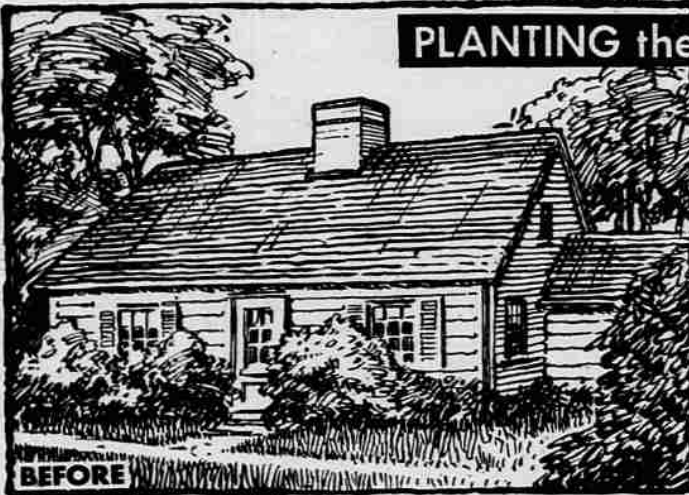
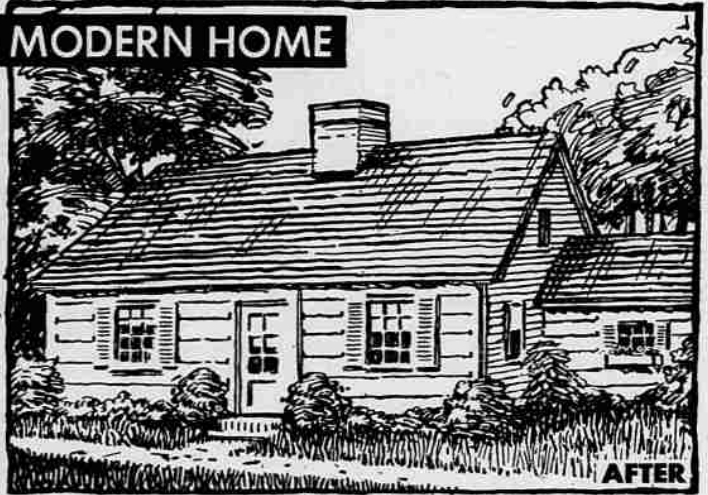


## PLANTING the MODERN HOME



**BEFORE**  
PLANTING that wasted \$100. It looked pretty for a couple of years when there were leaves on the bushes, but during the winter it added no color to the house. As time went on it was necessary to trim constantly to keep the bushes from obstructing the windows and spreading over in front of the house.



**AFTER**  
THE SAME HOUSE with a new \$300 planting good for 10 years without expensive upkeep, and gaining in beauty each season. The landscaper planned this for restraining growth to eliminate constant trimming and winter care. Japanese holly, yews, azaleas and barberries give color the year-round.

BY CYNTHIA LOWRY

Home isn't just the house any more. It's the grounds as well, no matter how small they are. That means landscaping must be given the same careful consideration that goes into the size of the living room and the arrangement of the bedrooms.

Outdoor living is becoming more and more important in our scheme of life. Today the trees, bushes and flowers on the plot rank with house architecture itself as a major piece of planning.

Architects are specialists in home planning. Builders are presumed to know how to build. The man who knows what should happen to your grounds is a landscape nurseryman. And the time to consult him is when your property is still a vacant lot and before the architect starts putting lines on paper.

Usually there are allowances for landscaping in a building contract. Frequently the builder isn't interested in that part of the job. Often the new house owner winds up with a bunch of inexpensive, quick-growing evergreens stuck here and there around the grounds. In a few years he'll have to hand over more good money to have the overgrown stuff pulled out and still more money to have it replanted.

Many people buy a house before it is completed. In those circumstances it is wise to have an experienced specialist—a landscaper—advise what should go into the ground, where they should be placed and suitable varieties.

This doesn't necessarily mean a big, expensive planting job. It can mean a considerable saving in the long run.

