

FOREST NURSERY AND REFORESTATION WORK IN MASSACHUSETTS

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Forest Nursery and Reforestation Work in Massachusetts by R. S. Langdell

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R. S. LANGDELL

**FOREST NURSERY AND
REFORESTATION WORK
IN MASSACHUSETTS**

Massachusetts State Forester

FOREST NURSERY

AND REFORESTATION WORK

IN

MASSACHUSETTS



By R. S. LANGDELL, ASSISTANT

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF F. W. RANE, STATE FORESTER

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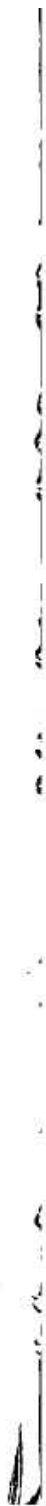
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INTRODUCTION.

The State Forester has been anxious to place in the hands of our people some definite information on forest nursery and reforestation work. It is believed that this bulletin will meet the requirements.

Nearly every farm in Massachusetts — in fact, in New England — has its woodlot, or some land suited only to the growing of trees. In most cases such land has been wholly or partly cut off or burned over, and left as barren, worthless tracts, an unsightly addition to the rest of the property.

It is the purpose of this bulletin to set forth a remedy which will bring these waste and denuded lands back into forest growth, and provide a method to keep them in a condition to be a source of revenue to the owner at a very small outlay. If, when a woodlot is cut off, provision is made for restocking it, either by natural reproduction, as the leaving of seed trees, or by replanting it with nursery-grown stock, much headway will be made towards bringing the waste lands of Massachusetts back into forest growth.

Nursery work and that of reforestation go hand in hand though two entirely separate undertakings. It is from the nursery that the young trees are furnished to be used on land to be restocked.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The work of writing and compiling the data in this bulletin was intrusted to Mr. R. S. Langdell, my assistant, who has for the past three years been devoting his energies to carrying on the nursery work at Amherst, and furthering the reforestation work throughout the State.

F. W. RANE,
State Forester.

Boston, Mass., March 1, 1910.

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REFORESTATION IN MASSACHUSETTS.

THE FOREST NURSERY.

One of the first things in nursery work is the procuring of the seed. In most cases our native trees furnish this in great abundance, though in some years the seed crop is much more heavy than in others, due to climatic conditions. Practically all of the seeds referred to may be easily gathered in almost any locality throughout the State.

Procuring the Seed.

The white pine (*Pinus strobus*), our native pine, bears its seed in the cones or burrs, which generally grow in clusters of twos or threes on the upper branches of the tree. Many persons wonder why it is that they cannot find the seed in the opened cones picked up in any pine grove; in fact, a number of cases have been known where persons have planted the cones which have fallen to the ground in late fall or winter, the scales open and the seed escaped, and expected to obtain a crop of trees. The seed is located two under each scale of the cone, and is about the size of a raisin seed, being provided with a small, bee-like wing, which favors its distribution by the wind. The cones commence to turn brown in this section about the middle of August, and from then on ripen very rapidly, one or two sunny days drying the scales so that they open and set the seeds at liberty. The cones must therefore be picked while green, before the scales have opened, by climbing the tree and picking by hand or with pruning shears. Sometimes a person may be fortunate enough to find a large number where the trees are being cut for lumber, — they are then readily picked into baskets. The squirrels also at times cut off large numbers of cones, which fall to the ground and can be gathered up, care