, pruned and attended during the first two years after planting, we should expect 95 out of each 100 trees planted to live and to develop into fine shapely trees. To secure this result, it will be necessary to follow certain rules religiously.

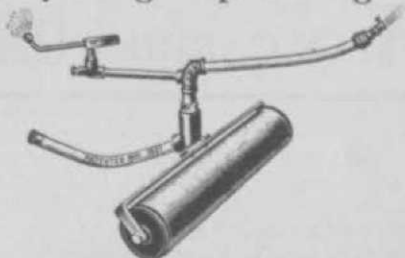
In the first place, trees should be selected from a nursery of good standing. They struggle enough under normal conditions without the handicap of a dwarfed root system and poor handling at the nursery. The order should specify straight trees of the size desired.

It is very important when the trees arrive to have them "healed in" at once. The term "healed in" means to cover the roots with moist soil, until they can be planted in their permanent location. The tree should be planted at about the same depth as at the nursery. More trees are planted too deep than too shallow. It is common knowledge that filling around old trees will cause them to die. Planting young trees too deep is a frequent cause of death the second year after planting.

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A tree well planted should have the soil firmly packed about the roots, driving out all air spaces. The upper two inches should be left loose to serve as a mulch, and to readily absorb moisture.

Fall or spring planting depends on species, soil and climate. It should be done fairly late if planted in the fall, and early, soon after the frost leaves the ground, if planted in the spring.

It is usually not necessary to water trees when planted in the fall, and in the spring only if the ground is dry. It is necessary, however, to remove from one-third to one-half the branches of the top to compensate for loss to the root system in the digging operation. This should be done so as to leave a symmetrical top, rather than a bobbed one.

As a matter of fact, planting is usually done by an experienced man, one who understands these operations; at the same time it is well for the owner to know just what should be done, and to see to it that nothing is overlooked.

The critical time is after the trees are planted. Will there be an intelligent gardener in charge or will Nature have to care for it? The best of plantings can "run to seed" and die if left unattended.

## Trees Must Be Nursed

After planting, the secret of success is cultivation.

What does the word "cultivation" really mean? It means stirring and hoeing the soil to conserve moisture and aerate the lower depths which are two essential factors in successful tree growing. Also, it means the destruction of weeds while they are small. All the watering one may apply in dry weather is never of real service if one neglects to stir and cultivate the surface afterwards.

Cultivate an area about the trees one-third larger than that of the soil removed for planting. Cultivate once every ten days during the growing season, for two years after the tree is planted. Discontinue, however, about the first of September, in order to permit the leaves to ripen for winter.

In the wet season, the general run of trees and plants is less thrifty than in a normal season when one can periodically cultivate, for the simple reason that soil which is constantly wet, even if well drained, becomes sour and mouldy. The surface becomes packed and the roots of the trees lack the air they so much need.

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