

Forestry Notes for the Month of September 1928.
Nanogin District

Thinning & Stripping of Mallet Regrowth

The best time to start this work is in the early spring (August) when enough rain has fallen during the previous months to loosen the bark i.e. when the sap begins to flow up the stem. After a period of dry weather the bark adheres to the stem making it difficult to remove.

At present thinning & stripping is being carried out on the Wickpin water Reserve Area in order to allow for the proper development of the stand.

It will be noted that trees growing on the outskirts of the stand have attained a diameter of 6 to 8 inches compared with the average diameter of 2' attained by trees of the same age in the main stand. This is a good indication that the groups should be thinned at a much earlier age ^{& illustrates the advantage of having plenty of room in which to develop.} as the work of thinning has only been taken in hand this year one cannot ^{but have} grieve at the ages of existing groups to be treated.

The object of thinning is to equalise the rate of growth of individual trees as far as possible.

The system of 'crown thinning' was used throughout. Each tree is studied with its relation to its neighbors. The main idea is to allow each tree sufficient crown space for future development but in addition the condition & spacing of the butts & stems must be taken into consideration.

All dead, suppressed, diseased, & stunted trees are removed, except when occurring in an opening where they afford valuable soil cover.

Where a large tree dominates several smaller.

(2)

trees it may be necessary to sacrifice it in order that the to allow the dominated trees to develop.

To give an idea of the number of trees removed before thinning the stand carried 2,000 trees per acre & after thinning 350-400 trees were left standing spaced at approximately 8' x 8'.

You must use your judgment when thinning, & when in doubt, be on the light side, because you can always take a tree out afterwards, whereas you cannot put one back.

Stripping.

All trees to be removed have the bark taken off by an operation known as 'stripping'.

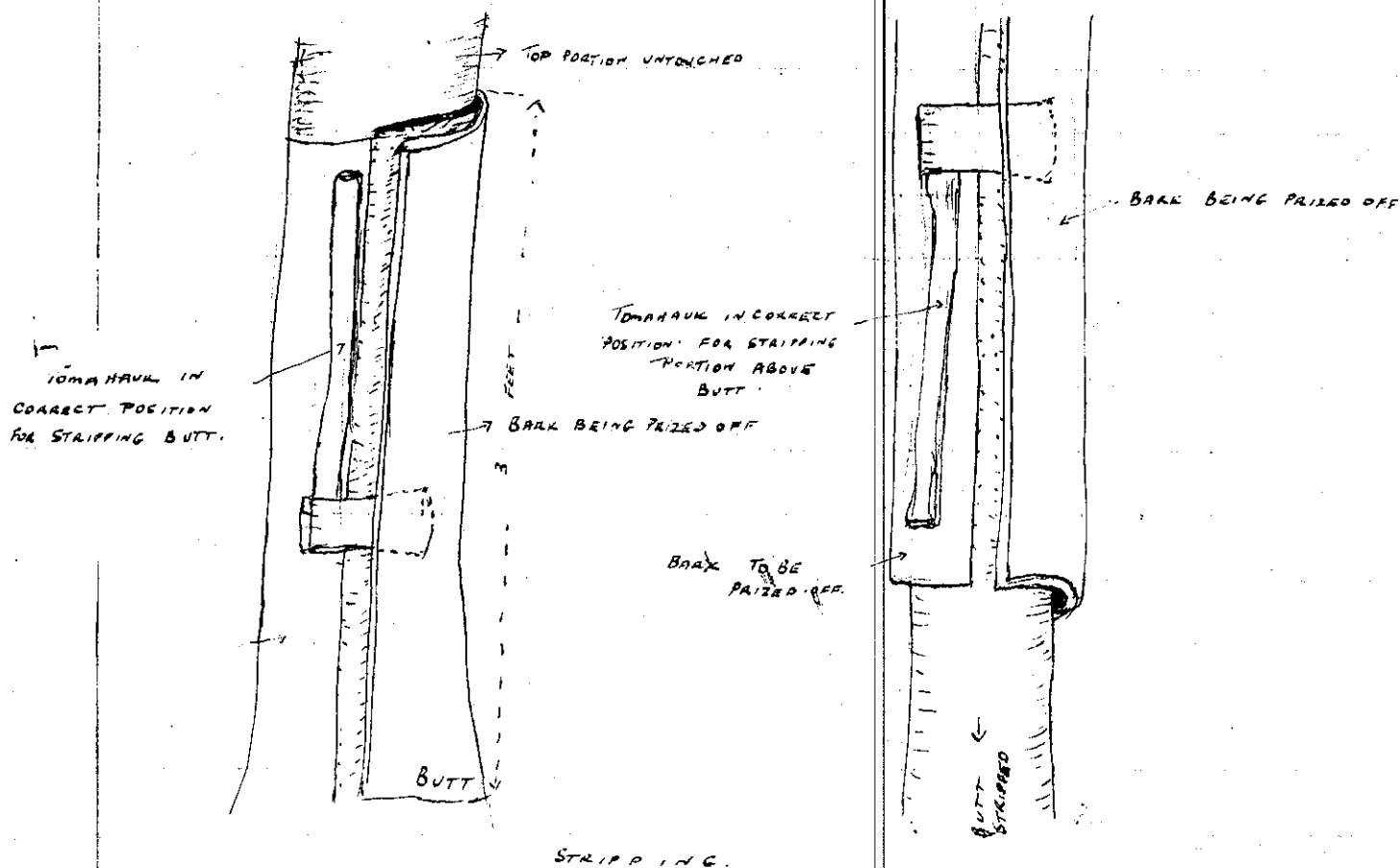
To do this work a tomahawk is the most useful tool to manipulate.