Howard C. Taylor, owner of the big Rosedale Nurseries at Eastview, N. Y., and former president of the American Association of Nurserymen, preaches the twin virtues of a carefully thought-out original planting for the new home coupled with a long-range plan.

"Most people," says Taylor, "can't afford to shoot the whole landscaping works right off the bat. The best thing to do is take care of the most important effects first, and then fill in later as finances permit. But it should be done unit by unit, not hit or miss."

There are the foundation plantings close to the house—usually with emphasis on evergreens to provide color during the winter months—to conceal ugly lines or soften sharp ones. There must be strategically located shade trees. And there must be the important border plantings which give the family privacy and beauty within eye-shot.

"Think about the ease of maintaining the ground," Taylor counsels. "Remember that it is much easier to mow an unbroken sweep of lawn than one which has trees and shrubs here and there.

"Avoid cutting your grounds into small sections with a small flower bed here and another

there. A walk flanked by flower beds neatly slices your lawn in half—and makes it look much smaller."

In landscaping, Taylor thinks first of the people living in the house and, second, about how the house looks to passersby. He likes to rim the property with a tree, shrub and flower border that acts as a screen.

"The modern home has more and more glass in it. People should be able to look out on beauty from every window," he maintains. "I think first about what can and should be seen from the windows. Then I think about the appearance of the property from the street."

The items of importance in permanent plantings are, of course, evergreens, deciduous or leaf-shedding trees and shrubs. Each has its uses.

"Slow-growing evergreens are best for small plots," Taylor says. "Most trees grow to big sizes and are apt to dwarf the house, even though it is hard to think so when they are first put in the ground."

Of these dwarf or slow-growing evergreens, Taylor sings his loudest praises of the yew or *Taxus*, which can be used anywhere except the hot parts of the country.

"It tolerates full sun or shade. It is hardy and not apt to be broken by snow or ice. It is reasonably dwarf in character. It is a deep, dark, rich green. It trims well."

There are also the useful broad-leaved evergreens, such as rhododendron, azalea, laurel, andromeda, holly and evergreen barberry. Any of these are valuable in plantings around the

### SAVE THAT TOPSOIL

Insist that your building contractor preserve all topsoil removed in excavating.

Have it replaced carefully when building is completed.

Topsoil is necessary for plant growth—and it is very expensive to buy.

foundations of the house. They give winter color, fill in bare spaces and soften awkward corners.

The place for the larger evergreens is in the border and for screening effects, Taylor maintains. Important among the varieties are hemlocks, smaller pines, junipers and arbor vitae. Think of them when you want to cut off a view of the neighbor's garage, or close in your own utility yard.

They aren't so good for permanent plantings because of their habit of tall growth. They cover up windows and ultimately make the house look smaller. Most of them grow in conical shapes.

"And try to avoid conical shapes in the foundation plantings," says Taylor. "They don't do a thing for the house and even disguise the good lines."

He blasts another firmly-held notion:

"One thing you definitely don't need right off the bat is a blue spruce."

The tree, so popular, should never be used as a lone specimen, he says. It can go into a border, but even there the deep blue type does not produce a desired effect. Besides, it grows into a large, forest-sized tree.

At least a third of the landscaping material should be plants of flowering or foliage type. Important among these are the flowering shrubs, arranged for a succession of bloom from spring blooming forsythia to late-flowering rose of Sharon.

Trees of what Taylor calls "restrained growth" like dogwood and flowering crab are useful because they fit a small plot and have handsome, showy blooms.

Plan carefully for shade, he advises. Trees should be spotted 15 to 20 feet away from the house, and cast shadows at required times into the areas of outdoor living.

You can spend a great deal of money on landscaping. Your budget and bank account is the only rule to work by. Costs depend upon what plant material you select, how much work you do yourself. One thing is certain, there's no economy in buying cheap plants, inappropriate plants or plants that are temporary.

Taylor maintains that the small home owner who invests \$50 in a couple of specimen yew trees is spending his money more wisely than the man who buys 20 baby evergreens for \$2.50 each—and has to remove a score of overgrown trees a few years later.

