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IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

1722

U. of N. Agr. College & U.S. Dept. of Agr. Cooperating

W. H. Brokaw, Director, Lincoln

THE OPEN-BOTTOM BUCKET METHOD OF TRANSPLANTING EVERGREENS

Evergreens growing in nursery rows or where they are too close together should be transplanted before they get too large. Evergreens cannot be moved bare rooted successfully except when they are quite small. It is therefore necessary to transplant them with a quantity of dirt intact about the roots.

Here is a simple and easy way to transplant small evergreens $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 feet high with success.

1. Cut the bottom out of a 5-gallon paint bucket, making the cut edge smooth.
2. Dig hole where the tree is to be planted the depth of the bucket and 8 or 10 inches larger.
3. Draw the top of the tree together and tie with a cord.
4. Place the bucket over the tree and push it down into the ground as far as it will go.
5. With a spade dig a trench around the bucket the width of the spade, being careful to not pry the dirt loose beneath the bucket. Shave down the dirt all around beneath the bucket and push it down as far as it will go. Continue this procedure until the bucket is lowered to its own depth.
6. Tip the bucket and at the same time cut underneath with a sharp pointed shovel until all the roots are cut and the dirt in the bucket is separated from the ground.
7. Carry the bucket, tree and all, to the new location. (In sandy soil it may be necessary to slip a burlap sack underneath the bucket to hold the soil in.)
8. Pull the bucket up a few inches, fill in loose dirt, and pack solid. Continue a little at a time until the hole is about full. Remove the bucket and water tree well. (In removing bucket use water to loosen soil around edges if necessary.)

Larger trees can be moved in this same manner but larger containers must be used. It is far better from the standpoint of ease of doing the job, and also the final results, to move the trees while they are relatively small.

Evergreens should be transplanted while they are dormant. Early spring, March or early April, is considered the best time for transplanting evergreens in Nebraska.

It is a good idea to give evergreens plenty of room to develop properly. A good spacing for evergreens in the windbreak would be 8 to 12 feet in the row for Redcedar and 12 to 20 feet apart for Austrian and Western Yellow Pine.