

This object could be achieved for a while by the use of dead cover suitably spread and fixed in the ground, but the brush-wood so used would cease to function directly it was sanded over. By the employment of Psamma a living adjustable mechanism is obtained which continually grows up with the surface as it rises; its action being continuous and automatic.

As situations differ in respect of wind velocity, amount of sand drifted, and slope, it has been found necessary to vary the density of planting. Originally Psamma was planted in bunches, but this method has been replaced on the Baltic littoral by line planting. According to this practice the lines are ranged in two series intersecting at right angles, so that the ground is covered by a network of squares, the sides of which consist of Psamma, and in the meshes of which tufts or short lines of Psamma are also planted. The one set of lines (longitudinal) runs parallel to the shore, or, in plantings other than those on littoral dunes, at right angles to the direction of the prevalent winds. The object of the additional (transverse) system of lines is to prevent shifting of sand by winds other than those from the prevalent direction. Frequently, however, these transverse lines are dispensed with. Formerly, the size of the mesh was varied according to the circumstances of ground and exposure, but, this variation proving inconvenient in practice, a uniform mesh of 2 metres (6 feet 6 inches) has been adopted—adjustment to the special requirements being attained by varying the density of the sides of the squares and the number of tufts or short lines planted in the squares themselves. In Prussia four standard densities of mesh are employed: these are illustrated in fig. 16, and require no further explanation.

Each short line, whether in the side or in the interior of the square, consists of a row of from five to ten Psamma cuttings. These are pulled up from a convenient spot near by, especially from superfluous hummocks that require levelling. A notch is made in the ground with a small flat spade, the cuttings are placed in position, the notch closed and the sand stamped down. The cuttings should be used as soon after collection as possible, and if not required at once should be