

lie rough until near planting-time, when it should be broken down sufficiently fine for the purpose. Where planting is not done until the middle or late spring the land should be harrowed and cultivated to destroy seedling weeds as often as may be necessary. As a few bad weeds are still probably present at this stage it is usually advisable for the first season to plant crops, such as peas and potatoes, that will resist their encroachment, as well as permit thorough cultivation and cleaning of the ground.

If these paddocks are of 2 to 5 acres in extent, with good hedges, rather high, one has ideal conditions for cropping. If sufficient shelter is not established it should be completed with the greatest consideration and care. It may not be a marketable crop in the ordinary way, but it is a farm improvement of the most valuable kind, and probably costing least in cash expenditure. Its value will chiefly lie in its being well selected, placed, and trained. This will cost some thought, which is something with which one is inclined to be parsimonious. On good land of this class *Cupressus Lawsoniana*, planted 2 ft. to 3 ft. apart, makes a good evergreen shelter-belt on the side of the prevailing wind, or *Cupressus torulosa* or *sempervirens* may be used. Of the latter, seedlings with rather a spreading habit should be chosen. These cypresses will grow naturally to a height of 15 ft. to 20 ft., and be well furnished with breast wood of moderate length, thus requiring little trimming and no topping.

Secondary shelter-belts are best formed with barberry, holly, or privet, planted alternatively with Lombardy poplar. This provides excellent shelter with little labour. On the lee and sunny side the ordinary hedge is usually sufficient. The amount of shelter of this kind that may be required will depend upon locality, but more usually it is deficient. It is only excessive where plantations of large pine-trees and gums rob and shade the land, or where in a humid climate the few crops which like an open situation are closely enclosed.

New shelter-belts and hedges of this kind require clean cultivation for a few years—that is, until they are well established. Of those mentioned above only the barberry, holly, and privet will require cutting down annually to thicken the base of the plants. The others will furnish naturally in a suitable manner; moderate side-trimming alone may be required. Here again, plant no culls, but well-furnished plants of even size.

A sowing of early peas and planting of cabbage and cauliflowers for spring cutting are often started now. Warm, well-drained land should be chosen for these crops.

The Home Garden.

Lawns sown early in March will now have had their first mowing, and with their verges trimmed will have quite a smart appearance. If the shrubbery borders have been trenched or subsoiled, manured, and cleaned they will now be ready for planting. In making a selection for the purpose the first consideration is the main features of the garden, composed generally of perennial shrubs of special interest, such as rhododendrons, heaths, roses, or native flowering-plants. Between the species and different hybrids of any of the kinds mentioned there is ample material from which one could plant half a dozen gardens that would be quite distinct.

The next consideration is a suitable setting of shade and shelter trees. These may be numerous and large, or few and of naturally moderate dimensions, to harmonize with the size of home and the extent of the garden. Native Sophoras and Pittosporums, and the Japanese conifers known as Retinosporas, have a very handsome appearance when grown naturally, and their moderate height specially suits them for the smaller