

Along Azalea Row

By RUTH B. SMITH

Yesterday was Armistice Day which commemorated the November 11, 1918 day when the Germans laid down their arms and World War I was over. For many people, that first Armistice brought jubilation with an end to their concern for husbands, sons and brothers in France or on the high seas; for others, the day was mingled with sadness over the loss

of a loved one; for all it brought fresh assurance that peace had come to the world and that this had been "the war to end all wars".

Our gratitude goes out to all those who, at that time, defended our country's principles and to those who since have labored to keep the enemy from our shores and to make the whole world a peaceful place in which to live. We are older and wiser than in 1918 and still not wise enough in our relations with the rest of the world. However, another Armistice day will come and we can hope and pray that it will find us with a permanent peace.

During World War I there came into greater prominence a poet who was killed "on Flander's Field". He became best known for his poem, "Trees", which starts "I think that I shall never see,

A poem lovely as a tree."

I was reminded of this poem last week again when, in Northern Oregon and Southern Washington, the high color of the deciduous trees almost took one's breath and the swirling leaves floated all about us as they fell to cover the earth against the winter's cold. We would not wish to have the frosts which bring that color nor those trees exclusively which burst into flame in the fall of the year for we have other things of equal surpassing beauty here but the colorful glimpse was a taste of what other sections, such as New England, find a lure for many a traveler.

Trees are assets in one's garden. They serve as backgrounds for other planting or for wind-breaks against the storm. While Arbor Day does not come until later, we can plant a tree almost any time in this climate—particularly the evergreens. They are an important part of any landscaping program. Not too long ago a survey of values was made in a residential area of a city and the difference in values of two homes, one on bare land and the other, planted, ranged from 1.2 per cent to 26.5 per cent. Other surveys have shown that whatever money is spent on landscaping brings, over a ten-year period, considerably better returns than if it were invested at 8 per cent.

Hereabouts, one thinks of tree value in terms of board feet but in landscaping, its value may be appraised by the method of \$10 per inch of trunk diameter for trees up to five inches in diameter and a gradually increasing rate up to \$50 an inch for specimens five feet through. In California where trees are at a premium, the owner of a new home may pay from \$500 to \$1000 for a single tree.

Perhaps these comparative figures will make you appreciate the more, the trees you may now own. Evergreens should not be fertilized in the late fall but after leaves have fallen is particularly timely for shade trees. Too much fertilizer can do more harm than good but a safe dosage for trees is two pounds for each inch of diameter, when measured three

feet above the ground line. To encourage deeper root growth, the fertilizer should be put to the depth of 15 to 24 inches, says an expert.

Since you are planning an outdoor Christmas display next month, why not satisfy your craving for a new tree in your yard along with your holiday program and right now plant a living Christmas tree? It may be only a small one but you and the children will delight in watching it grow with the years; five years from now it will take a ladder to trim it properly!

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