

# A BILL

## FOR AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE THE PLANTING OF FOREST AND FRUIT TREES IN THE STATE OF IOWA.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. That on any tract of land in the state of Iowa the owner or owners may select a  
2 permanent forest reservation not less than two acres in continuous area, or a fruit tree  
3 reservation not less than one nor more than five acres in area, or both, and that upon  
4 compliance with the provisions of this act, such owner or owners shall be entitled to the  
5 benefits hereinafter set forth.

Sec. 2. A forest reservation shall contain not less than two hundred growing forest trees  
2 on each acre. If the area selected is an original forest containing the required number of  
3 growing forest trees, it shall be accepted as a forest reservation under the provisions of this  
4 act. If the area selected is an original forest containing less than two hundred forest trees to  
5 the acre, or if it is an artificial grove, the owner or owners thereof shall have planted, cultivated  
6 and otherwise properly cared for the number of forest trees necessary to bring total  
7 number of growing trees to not less than two hundred on each acre, during a period of  
8 not less than two years, before it can be accepted as a forest reservation within the meaning  
9 of this act. Provided that no ground upon which any farm buildings stand shall be recognized  
10 as part of any such reservation.

Sec. 3. Not more than one-fifth of the total number of trees in any forest reservation may  
2 be removed in any one year, excepting in cases where the trees die naturally.

Sec. 4. The ash, black cherry, black walnut, butternut, catalpa, coffee tree, the elms,  
2 hackberry, the hickories, honey locust, locust, mulberry, the oaks, sugar maple, European  
3 larch and other coniferous trees, and all other forest trees introduced into the state for  
4 experimental purposes, shall be considered forest trees within the meaning of this act. In  
5 forest reservations which are artificial groves, the willows, box-elder, soft maple, cottonwood  
6 and other poplars, shall be included among forest trees for the purposes of this act when they  
7 are used as protecting borders not exceeding two rows in width around a forest reservation, or  
8 when they are used as nurse-trees for forest trees in such forest reservation, the number of  
9 such nurse-trees not to exceed one hundred on each acre; provided that only box-elder and  
10 soft maple shall be used as nurse-trees.

Sec. 5. The trees of a forest reservation shall be in groves not less than four rods wide.

Sec. 6. A fruit-tree reservation shall contain not less than ninety fruit trees on each acre, growing under proper care, and may be claimed as such for a period of eight years after planting.

Sec. 7. The cultivated varieties of apples, crabs, plums, cherries, peaches and pears shall be considered fruit-trees within the meaning of this act.

Sec. 8. Whenever any tree or trees on a fruit-tree or forest reservation shall be removed or die, the owner or owners of such reservation shall, within one year, plant and care for other fruit or forest trees, in order that the number of such trees may not fall below that required by this act.

Sec. 9. Cattle, horses, mules, sheep, goats and hogs shall not be permitted upon a fruit-tree or forest reservation.

Sec. 10. Forest reservation fulfilling the conditions of this act shall be assessed on a taxable valuation of one dollar per acre.

Fruit tree reservations shall be assessed on a taxable valuation of one dollar per acre for a period of eight years from the time of planting.

In all other cases where trees are planted upon any tract of land, without regard to area, for forest, fruit, shade or ornamental purposes, or for windbreaks, the assessor shall *not* increase the valuation of such property because of such improvements.

Sec. 11. If the owner or owners of a fruit or forest reservation violate any provision of this act within the two years preceding the making of an assessment, the assessor shall not list any tract belonging to such owner or owners, as a reservation within the meaning of this act, for the ensuing two years.

Sec. 12. It shall be the duty of the assessor to secure the facts relative to fruit and forest reservations by taking the sworn statement, or affirmation, of the owner or owners making application under this act; and to make special report to the county auditor of all reservations made in the county under the provisions of this act.

Sec. 13. It shall be the duty of the county auditor in every county to keep a record of all forest and fruit-tree reservations within his county; and to make report of the same to the secretary of the State Horticultural Society on or before November 15th of each year.

Sec. 14. The secretary of the Iowa State Horticultural Society shall be State Forestry Commissioner, without salary. It shall be his duty to promote the objects of this act, and he shall have power to appoint deputies without salary for each county, or group of counties, who shall assist him, and who shall make an annual report to him of forestry matters and of the operations of this act, within their respective territories, for the use of the State Horticultural Society.