

is doing well. The belts on the Te Kauwhata Horticultural Station appear quite effective. At Tauranga they are even better, looking more flourishing. On the Tauranga Horticultural Station there is a belt about 15 ft. wide, with trees about 4 ft. apart. The seeds were put in five years ago, and the trees average from 30 ft. to 40 ft. in height. This is surely as quick growth as can be desired. The estate of Messrs. Mayfield and Chaytor, a little way out of Tauranga, where 75 acres are planted in orchard, is divided into blocks with narrow belts of the black-wattle. The trees in all the belts look very leafy and flourishing, and are answering their purpose very well indeed. Wattle plantations are established by seeding; the trees do not transplant well. It is the habit of the wattle to lose its bottom branches, and although this state can be postponed by pruning it is advisable, if not necessary, to plant a line of some tree or shrub on the outside that will retain its lower growths. This is necessary where the wind is very strong. The wattle is not very amenable to heading back; it cannot be relied on to break out again if cut back to bare wood, but shortening of branches can be done with good effect, provided some active growth is left below the cut. It would seem wise to extend the planting of wattles in northern districts. The cost of upkeep is trifling once the trees are established; lopping off branches where it is thought necessary is easily done, and all the wood is useful, even quite small branches making excellent firewood. Silver-wattle (*Acacia dealbata*) must not be planted, because it suckers badly; nor blackwood (*A. melanoxylon*), this being too slow in growth, though eventually making a good dense tree.

Where a high or moderately high shelter is required, and it is desired to keep it to narrow limits, the Lombardy poplar is, I believe, the best tree to plant. The trees require topping occasionally, but it is not an expensive operation, the wood being soft and easily cut. The objection may be raised that the wood is useless; but, while it is certainly less valuable than most wood, it makes firewood that many people are glad to use. In Hawke's Bay, where the tree is extensively grown, the wood is so used. It is also often used as fence-droppers. These last at least a few years, and they are easily split out of the green timber. A number of orchards in Hawke's Bay have a single line of poplars as shelter; in some instances the trees stand 2 ft. apart, in others at a greater distance; usually cuttings are planted. Some of these belts have a hedge of common barberry on the boundary side. A single line of Lombardy poplar makes a cheap and effective divisional shelter inside an orchard where the extent of the latter, or the climate, makes it necessary to supplement the belt on the boundary. So far as I have seen and heard, this poplar does not sucker to any extent, the suckers being restricted to roots near the surface, which will not exist in a well-kept orchard.

I consider that a combination of Lombardy poplar and *Elaeagnus japonica* will make the very best shelter-belt of the narrow order it is possible to obtain. Some years ago a combination belt of this kind was planted on one of the Department's farms. The poplar cuttings were planted in two rows 5 ft. apart, and about 3 ft. apart in the rows. The elaeagnus plants were put in 30 in. apart along the centre between the rows of poplars. Unfortunately there came a change in authority, and the elaeagnus was ordered to quit. In the meantime a mat of *Poa pratensis* had formed, which made the digging-out of the elaeagnus a fairly