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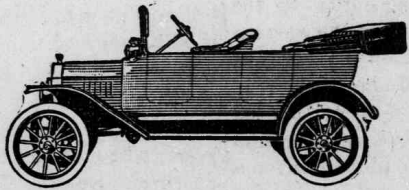
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OBTAIN PROFIT FROM THE FARM WOODLOT



An Old Woodlot Which is Grazed—Very Little Grass and No Young Timber.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

A cash return for the wood grown on the farm woodlot is just as possible as a profit on other farm crops. Farmers often lose sight of this fact, mainly because timber requires only a small amount of labor but a long period of years to bring it to a marketable condition. Often, therefore, the owner is satisfied with an annual supply of dead firewood, and the woodlot becomes a harboring place for insect pests and a meager pasturage for roaming live stock. Yet improvement of the woodlot depends upon just a few simple principles which any farmer may learn and practice. These are contained in a new farmers' bulletin, No. 711, published by the United States department of agriculture.

Improvement of the woodlot begins with the cutting out of all dead and diseased timber. Then the mature merchantable trees should be removed, like any other farm crop, when conditions favor a sale. New trees should be planted in the open spaces to grow up and fill in the forest canopy and encourage the growth of tall, straight timber.

Woodlots may be divided into two classes, each determined by the character of the stand. On one type, the trees are a second growth of approximately the same age and it is found that undesirable species are crowding out valuable trees, the former should be cut to allow the unhampered growth of the better quality timber. While timber taken out in this



Second Growth White Oaks—Woodlot in Good Condition.

cutting will rarely pay directly for its removal, the resulting enhancement in value of the remaining stand makes the work a good investment.

The presence of dead or dying trees in the stand, a very dense interlocked crown cover, stems very slender in proportion to their height, or apparent stagnation in the height growth, all indicate that a thinning is needed. This usually is done when the stand is from 15 to 20 years old. The operation is similar in principal to thinning any other farm crop where it is desired to obtain a few good plants rather than many of poor quality. The owner should use the ax with care, removing only trees which crowd oth-

ers and cause too great competition for sunlight. Material removed in a thinning is valuable for fence posts and poles and should pay for the operation. As a rule, not more than one-fifth to one-fourth of the trees should be removed at one time. Grapevine, ivy and woodbine, and similar climbers which have grown into the tree should be cut out by severing their main stems near the ground.

In the second type of woodlot the trees vary greatly in age and height and the stand is largely dominated by old trees, whose tops shut off the sunlight and retard the growth of the younger trees beneath. Such a tract should first be cleared of dead and diseased timber. Next, the mature living trees should be removed. This should be delayed, however, until sufficient reproduction is started in the openings made in the first operation, and marketing conditions permit a satisfactory sale. Heavy stands composed almost wholly of mature trees should not be removed all at once unless the owner expects to provide for the new crop by planting. The old trees should be taken off in two or three successive cuttings at intervals of several years, each cutting taking from one-third to one-half the trees. These cuttings allow the remaining trees to receive more sunlight and thus encourage them to produce more seed. Neither of the first two cuttings should be so heavy as to encourage the growth of weeds or grass on the forest floor. The third cutting should be made after the seedlings are established and there is no further need for protection of the old trees.

Scattered old trees, suppressing valuable young growth, often will be found in woodlots. Such trees will never be of much value for lumber and their widespread habit often results in the suppression or killing of the young and better-formed seedlings, which frequently may be of considerable value. It is best in such cases to remove the old trees at once.

Pasture and timber production cannot be practiced on the same area, except to the disadvantage of each, and the combination will not be as remunerative to the owner as the practice of either one separately. Cattle, horses, sheep or goats eat young seedlings, trample them out, or brush against them and break them off. Hogs eat the seed and thus prevent reproduction from starting, or root young seedlings out of the ground. The existing growth is damaged through the trampling or wounding of the roots and the compacting of the soil so that it is impervious to water. Horses should be kept out of the woodlot entirely because they often peel the bark from trees and eat the young shoots. When young growth is not desired, a few head of cattle are permissible, provided, however, that the ground is not soft when they are turned in. Hogs may be used to aid reproduction before the time for the seed to fall. They will root up the ground and thus put it in good condition for receiving the seed. Goats and sheep should be allowed in the woodlot only when it is necessary to clear up brush of undesirable species.

Care should be taken to keep fire from getting into the woodlot. This

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		Pass.	Pass.	Pass.	Pass.
Elkhorn City	Dp	*2:10 p m			
Dante	Dp	3:33 p m	*8:30 a m		
St. Paul	Dp	3:55 p m	8:52 a m		
Speers Ferry	Dp	5:15 p m	10:17 a m		
Johnson City	Dp	6:50 p m	11:45 a m		
Erwin	Ar	*7:40 p m	*12:25 p m		
Erwin	Dp	*2:30 a m	12:35 p m		
Kona	Dp	4:37 a m	2:04 p m		
Altapass	Dp	5:23 a m	2:45 p m		
Marion	Dp	7:00 a m	3:55 p m		
Bostic	Dp	8:03 a m	4:57 p m		
Spartanburg	Ar	†10:30 a m	*6:05 p m		
Spartanburg	Dp	†2:00 p m	*11:00 a m		
Bostic	Dp	3:26 p m	12:07 p m		
Marion	Dp	5:20 p m	1:05 p m		
Altapass	Dp	7:05 p m	2:20 p m		
Kona	Dp	7:50 p m	3:03 p m		
Erwin	Ar	†10:00 p m	*4:30 p m		
Erwin	Dp	*8:15 a m	*4:35 p m		
Johnson City	Dp	8:55 a m	5:15 p m		
Speers Ferry	Dp	10:35 a m	7:02 p m		
St. Paul	Dp	12:17 p m	8:30 p m		
Dante	Dp	12:38 p m	*9:00 p m		
Elkhorn City	Ar	*2:00 p m			

*—Daily.

†—Mixed daily except Sunday.

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destroys the fallen leaves and accumulated litter of several years, thus doing away with the very material with which the trees enrich their own soil. Burned-over ground becomes exposed, evaporation is greater, and more of the rain and melted snow runs off the surface. Leaf or grass fires usually destroy the young seedlings up to one inch in diameter and also do great damage to other trees in the stand, especially by making conditions favorable for the entrance of rot-producing fungi.