"The most important part of trees is the root system," cautions the nurseryman, "and you can't see that. Nursery-grown, transplanted trees and shrubs pretty uniformly do well. You are not taking much of a risk in buying them. They can be set into the ground, fed, watered, and go on growing. They don't suffer a setback. Trees which have never been transplanted before, those which have been growing wild, suffer shock in transplanting."

The first unit of planting for a small home can be adequately handled for between \$200 and \$300. Taylor advises underplanting rather than too much, and says that if the homeowner is willing to settle for smaller sizes of shrubs and trees even more money can be saved.

If you don't know a reputable nurseryman, Taylor says, look for one which is a member of the American Association of Nurserymen. Member concerns display the organization's seal.

There are many reputable and good mail-order nursery concerns, but there are some which charge high prices for second and third class material. One big advantage in dealing with local concerns as opposed to mail-order houses is that if you aren't satisfied, you can make your complaint in person with very little trouble.

### Water Softener

An automatic water softener has been designed with time clock mechanism to regenerate the mineral agent without manual attention other than replacements of the salts two or three times a year. In hard water areas, the automatic feature of this softener is advantageous. It is said to keep the mineral at maximum efficiency and to prevent contamination from accumulation on the mineral for long periods. The softening agent used is said to remove iron compounds.

### New Trees Require Winter Protection

The thousands of young trees set out this fall must be protected against winter damage.

To keep tree trunks from breaking during winter gales, wrap a loop of old rubber hose around the trunk just below the lower branches. Attach 3 wires to the rubber loop and draw them tightly to 3 stout wooden stakes in the ground at equal distances around the tree, making sure that no one wire bends the tree.

Burlap wrapped around tree trunks will prevent damage from rodents gnawing the bark. Heavy burdens of ice and snow should be knocked off trees and shrubbery before its weight breaks any branches.

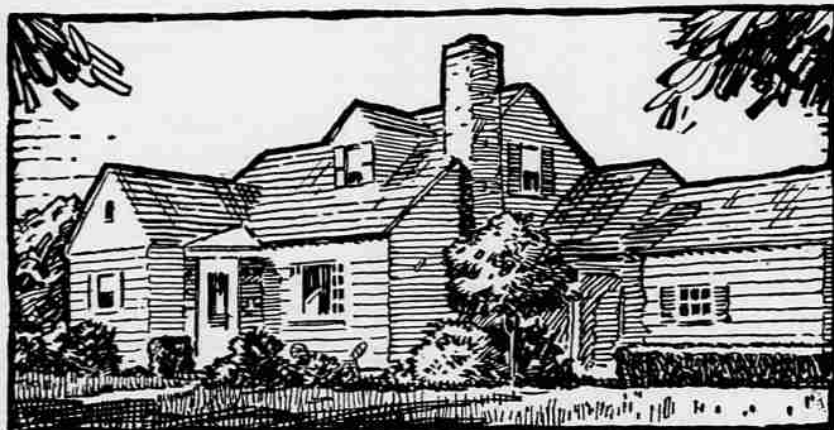
### BRUSHES OVERNIGHT

When doing a paint job with several colors of paint and several brushes, it is not necessary to clean the brushes when the work is interrupted overnight. Place each brush in a small paper bag and tie the bag around the brush handle. All the brushes can then be suspended in the same can of turpentine. The different colors will not become mixed.

Large slices of turkey may be dipped in batter and fried in shallow fat until golden brown. Serve with cranberry or mustard sauce.

Make individual omelets of eggs, minced onion, finely diced salami, and salt and pepper; serve between slices of rye bread toast.

Orange and grapefruit peel make economical sweets. Cut the peel into narrow strips, boil the strips until tender, and then glaze them in sugar syrup.



**CORNER PLANTING**, three years old, shows how bare chimney and wall are softened with a pink dogwood underplanted with mountain laurel, andromeda and rhododendron. Near center, partly hiding terrace chairs, is a low screen of azaleas, holly and yew trees, low enough to preserve the view from the picture window.