

the leader and branches left should then be shortened moderately. By careful training in this manner young plants not only make vigorous growth but also shapely trees, which will best attain the main object, whether it be shelter or any other purpose. Plants with fine roots, such as heaths, rhododendrons, and most conifers, require little or no pruning when planting out.

To enable them to make satisfactory growth, most plants require light and air, as well as the soil and water in which they are planted. For this reason grass and weeds should be suppressed when they make their appearance in the vicinity of young trees. Clean culture is most desirable, at least for a few years until the plants are thoroughly established and cease to be in danger of being overgrown by such wild growth. In the case of hedge-plants such growth should never be allowed to attain any considerable height close to the base of the hedge, or much of the foliage there will be destroyed; this will cause great disfigurement as well as reduce the efficiency of the hedge. It is a disfigurement which it is very difficult to adjust. In the case of plantation-trees, spot-planted in grass, the grass should be mown at least once a year, about the month of December before it seeds; it can then be allowed to lie as a mulch, where it quickly decays, and among other useful purposes assists in retaining moisture, especially during the summer months, when young plants are inclined to suffer from a shortage.

Breaking in Grass Land for Cropping.

Land suitable for intensive cropping is a good deep loam on a well-drained subsoil; such soil usually carries a heavy turf, which is best broken in with some care, especially when infested with couch-grass or any other bad weed. In such extreme cases cultivation should be commenced in summer, when the land should be fallowed and cleaned during the dry weather, as has been previously recommended. In an opposite extreme case where the turf is thin and free from serious weeds, ploughing and subsoiling may proceed in the usual way; but where the turf is heavier it usually is best to skim-plough now, and some weeks later when the grass is dead cross-plough, burying the turf deeply, and at the same time using a subsoiling attachment, or a second plough, to break up the bottom of the furrow.

On a new site, water-supply, drainage, and wind-shelter will each require consideration. The difficulties which arise are very frequently due to inadequate attention being given to one or the other of these fundamental requirements. Land suitable for early crops—that is, land with rather sharp drainage and consistently warm temperatures—is most likely to require a well-arranged irrigation system. Fortunately, in most cases of this kind artesian water is easily available, and sprinkler irrigation can be arranged which uses the water with economy and best effect. Apparatus of this class has been much improved during the last few years; sprinklers with wide coverage, even distribution, and instantaneous couplings, for sections where movable piping is used, are now available. Drainage is of greatest importance where the land is heavy, especially where water is received from adjacent higher ground. During the busy periods in autumn and spring it is difficult to "catch" this land in suitable condition for working unless ample drainage is provided. Where the frequent cultivation necessary to intensive cropping has to be done, drainage improvement is essential. On new sites shelter from prevailing winds is often deficient for horticultural crops; in most localities an ample provision of intersecting hedges is required. These should be planted now and given all the attention due to their importance.

Vegetable Crops.

The growth on asparagus crops should now be mown, raked, and burnt; the land should be lightly disked, and a low ridge should be thrown up over the stubble to rot it. Special attention should be given