

Trees for Farm Shelter

Now is the time for the commencement of tree planting, which may be continued, except in the coldest districts, throughout the winter months, for by now the land has been well moistened by the autumn rains and no check owing to lack of soil moisture will occur. The first year after planting is the most dangerous for the young tree, for not only may it succumb to drought in the summer of that year but it is very liable to destruction by rabbits. Where rabbits are plentiful steps to destroy them should be taken prior to the planting of the trees, because their presence in large numbers may easily result in loss of a large proportion of the trees.

IN PLANTING make as much use as possible of ground of least use for agricultural purposes. Frequently it is found that planting in waste gullies



Lawsoniana make good low shelter on suitable soils.

and steep places is the easiest method of avoiding ground draught, a common fault in shelter belts.

Plantations should necessarily be placed to obstruct the prevailing wind and at the same time avoid too much shading of the ground. Where suitably placed gullies or hillsides are not available the fences protecting the trees from stock should be placed well away from the trees, so that when they are mature stock cannot nibble or rub against the lower branches, causing their defoliation and resulting in ground draught. The fences need to be substantial to effect permanent protection. Some trees do not require as much protection as others whose foliage is liked by stock. To protect the

former the fence must be strong and at such a distance from the trees that stock are not tempted to strain against the fence in an attempt to reach the trees.

The Young Trees

Young trees are usually planted in spits which have been dug some time beforehand, so that the soil is in a fit condition. So that the young trees may establish quickly incorporate a few ounces of blood and bone in the soil prior to planting. Young trees will respond to occasional dressings of fertiliser after planting and if animal manure is available some of this will accelerate growth. Make the soil firm around the roots and plant the tree at its natural depth with the roots spread and not bunched together. The space immediately surrounding the



Trees planted in gullies or on hillsides prevent ground draught.

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