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Producing Quality Christmas Trees

Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service

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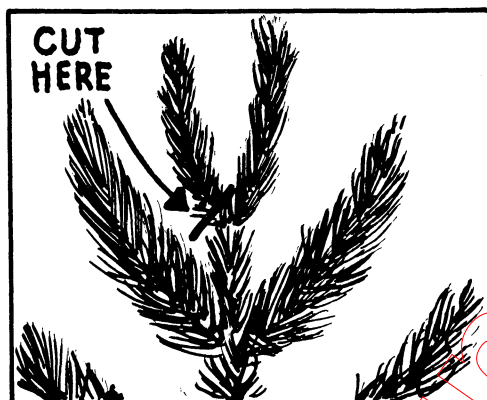
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Producing Quality Christmas Trees

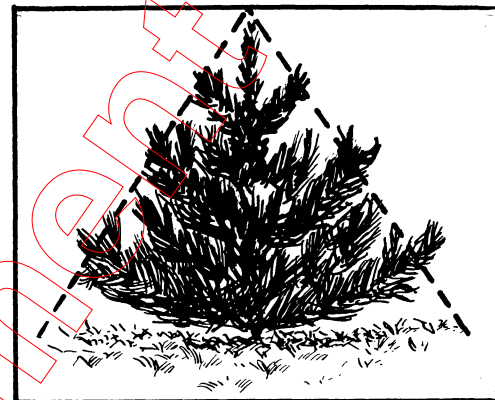
Fig. 4 to Third Year



Replace any trees which die, so as to maintain a full stand.



Eliminate double leaders by cutting out the weaker of the two.



Correct poor form by careful pruning.

Starting During Third Year After Planting



Shear terminal to maintain a distance of 10" to 12" between whorls. Shear new growth on side branches to produce compact form. Shearing should be done about mid-June to mid-July. Be sure to cut nothing but new growth.

Terminal injured by insects or other causes should be cut out to let one of the laterals develop as a leader.



Some shearing of the pines during the spring, prior to sale as Christmas trees, may be necessary. This should be carefully done to avoid clipping the needles, of the terminal particularly, which might detract from their appearance.

Spruces and firs should be sheared in late summer, fall or winter—never in the spring.

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