

MOLASSES RIVER GAME AREA PLANT-  
ING NO. 9 PLANTED SPRING, 1941.

The Molasses River Game Area planting made during the spring of 1941 was designed primarily to furnish cover and food for deer, but other game species such as ruffed grouse and rabbits should also benefit from the planting. Spruce was planted to provide areas of cover where available winter browse was not being used because it was too far from areas of heavy natural cover. Cedar and witch-hazel were planted to provide food in the vicinity of established cover areas.

Descriptions and acreage planted on each:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 14, T19N, R2E	10 acres
NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 20, T20N, R2E	25 acres
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 20, T20N, R2E	20 acres
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 20, T20N, R2E	<u>35 acres</u>
Total Acreage Planted,	90 acres

Species, age, size and quantity of stock planted:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
White Cedar	3-1 Trans.	7"	12,000
Black Spruce	4-0 Seed.	17"	25,000
White Spruce	3-0 Seed.	4"	71,060
Witch-hazel	2-0 Seed.	10"	<u>320</u>
Total trees and shrubs planted,			108,380

All of the stock used for this project was produced in the Hardwood State Forest Nursery. It was delivered to the project on May 10 by a local truck hired for the purpose. The stock was reported to be in good condition when received and planted except for about 3,000 spruce which were reported to have dry roots when received. However, overrun on the order was sufficient to compensate for this.

Local labor and a local foreman was hired to handle the planting work on the ground. The foreman and several of the men were experienced planters, and as a consequence good quality work was obtained. Laborers were paid at the rate of 50 cents per hour and the foreman received 60 cents per hour.

The soil was prepared for planting by scalping. Scalps averaged about 16" square. Scalping was started on May 5 and was practically finished before the planting stock was received.

Most of the planting was done with Michigan planting bars, but a few thousand of the larger spruce had such large root systems that shovel planting was necessary. Planting was started on May 12 and completed on May 26.

The trees and shrubs were planted at the rate of approximately 1,200 per acre. Spacing of the plants was about 6' x 6'.

Soil where the spruce was planted consisted of clay and sandy loams. The cedar was planted in a location where the soil was mostly wet muck but some was planted on low, wet, sandy loam containing a good supply of organic material.

The weather during the planting season was warm with two good rains. Periods after the rains were cool enough so that excess water in the scalped areas could percolate into the soil without danger of scalding the plants.

No check plots were laid out.

Planting costs (all from Game Division funds), not including cost of producing nursery stock or time and travel of Lansing office personnel:

Labor -

2,110 man hours @ 50¢ per hour,	\$1,055.00
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Supervision -

Hired foreman

151 man hrs. @ 60¢ per hour,	90.60
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Game Area manager's time

10 days @ \$6.00 per day,	<u>60.00</u>
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Total Supervision,	\$ 150.60
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Transportation -

Delivering nursery stock	\$ 30.00
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Game Area manager's travel

1,634 miles @ 3¢ per mile	<u>49.02</u>
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Total Transportation,	\$ 79.02
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Equipment -

Pails, shovels, grape hoes, planting bars, \$54.00 - pre-rated over 10 planting seasons,	5.40
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Files for sharpening shovels and grape hoes,	<u>1.40</u>
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Total Equipment,	\$ 6.80
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Total cost of project,	\$1,291.42
Cost per acre planted,	14.35
Cost per M. trees and shrubs planted	11.92