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Think It Over

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Month by Month With the Trees

(Continued from page 18)

injured should be pruned off with a sharp knife so that all roots are perfectly smooth. Half of the top should also be removed, but the part removed should never include the top-most branch or so called leader of the tree. Pick out the side branches which are least essential and which can be removed without materially interfering with the general symmetry of the top. Remove these branches by making a smooth cut flush with the parent stem. In transporting the tree to the place of planting, cover the roots with moist burlap so that it will be protected from drying winds and the sun. As much as five minutes of exposure of the roots to sun and air is sometimes fatal and one cannot be too careful to prevent this damage.

Exclude All Air Around Transplanted Roots

When the tree arrives at the place it is to occupy, place the roots on the top soil and straighten them out so that they lay flat and do not interfere with one another. Cover the roots with the top soil and when they are well covered, thoroughly wet the ground with water. If possible, it is well to make the ground muddy, then by moving the tree up and down, the soil is brought into close contact with all sides of the roots. If for any reason

(Continued on next page)



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THE REPUBLIC RUBBER CO.

Youngstown, Ohio

Month by Month With the Trees

(Continued from page 41)

parts of the roots are not in contact with the soil, the air at this point will cause them to die.

Firming the soil around the roots with a blunt stick or by tamping it is very essential. This packs the soil tightly and prevents air pockets from being left around the roots. Over the top spread about two inches of loose top soil and the tree is planted.

It is quite essential in the planting operation to see that the tree is not put into the ground more than two inches deeper than it previously grew. Its former depth in the ground can always be determined by a mark on the stem. Planting the tree too high is quite as serious a mistake as is planting it too low.

Attention After Planting

After planting certain care and attention is necessary. Too often a tree is planted and then left to shift for itself. One never does this with crops, shrubs, flowers and the like. Cultivating, watering and fertilizing almost invariably follow. The same practices should be used in caring for newly transplanted trees. Keep the soil well cultivated around them, keep out the weeds and occasionally water them. The second year it is well to fertilize them so that they will have additional food with which to build themselves.

Many times it is necessary to brace the tree so that it will not be blown over in a storm. This can be done in several ways. One of the best is to set three stakes in a triangle about the tree. Guy the tree to each of these stakes by means of a wire which should be enclosed in a rubber hose where it goes around the tree. Another method is to place a strong stake beside the tree. The stake should be six to eight feet long and the tree attached to it in a way similar to that described for the bracing to the three stakes.

The old adage that anything worth doing at all is worth doing well, certainly applies in planting trees.

Editor's Note: Our October issue will contain a special chapter by Mr. Scherer covering the planting of evergreens.

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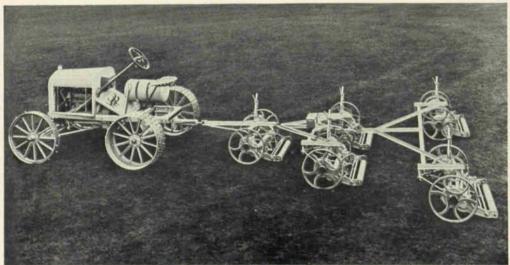
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