

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT NURSERIES OF NORTH DAKOTA

By  
Lee Hinds, Nursery Superintendent  
Lincoln-Oakes Nurseries

Mr. Hinds gave an interesting slide-talk on the Soil Conservation Service nurseries located at Oakes and Bismarck, North Dakota.

Thirty to thirty-five species are grown in the two nurseries for shelterbelt planting. The total production for the two nurseries is 8-million trees.

The North Dakota nurseries plant one-half million cottonwood cuttings. The process getting the cuttings is started in North Dakota about the 15th of December from the Cottonwood plots in the nursery. The cuttings are cut with a brush saw and the side branches are pruned from the cuttings with diameter control in mind. The diameter of the cuttings go from the size of a lead pencil to one-half inch and are cut approximately seven-inches long with a band saw. The cuttings are then tied into bundles and placed in the ground, covered with sand or gravel and sprinkled with water. They are left here so that the ends will callous. In North Dakota the planting of the cuttings usually start in May and are planted one inch apart in a vertical position. After the planting is completed the soil is packed around them. Water from the irrigation line will do a good job of packing the soil. The cuttings will usually start to grow in two weeks.

Elm seed is mixed with sand and when the seed is sprouted it is seeded with a belt seeder. The seed is sowed in 30-inch rows with the tractor traveling nine feet on the ground while the belt has traveled approximately one foot.

If there are any questions you may write to Mr. Lee Hinds, Nursery Superintendent, Lincoln-Oakes Nursery, Bismarck, North Dakota.