

GETTING STARTED

Mighty oaks from acorns grow
That's a fact we all should know
To grow a tree just plant the seeds.
Till the soil and pull the weeds,

Fertilize and spray for bugs
Watch for cutworms, birds and slugs.
Irrigate, watch out for frost
Or your crop could soon be lost.

Undercut, side prune and wrench,
Sprinkle dust or spray and drench,
Ship bed run or count & grade.
That's all there is--you've got it made.

Nothing much to growing trees--
Just plant the seeds and follow these
few rules and you will quickly see
how easy this pursuit can be.

But, wait a minute! Hold the line!
This simplicity is fine
But there must be questions we can raise
'Cause we'll be here for three more days!

There must be something left undone
So we can mix some work with fun.
Our speakers here will try to show
That there are things we don't yet know.

So give them time to have their say
And in the process maybe they
will tell us something we've not known
about the way these trees are grown.

We're glad you're here in Upper Mich
and while you're here it is our wish
that you'll enjoy this northern clime--
perhaps come back and spend some time.

But, enough of all this idle chat
We surely get enough of that.
If we're to get these speeches in
let's let this conference begin.