To strip a tree the bark is first cut through round the trunk at about 3' from the ground (the length of a bundle). The tomahawk is then held head down with the blade towards the tree. By exerting a little pressure on the head of the axe the bark is cut through. The blade is now run down towards the butt cutting the bark through all the way. With the blade of the axe the bark is now prised away from the stem as far round from the cut as possible & then wrenched off with the hand. When the lower portion has been removed the axe reversed & run up the tree as far as the reach will permit. This is prised off & ripped off the tree as far as it will go upwards.

The tree is now felled & the remainder of the stem & limbs stripped down to about 4" diameter.

Cost of Thinning & Stripping \$3.50 per acre.

(3)



Making of Bundles.

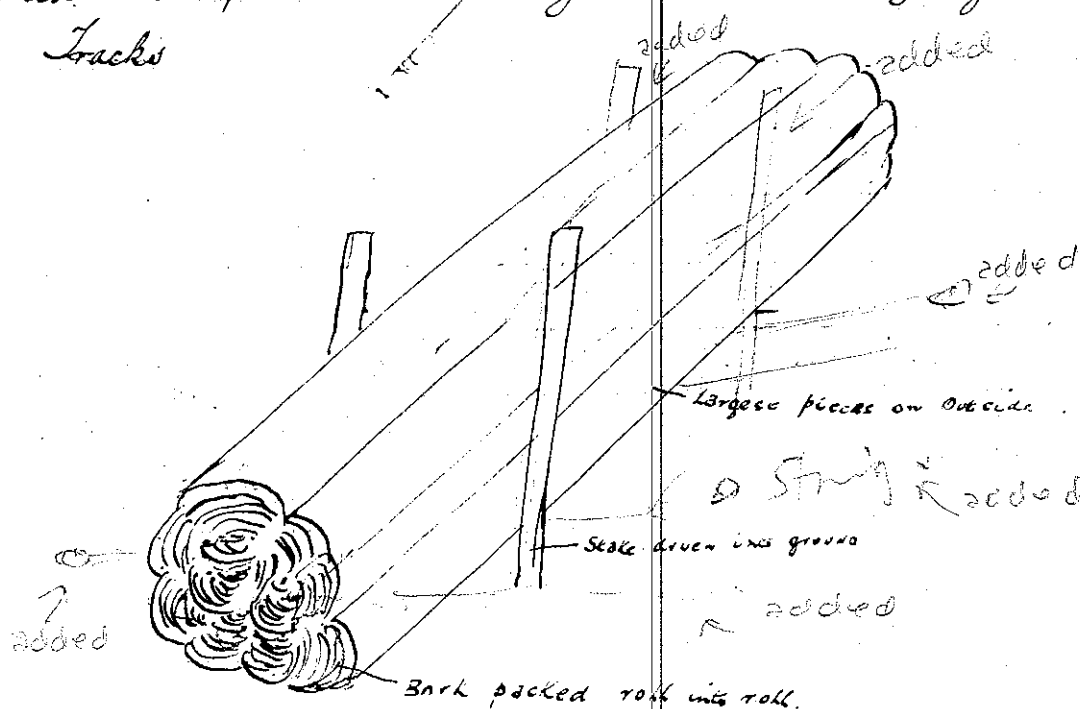
The bark is made up into bundles. for convenient handling, the ^{length} size of the bundle being 3' & the weight ~~55~~ to 70 lbs per bundle.

