

FOREST PLANTING IN WISCONSIN

Source of Planting Stock

The Wisconsin Conservation Department maintains at Trout Lake in the Northern State Forest, Vilas county, a forest tree seedling and transplant nursery. For several years approximately 1,500,000 trees grown in this nursery have been planted annually on state and county owned lands, and about an equal number have been sold for private reforestation projects in Wisconsin. A small quantity each year has been offered for free distribution to farmers who agreed to establish demonstration plantations under the direction of a county agricultural agent. Four H Club members who have enrolled as Junior Forest Rangers have also received free trees.

A specific agreement, which must be signed by every purchaser of trees, sets forth the limits placed upon the use and disposition of the trees. This reads as follows:

Agreement

In consideration of the fact that the state is furnishing trees at a nominal price to encourage reforestation, I agree as follows:

Definition:

By forest planting or reforestation, so far as this agreement is concerned, is meant the planting of trees for the establishment of a forest, or for the improvement of a forest now existing, or for similar forest uses, but not for ornamental or landscape purposes.

Shipment of trees will be limited to the following classes of landowners:

- (1) Farmers, for planting on idle land or for windbreaks;
- (2) Owners of land entered under the forest crop law;
- (3) Landowners whose purpose of planting is the production of forest crops.

1. The trees received will be planted in Section _____, Township _____, Range _____, County _____, State of Wisconsin, and are not obtained for the purpose of resale.

2. I will not dig, cut off, or move these trees after planting until they are large enough to be sold for merchantable timber.

3. I will furnish reports to the conservation department when requested, and this planting may be inspected by the conservation department or its agents at any time.

4. I will protect the area from fire, trespass, and grazing.

5. In case of injury from insects or tree diseases, I will write to the State Entomologist, Madison, Wisconsin, for advice.

6. In planting white pine, I agree to remove all currant and gooseberry bushes, both wild and cultivated, from the area to be planted and from a 900 foot zone surrounding the area not later than June 1 following the planting.

(Signed) -----

Six species of trees are grown at the state nursery—white pine, Norway pine, Scotch pine, jack pine, Norway spruce, and white spruce. The Norway spruce and Scotch pine are trees of European origin; the other four species are native to Wisconsin.

Usually all of these species are available as seedlings up to three years of age, ranging from three to eight inches in height. The Norway and white pine, and the Norway and white spruce, may also be obtained as transplants; that is, trees taken up as seedlings and grown for one or two additional years in nursery rows. The transplanting operation results in a better developed root system and thicker stems. Prices for trees range from \$3 per thousand for seedlings to \$7 per thousand for transplants.

Nursery price lists and order blanks are issued by the conservation department early each fall, and trees may be purchased in the spring. The spring season opens about April 20, or as early as frost conditions in the ground permit the lifting of trees. Spring shipping ceases in the middle of May.

Many persons ask why it is undesirable to sow tree seeds directly on the ground to be planted, instead of growing and transplanting small trees; and why the conifers or evergreens are almost universally grown, instead of more hardwood or broad-leaved trees.

Repeated experiments in direct sowing of seed on areas to be planted have resulted in failure. In the few cases where direct sowing has produced a stand of trees, the cost has been too great. Planting of young trees has been found more certain and more economical, and is therefore the method recommended.

The conifers are chosen not only because the handling and planting of seed and growing the seedlings is more economical, but because they are much better adapted to soils of low fertility and rough planting conditions, which are characteristic of areas which are artificially reforested.

There are conditions under which the black walnut is suitable, together with other hardwood trees generally found with black walnut. This will be given special consideration later.