

It is necessary before afforesting dunes to suitably fix them, in order to preserve the plantations against the dust from the sand. They use for that (after having rounded off the sharp ridges) heather, marram, or straw in the manner that we have described.

If, however, the dune harbours much vegetation it is necessary to prepare the soil, because in this case it is generally not sufficiently moist for spruces to thrive in it. At times this is done by means of a special shovel, with which are made holes from about 12 in. to 20 in. deep in which to put the young trees. For some years, however, more care has been taken with this work; with an ordinary shovel are made trenches from 10 in. to 12 in. deep, even making this digging as deep as 20 in. in places much covered with plants and in those where the soil is poor and sterile. After this operation the soil ought to be naturally fixed afresh. In the dune-hollows the soil is fairly firm and humid; there are dug trenches about 20 in. deep, and, if required, they are provided with borders to ensure them from an excess of water. Among the species enumerated those which succeed the best are (1) *P. Laricio austriaca*, (2) *P. montana*, (3) *P. Laricio corsicana*, and in sheltered places *P. silvestris* raised from Scotch seed. The plants are put in at a distance of from about 23 in. to 31 in. apart. In places most exposed to the wind they space at a less distance, and plant principally *P. montana*, which stands the violent winds and quickly covers the soil. Besides the conifers, broad-leaved trees are planted in the better places where the soil is sufficiently moist and sheltered, but it is necessary to prepare the soil carefully. Those concerned have expressed themselves as particularly satisfied with alder and oak; they have besides made trials on a small scale with other broad-leaved trees.

The afforestation of dunes in Holland is met with considerable difficulties. Not only do the winds, but also numerous parasites, hinder vegetation, and as much damage is done by the prevalence of animals as by the vegetable pests. Among the pests may be mentioned different species of *Retinia*, *Pissodes notatus*, *Cneorhinus geminatus*, *Hylesinus piniperda*, *Lophyrus pini*, *Polyphylla fullo*, *Agaricus melleus*, *Coeloma pinitorquum*, and *Hysterium pinastri*. One is obliged to be always on the lookout to fight these enemies at the right time. It happens also that the soil is very poor. To this is added the great difficulty of planting enough broad-leaved trees, which increases the danger from fires. In spite of all, the results, particularly in recent years, have been more encouraging. Without doubt afforestation means a much enhanced initial expenditure, but as against this the expense of maintenance is reduced to a minimum, and one can even see some pecuniary profits in the future, without mentioning the advantage that will be obtained from the æsthetic and climatic point of view. I even estimate, not reckoning the eventual profits, that in the long-run the fixation of dunes by means of afforestation will turn out more advantageous than the costly use of marram, &c., which involves each year great expense in maintenance.

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*The "Anconia Sheep-dip" Case.*—In the *Journal* for March, 1918, a warning was given regarding a worthless preparation termed the Anconia sheep-dip, then lately placed on the market by one J. C. Harrison. After the lapse of a year—delays being caused by Harrison's flight from the Dominion and somewhat protracted legal proceedings after his return under arrest—the case ended in Auckland this month by the accused being convicted of fraud and sentenced to six years' imprisonment. Harrison was shown to have a bad criminal record in Australia for similar frauds.

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Invaluable features in the control of field-crop insects are co-operation, clean farming, and a suitable scheme of crop-rotation, the last arranged according to the presence of any likely insect pest, thus breaking the continuity of the food-supply of such an insect.