

# Planting Ornamental Trees

By L. C. BREED

**T**HE spring is considered the best time for tree planting and it has been found that old pasture lands, or other land which has had some cultivation makes the best earth for trees. Most soils contain a sufficient supply of the various elements of the plant food, and when the soil is in good condition it is generally unnecessary to make any additions in ordinary seasons.

It is better to obtain trees of nursery men than to procure them in the woods, and the nearer the nursery is situated the better. In the nursery the tree is trained to withstand the hardship of being transplanted to its final home.

Where quick results are desired it is advisable to buy trees two or three inches in diameter or those that are five to ten years of age. Trees from twelve to eighteen inches in diameter are often quite successfully moved. Very large specimens require the services of tree movers and their equipment. The size of the trees is an important matter and generally the partially developed root system of the seedling renders it the safest to dig up.

#### TREES SHOULD BE HEELED IN

**I**F the trees cannot be planted immediately on their arrival from the nursery, they should be "heeled in."

This is done by digging a trench about a foot and a half deep and of sufficient width to accommodate the roots of the trees without bending. In this trench the trees are set close together and the roots covered with soil, care being taken that it is worked in about them. Trees so planted can be kept for some time and be planted when holes are made ready.

In the process of digging many of the roots are broken off. To balance this loss of roots the tree should have their tops considerably reduced. This is done by cutting out superfluous branches and by heading in the remainder. With trees not more than three or four years of age the removal of most of the past season's growth will be sufficient. The more severe the pruning the greater the growth during the first few seasons. The roots also require some pruning and all mangled roots should be removed.

One of the elements of beauty in the planting of shade trees is to have them vertical. Newly-set trees are liable to become ill-shaped if not properly supported and generally during the first few years of their life.

#### WORK OF PRUNING SHOULD BEGIN AT TOP

**T**HE work of pruning a tree should begin at the top, be continued in a downward direction and completed at the bottom. All dead and imperfect limbs should be removed and it should be borne in mind that when the work is completed the tree should look as if no limbs had been removed. The amount of top-pruning depends upon the species, since not all trees transplant with the same success.

The growth of trees should be carefully watched and all hindrances to their proper development promptly given attention and removed or corrected especially during the first few years.

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