When dry it takes about 40 bundles of bark to make a ton ^{dry weight} valued at \$7.00 a ton. ^(Golden bark loses $\frac{1}{3}$ of its weight when dry)

The bark is packed in between two stakes ^{driven into the ground} about 1 foot apart & Two pieces of binder twine doubled about ^{each} long are placed on the ground about 6" from either end of the bundle & the bark is packed on top of the string until enough is packed for the string to go round.

Care must be taken to pack the bark roll into roll & split it up where necessary otherwise if packed haphazardly the bundle will fall to pieces when dry. The biggest pieces of bark should be placed on the outside so that it will tend to keep the bundle together. The bundle

Should be pressed well together & tied tightly.
Tracks



Tracks 9 feet wide ^{are} should be cut at intervals of five chains through the area stripped & the bark should be ^{carried} stacked alongside these tracks. This enables the bark to be extracted without any difficulty. When cutting the tracks the easiest route is followed & not necessarily the five chain interval adhered to. When stacking bark always raise it off the ground by putting the bottom bundles on ~~small~~ poles so that the air can get underneath & dry the bark evenly.

Sample Plots

In order to ascertain the direct benefit gained by thinning an experiment is being tried out.

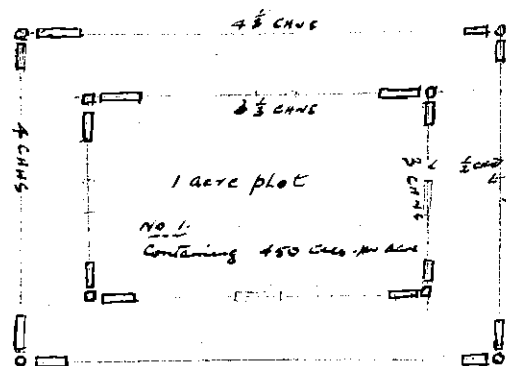
Four sample plots have been pegged out & thinned the number of trees left standing in each plot of 1 acre after thinning is as follows:-

No. 1	383 450 trees per acre	No. 2	431 400 trees per acre
No. 3	258 260 trees per acre	No. 4	unthinned (2089)

Each of the plots has a half chain strip around it thinned to the same number of trees per acre as the plots.

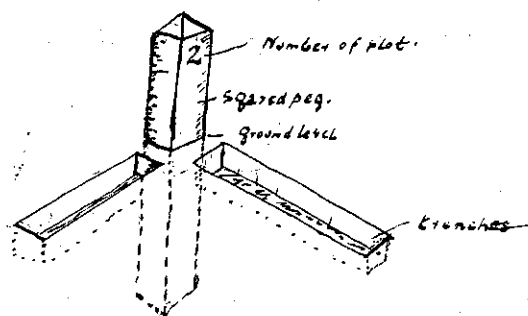
(5)

so that the tree on the outer edge of the plot will have the same amount of light & space as trees ^{further} inside the plot.



Strip thinned to same density as plot.
In this case 450 trees per acre.

Squared pegs 4"x4" in section & 2'6" long are cut from wandoo poles & put in 18" in the ^{ground} & 12" out in each of the four corners of the plot. Round pegs are sufficient to mark the corners of the outer boundary. Trenches 2 to 3 feet long & 6 inches deep are dug to indicate the direction of the boundary lines.



The number of the plot is inscribed on the NW corner peg of each plot 1, 2, 3 etc.

Numbered tin tags are tacked on each tree so that a record of the height & diameter can be kept.

A long pole marked off in feet & inches is used to obtain the height measurement while a tape is used to get the girth.

From measurements made each year the increase in height & diameter for each plot can be obtained & compared with that of the unthinned plots.

Sample plots should be made as far as possible where the stand represents a fair average of the crop as a whole.

✓
ABH
26/10/28

W. Lloyd Garrison
Forester

Forest Guard
5th October 1928