

Spring Planting Of Evergreens

For all varieties of evergreens spring is a favorable season for transplanting. They can be moved with little setback up to the time when new shoots are starting, and even later by experienced planters, though it is sometimes necessary to pinch off part of the new shoots which otherwise might wilt.

After being moved in the spring, an evergreen has a long period of favorable weather in which to become established. The hazards of the mid-summer heat and drouth may be as great as those of a winter season, but it is easier for the garden owner to overcome them. The most common cause of loss in evergreens is dryness; and newly planted specimens should be watched during dry periods. The roots of any newly planted tree or shrub penetrate a relatively small section of soil, which may easily become dry. Until the plant has had time to develop new and longer roots, capable of foraging for food and moisture to a considerable distance, it needs special attention, and sometimes frequent watering. This applies to deciduous plants as well as evergreens.

Evergreens should be dug with a ball of earth about the roots, and this earth should be kept well moistened throughout shipping and planting and after planting. The shorter the time between digging and planting the better. If it is not convenient to water frequently after planting, a mulch of hay or straw will retard drying out and lessen the amount of water required.

The performance of an evergreen in a given location depends upon the variety. Too often varieties are purchased because the buyer admires their appearance without careful inquiry being made as to their hardiness in the locality where they are to be planted. This is a question upon which expert knowledge should be sought. In some sections only the hardiest varieties can be counted upon to survive; while in others there is a much wider choice, owing to more favorable soil and climatic conditions. In the East and South the beautiful broad-leaf evergreens, such as rhododendrons and azaleas, are available, which seldom succeed in the North-Central states. But everywhere one can have beautiful and permanent evergreen plantings, if he chooses the varieties that are happy in his locality.



Plant Trees For Shade and Beauty

Trees are planted in the home grounds for two reasons, shade and beauty. The latter is the more important. A tree should always add beauty to its surroundings; and, if possible, it should be placed where its shade will be enjoyed.

Spring is a good time for tree planting. Many, such as birch, cherry, Lombardy poplars, oaks and others, transplant better now than in the fall. Of course care must be taken in preparing the soil, and setting the tree in the ground. But equally vital is that it be set in the right place to do its full duty.

If you know just what a tree is to do, it is easy to select the variety you need, and the location for it. Perhaps it is intended to frame the view of the house. Then it should grow to the proper height, when mature, so that it is in scale with the house, and to harmonize with the architecture. There will usually be several locations permissible and one may be chosen which will be most satisfactory for shade.

A garden seat or terrace will be more pleasant if it is shaded by a tree in the afternoon. Or a porch, or window may be made more inviting by this protection from the summer sun. A little investigation at the right time on a sunny day will help you determine just where a tree should be planted to cast the desired shade; having in mind, always, the shape and height of the tree.

Trees have diverse beauties, and different varieties may be combined to secure year-around interest and beauty. The hardiness of the variety in your locality is important. It never pays to plant kinds that are likely to be killed, or usually fail to thrive. Varieties less rare, but happier in their surroundings will be more satisfactory.

Good subjects for street or avenue planting are elms, ash and lindens. Weeping trees, to be planted sparingly, where their conspicuously interesting shapes seem permissible, are the weeping mulberry, cut-leaved weeping birch, Wisconsin weeping willow and Niobe weeping willow.

The Use Of Pruning Shears

There's a "best way" to do everything. Many amateur gardeners give little thought to the way they handle pruning shears.

Always work with the cutting blade lowermost, so that you pull it upward, though the pressure is downward on the handle of the cutting side. This allows you to cut smoothly and close to the stem from which the pruned shoot is removed. It insures against possible stripping of bark resulting from a downward cut.

Watch the "set" of the blade. Don't let it get sprung. Never use shears that are dull. Keep them sharp as you work.

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The Zebulon Record



This beautiful yard is not only a first prize winner in the 1932 National Yard and Garden Contest but also the playground of a rosy cheeked little cherub who Mrs. H. I. Sparey of

Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, recently adopted as her own. Altho the Sparey place at Broadmoor is beautifully planted and a wonderful environment for a growing child, the

baby's arrival was followed by the purchase of adjoining property which will be made into a playground with slides, swings a wading pool and other features.

How To Develop The Home Plot

The modern idea about home grounds is that every square foot should serve a purpose. Land is expensive, and the time has passed when a home owner was content to use only that portion of his lot upon which his house stood. Today, if he is up-to-date, he considers his home to embrace the entire area of the ground to which he has title, and he develops every part of it to perform a definite function, useful or ornamental.

This idea has resulted in a transformation of the back yard. Formerly it was the most neglected part of the home grounds. A view of even a fine residence section from the alley was far from edifying. Land of great value, and capable of use which would justify its value, was usually

and miscellaneous storage. Houses turned their backs to all this, and owners only went into the back yard when wearing their old clothes.

But this has now been changed; and the back yard in the modern home grounds is transformed into a beauty spot, the most inviting part of the home, the outdoor living room.

Many modern houses are designed so that the living apartments communicate directly with the outdoor living room; and this is highly desirable if it can be arranged. It is often possible to adjust an old house to give this desirable connection; and always with some thought, an easy and inviting access to the back yard can be worked out.

The private garden in the rear offers more opportunity for individual expression than the front yard, where planting must be for the public. A certain restraint is called for in front, and harmony with neighboring plant-

ing is desirable. In the private garden one should express his own idea of outdoor beauty. There should be planting to give privacy and screen out unsightly views. This may be arranged so that passersby on the street can get a glimpse of the beauty within without privacy being destroyed. Comfortable furniture, perhaps a swing, seats, chairs and a table, will give the yard the look of an abiding place. Bird houses will attract feathered visitors to entertain us. And flowers will help make the outdoor living room the source of joy throughout the summer time.

PANSIES

It is hard to decide upon a favorite flower, for I love them all.

I like the pansy best of all the annuals.

I have a number of flowering shrubs, but my Snowball bush is the most beautiful of them all.

Mrs. E. R. Stallings