

Many Cash Crops Found in Forests

Farm Woodlot Will Produce Many Trees, Bushes, Berries of Value.

By Robert B. Parmenter, Extension Forester, Massachusetts State College, WNU Service.

"God in the hills," a favorite line in by-gone melodramas, might well apply to today's farm woodlot. Besides saw timber and cordwood, the farm woodlot offers many other cash crops to the enterprising owner.

Many farmers are getting annual incomes from Christmas trees. They also sell "press brush," or tip ends of spruce and balsam which are clipped off and baled for manufacturers of Christmas greens and decorations. Some men have sold fern-picking rights on their land, the buyers using them as decorations.

There is always a market for tree seeds. Acorns, walnuts, butternuts, black walnuts, and cones from spruce, pine, or balsam may be gathered and sold in the fall. Bean poles and pea brush are always in demand, and poles and stakes for propping up heavy branches of apple trees often find a sale. Much of this material can be gathered while making thinnings in the woodlot.

Fence posts and rails are always useful on the farm, and taking them from the woodlot means quite a saving over a period of time.

Novelties made from gray or white birch, twig baskets filled with white pine sprays and cones, red berries, and dried grasses also add to the income. Decorative buttons made from walnuts or butternuts can generally be sold to novelty shops.

Maple syrup and sap need only be mentioned. Everyone knows the value of a good sugar bush. Cattle bedding made from trash wood by cones treated chemically to produce colored flames in the fireplace, and white birch for fancy fireplace wood are some of the other forest by-products.

A little scouting around for a market will often lead to new uses for old forest products, and every new outlet means more money from the farm woodlot.

Spruce and Fir Among Best Windbreak Trees

Norway spruce and Douglas fir are the most satisfactory trees to use as windbreak plantings, according to J. E. Davis, extension forester, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois.

A good windbreak is easy to have, its success depending upon location, soil preparation, choice of trees, spacing, protection and care.

A windbreak will be effective on the leeward for a distance eight times its height. Since the trees average 40 feet in height, it is best not to have the buildings nearer than 50 feet nor farther than 320 feet from the trees. If closer than 50 feet, snow drifts may form on buildings, and dead-air pockets may cause excessive heat in summer.

The windbreak affords best protection if built in the form of an inverted "L" on the west and north of the farmstead. Plowed preferably in the fall, the land may be fitted in the spring. At least 4-year old transplanted trees are recommended and even larger trees will assure more success.

Silage for Young Cattle

Silage in large amounts can be used to feed thin common-to-medium yearlings or older cattle which are to be marketed this spring, according to E. T. Robbins, live stock extension specialist, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois. Silage with or without dry roughage is combined with three or four pounds of cottonseed meal or soybean oil meal for each head each day by some experienced finishers of butcher cattle. Corn is added during about the last two months, and the cattle are sold when about two-thirds fat.

Agricultural Notes

Records show that the corn borer is moving farther southward.

California's 1936 potato crop exceeded last year's by 500,000 bushels.

Once a part of a huge swamp region, Putnam county, Ohio, is now an important agricultural area.

More than 900 varieties of cabbage are now grown in the United States.

The proportion of grain-fed cattle in the 1937 slaughter supply probably will be smaller than for 1936.

One broken tile may make a whole line of drainage worthless.

Former 4-H club members comprise 34 per cent of home economics students and 39 per cent of all agricultural students in courses at Ohio State university.

Too many high producing cows have "off years"; it pays in added amounts of milk and fat produced during a lifetime if special effort is made to have such cows dry at least eight weeks before calving.

WORLD'S BEST COMICS

Lighter Side of Life as Depicted by Famous Cartoonists and Humorists

THE FEATHERHEADS

By Osborn



Waste Space



S'MATTER POP—The Pooch Might Have Learned Something

By C. M. PAYNE



MESCAL IKE

By S. L. HUNTLEY



A Break for Muley

FINNEY OF THE FORCE

By Ted O'Loughlin



Counter Attack

BRONC PEELER — Withers Overhears a Name

By FRED HARMAN



The Curse of Progress



Oversight

"That letter I gave you this morning—did you post it?" asked the wife. "Well, no, dear," said her husband. "Of course you didn't. And I told you it was important that it should go today." "Yes, dear." "And you forgot to post it. If that's not just like a man!" "But, dear—" "Don't 'but' me. I'm angry." "But, dear, look at the letter. You forgot to address it!"

DOOR-BELLS

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS

