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NEW FOREST-CONSERVATION MEASURES

TREE BELTS TO COMBAT DROUGHT

Chkalov Oblast is one of the driest oblasts in the Soviet Union. There have been 22 droughts during the last 65 years and, according to the records of Academician V. R. Vil'yams, grain yields in those years did not exceed 20 pounds per desyatina [2.7 acres].

To combat droughts, 2,006 kolkhoses of the oblast had introduced a crop-rotation system and had planted 12,700 hectares of shelter belts by 1949.

In carrying out the 1948 Stalin Plan for the Transformation of Nature, the kolkhoses, sovkhoses, and leskhoses (forest managements) of the oblast did considerable work in planting shelter belts and preparing soil for planting in 1949.

During the summer of 1949, 4,700 hectares (104 percent of plan) were planted, 11,700 hectares (148 percent of plan) of soil were prepared for planting, and 179.8 tons of tree and undergrowth seeds, including 146.5 tons of oak seeds, were collected.

The Komsomols of the oblast have decided to plant a 100-kilometer-long shelter belt between Chkalov and Ilek by the summer of 1952. The belt will stretch along the banks of the Ural River and will consist of six individual belts, three on the right and three on the left bank of the river. The individual belts will be 60 meters wide and spaced 100-200 meters from each other. To carry out the project, 100 planting brigades with 25 workers in each brigade will be organized.

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PRESERVATION OF EXISTING FORESTS

In connection with the task of planting forest shelter belts, forestry workers have the specialized task of preserving existing valuable forests. Among such valuable natural and planted forests which must be especially cared for are the following:

1. The natural pine forests of Altay and Kazakhstan. These cover an area of 1,900,000 hectares. They grow on sandy soil and prevent the sand from blowing away. Serving a purpose analogous to that of shelter belts, these forests require special care.
2. The Buzuluk Pine Forest (Buzulukskiy Bor). It covers 112,000 hectares in the steppes east of the Volga, but grows under very unfavorable climatic and soil conditions and is harassed by dry winds. Therefore, its preservation requires special attention.
3. The Great Anadol' Forest Massif (Veliko-Anadol'skiy Lesnoy Massiv). A planted forest covering 2,500 hectares in the pre-Azov Sea steppes. This forest is 100 years old and is important because it represents the oldest attempt at reforesting the steppes.
4. The Lenin Forest (Leninskoye Lesnichestvo). Established in the 1830's, this pine forest is the oldest of Russian planted forests. Located near Lipetsk in Voronezh Oblast, it serves as a model for pine planting in Voronezh and Tambov oblasts.
5. The Mokhovoye Forest. Located in Orel Oblast, it covers 1,000 hectares and contains trees up to 200 years old.
6. The Steppe Forest (Stepnoye Lesnichestvo). A planted forest in Stavropol Kray, created in 1892, it now covers 670 hectares.
7. The Kalas Forest. A planted forest covering 6,500 hectares, it is a natural landmark and is important because of the springs located there. The springs are the only source of water in the area.
8. The Lenin Forest. This planted forest is located in Rostov Oblast.
9. The Manyok Forest. This planted forest is located in Rostov Oblast.
10. The Sredne-Chelbass Forest. This planted forest is located in Krasnodar Kray.
11. The Shebekino, Staryy Oskol, and Obukhovo forests. All are planted forests located in Orel Oblast.
12. The Bogorodsk Forest. A planted forest in Tula Oblast, it is the only planted aspen forest in the oblast. It covers 400 hectares.

CHEMICAL METHOD OF COMBATING BRUSH GROWTH

Forestry personnel spend much time and heavy labor in removing brush growth from clearings, forest trails, and roadsides. Clear roads are absolutely necessary for proper organization of forestry procedures and for carrying out such forestry measures as replanting, ranging, guarding, and exploiting. Therefore, one of the main tasks in forestry work is to reduce the growth along the sides of the roads so as to assure ready access to the forests.

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The chemical method of combating brush growth is proposed as an aid to foresters in reducing the laboriousness of this clearing work.

In studying the possibility of using chemical means for reducing brush and scrub growths of gray alder and aspen, it was found that chlorates easily produce effective results. To destroy young tree shoots requires doses 5-10 times smaller than to eradicate old grasses, such as beach grass and hairgrass. It was demonstrated that small applications of chlorates rid an area of undesirable brush growths for many years. The summer of the first year of their appearance is the best time to apply chemicals to brush growths.

A 2-3-percent solution of sodium chlorate, potassium chlorate, or calcium chlorate sprayed at the rate of 0.2-0.3 liters per square meter will kill the first-year shoots of gray alder and aspen. Subsequent applications to the same area require from 2 to 3 times less chemical to keep the growths down. Growths older than 2 years must be cut down first and subsequent regrowth prevented by chemical treatment.

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