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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed April 21, 1928

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

LEARNING TO PLANT WINDBREAKS

While the planting of rows of trees along the borders of fields and orchards to serve as windbreaks - otherwise called shelterbelts - is a long-established practice in the Middle West, apparently much of this planting has hitherto been done in an unscientific way and the results have often proved disappointing. Thus all over Iowa, according to the Forest Service, windbreaks planted many years ago are rapidly breaking down and require replacement.

During the past winter Iowa farmers attended "shelterbelt schools," where they were taught the best methods of planting. Each school was an all-day meeting. The morning was given to a discussion of general phases of tree planting, and in the afternoon each farmer plotted out his own farmstead and received help in planning his windbreaks.

For most parts of Iowa a combination of white pine and Norway spruce is found best for windbreaks. For low ground without good subdrainage Norway spruce alone is best. Still wetter ground calls for white spruce and white cedar, and where drainage is very poor it is best to use willow. Broad-leaved trees that make good windbreaks if planted in large blocks are ash and poplar.

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21st and B Sts.,
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