

Planning for the Home Garden

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(Concluded From Last Week.)

SOME things that should always be avoided in any planting are yet of such common occurrence as to deserve special mention and emphasis.

First of all, in the way of emphasis, the prominent lines of the good landscape should always be curved lines if possible. Exaggerated curves leading nowhere are equally faulty.

Fences are to be obliterated as quickly and as much as possible in the general effects. They should be painted green, brown or dull gray and never a color that brings them out in bold contrast to their surroundings.

Needless to say that the flower bed in the middle of the lawn is never beautiful and frequently spoils completely the effects of an otherwise good planting. When this is bordered with bricks, stones, shells, beer bottles, etc., frequently painted a dazzling white, the result is hideous.

The same structure in the middle of the parlor floor would be in just as good taste and no more unsightly. The conventional rockery is another monstrosity of the same sort.

The proper surroundings for a rockery are not easily secured and nothing will save it from condemnation, unless it appears natural to its surroundings. A heap of stones in the middle of a clipped lawn can never be excused.

The little trellis in the middle of the lawn over which some climbing plant is expected to climb, but usually does not, is another objectionable feature frequently seen. Climbers should never be planted except where there is something for them to climb upon, as porches, walls, old trees, fences or shrubbery.

Plants with geometric forms, such as junipers, boxes and arbor vitae, pruned into smooth cones, vases, globes, etc., should find no place intermingled with natural objects. Plants of weeping or unusual habits of growth should generally be avoided.

Lawn vases and flower containers of all kinds are usually undesirable and in any case are rarely as effective and satisfactory as some easier and more natural treatment.

Planning.

The location of the grounds having been determined, the next thing is to make some definite plan on paper. The house, walks, drives, fences, etc., should be placed according to scale, in keeping with what has already been stated. If possible the walks, drives and fences should be built and the necessary draining and grading done in the Fall of the year. There almost invariably occur some irregularities, as a result of uneven settling of the soil, which may be eliminated the following Spring before planting is done.

The next thing to do is to locate the trees, shrubs, etc. The location and kind of plants should be indicated on the paper plan; first, the trees, then the shrubs, followed by the flowers desired.

In locating these plants this statement should be kept constantly in mind: "The completed planting should represent a framed picture; the house is the picture, the grass is the canvas and the trees and shrubbery represent the frame." Trees and high growing shrubbery, therefore, have no place in front of the house, because they hide the "picture." Streaks and blotches in the way of walks, flower beds, etc., have no place in the foreground of the picture because they receive the first notice and withdraw our attention from that which we wish to set off to the best advantage.

There are of necessity some unsightly objects about the house. Barns, outbuildings, stockyards, etc., should be screened from direct view from the porches and principal windows. At the same time there is often some beautiful outlying scenery beyond the grounds themselves, as a river or a range of hills, a view of which the trees and shrubs should not shut off.

It should be remembered too, that the grounds are for the pleasure and enjoyment of the people living there and not entirely for the benefit of the passerby. With this in mind, the outlook from the rear of the house should be made as beautiful and attractive as that from the front. The good housewife and her assistants will spend one-half or more of their working hours in the rear of the house and the outlook from the kitchen and pantry should be the most pleasant of the entire grounds. Pig pens, manure piles, outbuildings and perhaps even some rubbish piles may be necessary evils about a farm-

house, but they should never be visible from the most used parts of the house.

Placing of Shrubs.

The high growing shrubs should be placed in the rear of the border, and the lower growing kinds reserved for the foreground, angles and basement lines of the house. The nurseryman's catalogues usually indicate these points, thus making wise selection possible for anyone.

One should not try to plant everything in the catalogue, but should confine the selection principally to native, hardy and well-known sorts. Instead of single specimens, three or four plants (more when possible) of each kind should be planted together. Care should be taken to select shrubs blooming at different times throughout the entire season, and not those only which flower in the Spring time.

Plants for shady places should be selected with special care, and attention should be given to winter effects. A few evergreens and plants with fruit adhering late in the season or with some characteristic color of bark may be selected for this purpose.

Especially attention should be given to the insect and disease problems. Many plants, otherwise very desirable, must be omitted from the list of the average planter on account of their susceptibility to insects and diseases. This is perhaps the most difficult point for the amateur in the selection of satisfactory plants.

Above all it should not be forgotten that plants become larger. Plants two or three feet from each other seem very wide apart at planting time, but may be entirely too close in four or five years. One should never hesitate to "thin out" if necessary. Plants not called for in the original plan may be added here and there and plants not pleasing or satisfactory in the plan as a whole, dug up and replaced. Few plans made even by professionals escape additions and modifications as the years go by.

In conclusion it must be remembered that it requires time to develop a "plan" to the point where the idea in the mind of the one who planned the grounds will become apparent to the casual observer. But with careful planning, a little labor, and practice, any home can be made beautiful surroundings at comparatively slight expense.

Passports Not Needed for Canadian Tourists

NUMEROUS items have appeared lately in the press advising residents of the United States to obtain passports when visiting or passing through Canada. Officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway made recent inquiries of the government at Ottawa whether passports are now required. The government announces that its officials are in no way interfering with bona fide tourist traffic and that persons desirous of visiting points of interest in Canada or of passing through Canada en route to other places will be accorded the same courteous treatment as was customary before the outbreak of the war, and that passports are not required.

Baled Hay.

Baled hay has a value above that of loose hay on any market. There's a reason. It occupies less space—and space in the barn of the city man is scarce. It is easier handled all the way from producer to consumer. As the package helps sell the fruit, so the bale helps sell the hay.

Those who are pressed for storage room should consider the hay press. Bale the stacks that are spoiling outside and store the bales in odd corners here and there where you wouldn't think of putting a load of loose hay.

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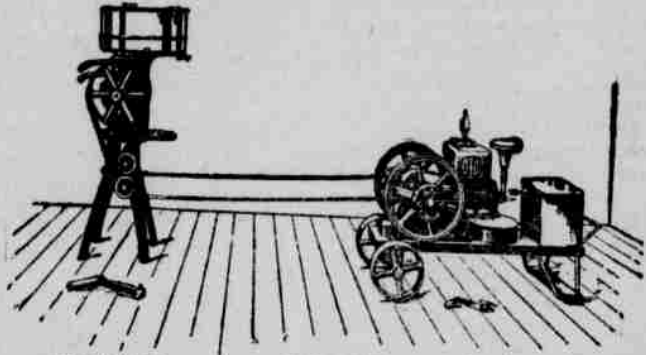
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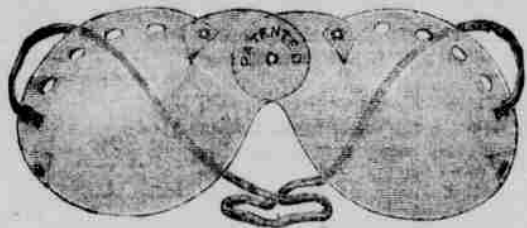
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