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Brush Willow Effective -- The brush willow, or purple osier, is making effective, fast growing windbreaks in the Red River Valley area, according to SCS Area Conservationist A. C. Libby. This shrub willow grows tall enough to make a good snow catch in about three years, says Libby, and at full growth is 9 to 12 feet.

The brush willow was first planted in the East Agassiz Soil Conservation District in 1943 by Einar Hendrickson, farm forester for the district at that time. Several other species were also planted, but the brush willow made the best growth. So Hendrickson devoted his efforts to this willow extensively. It has increased in popularity with farmers so much that in the winter of 1952-53 more than 100,000 cuttings were made by the district to fill requests of its own cooperators and orders from other districts in that part of the state.

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Green Manure -- Use southern common alfalfa such as California or Arizona common to sow in grain as a legume green manure crop preceding corn or another grain crop, suggests A. R. Schmid, associate professor of agronomy at the University of Minnesota. Biennial sweet clover seed costs only half as much, but many farmers are having trouble getting stands of sweet clover because of the sweet clover weevil. Southern common alfalfa or biennial sweet clover planted in grain and plowed down the same fall has boosted corn yields the next year by 6 or 7 bushels per acre as compared with grain without a legume.

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Change of Face -- Speaking at Owatonna, Skuli Rutford, assistant director of the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service, described the changing face of the American countryside that has resulted from strip cropping, contour work and terraces. "When you see the face of agriculture changing," he observed, "you can figure that some farm thinking has also changed. There is no other country in the world that has so rapidly changed from old soil-wasting methods of farming to the soil conservation way."

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