

Interest In Landscaping, Home Planning Increasing In Haywood County

N.C. State Specialist Offers Tips

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a series of two articles on landscaping and home planning, written by John Harris, extension horticulturist from N.C. State College, who has visited Haywood County twice this month. This article deals with landscaping, the second will concern home planning.)

County Agent Virgil I. Holloway said today that Haywood County residents are showing a great deal of interest at present in the related subjects of landscaping and home planning.

He pointed out that a healthy lawn and suitable shrubbery greatly improves the appearance of property and enhances its value.

Mr. Holloway also urged persons planning to build homes to make careful plans before actually starting construction and invited such persons to take advantage of assistance in their planning from the county agent's office or from specialists at N.C. State College.

To assist Haywood countians in planning landscaping on their homes and farms, John Harris, extension horticulturist at N.C. State College, has visited the county twice this month to discuss major points of landscaping and home planning.

Mr. Harris also brought with

Poultrymen Should Watch Feathering In First Weeks

him here copies of two booklets, he has written which are available to the general public — "Arrangement of Trees and Shrubs" and "Planning Your Homestead."

Excerpts from Mr. Harris' booklet on trees and shrubs are: "Plants should be attractive, and they should also serve some useful purpose. Shrubs and flowers that are scattered about over the lawn for their individual attractiveness confuse the picture by drawing undue attention to themselves. They also create a problem in mowing the lawn, especially where large machines are used. "Trees add more year-round beauty and comfort to your place than any other plant material. The first step after making your plan is to select and plant your trees. Arrange the trees informally and place them where they will cast shade where it is needed. "To shade the roof of a house, place medium to large trees within 15 to 20 feet of the house. Twenty to 30 feet might be better if shade on the roof isn't needed. "Trees can frame a building if placed to the sides, but this doesn't mean you should never have trees in front. Certainly if shade is needed in front, by all means have it. If, on the other hand, your house faces North or East, it might look better with trees only at the sides and back. "Deciduous trees (drop their leaves in winter) are usually best near the house. They shade the house in summer, but not in winter. Thus the sun brightens the rooms and helps to heat them. Evergreen trees, especially magnolia, white pine, Deodar cedar, etc., that have branches near the ground, are usually placed toward the back or near the borders of the yard. These trees can serve as wind breakers and therefore make the house easier to heat. Use trees in the lawn area that will eventually have bare trunks to a height of 10 to 15 feet. "Most homes have areas that aren't attractive—the barn lot, clothes line, neighbor's backyard, etc. Look at your yard from the highway, from the kitchen and living room windows and from the porch. What do you see? Is it attractive? If not, arrange your planting or a fence to screen off the unattractive area. "Think of the areas of your yard as additional rooms to your house. To enjoy these rooms they should be private, and in most instances should be separated from each other. The front we usually leave open, however, it can be enclosed from the road if desired. This will depend largely on the customs of the neighborhood and how the house is designed. "The majority of houses have too many shrubs around their foundation. Why? Perhaps it's partly due to custom — copying someone else, partly because the plants are small when first planted, and quite often because the owner loves plants too much. They want one of everything and look to the foundation for a place to plant it. "Few rules can be given, but one guiding principle is to use plants at the corners of the building and on each side of the door. These are the points where the strong vertical architectural lines meet the ground. The house may or may not need plants between the door and corner. Other uses of plants about the foundation include (1) to frame the building or parts of the building; (2) to subdue or hide certain parts of the building; and (3) to soften large unbroken wall surfaces. "Trees can do more to improve the looks of a building than can

All poultrymen, whether raising chickens for broilers or for market egg production, like to see their birds feather out completely and as early as possible. It's a sign of good breeding, good health and good management.

R. S. Dearnstye of the State College poultry science department says that, although good feathering is primarily an inherited characteristic, it may be offset to a large extent by other factors encountered by the chick during earliest period of life.

What are some of the factors which may react against early and complete feathering? Dearnstye says that some include overcrowding, overheating, excessive chilling, lack of proper humidity in the house, unbalanced diet, and certain types of diseases.

Dearnstye says it's especially important to observe the feathering of the birds during the first six weeks of life. Should they fail to feather normally, one of two things must be wrong: either the feathering inheritance of the chick is poor or some of the above mentioned factors of good management have been violated.

If it's poor management, corrective steps should be taken. If the fault lies in inheritance of the chicks, that's "all she wrote." Nothing can be done.

Shrubs. Use them for shade and shadows, to frame the building, to reduce its apparent size and to subdue or hide certain unattractive parts of the building. Shrubs used for this purpose would likely be out of scale with the building. "Here in the South most people prefer evergreens over deciduous plants for most of their foundation planting. This is logical since so many of our broadleaf evergreens such as camellias, nandinas, hollies, pyracanthas, etc., have attractive flowers, leaves and fruits. However, there is nothing wrong with using some of both. Broadleaf plants are generally preferred by most people. There are places, however, for narrowleaf evergreens, especially our native plants such as pine, white pine, hemlock and spruce.

Deciduous plants such as spiraea, forsythia, etc., are especially adapted for the border planting. Shrubs and trees reach no certain height or spread. They keep growing until they die. Some of course, grow much taller and faster than others. Select slow growing plants to use near buildings and other restricted places. Even these will have to be pruned and maybe replaced once or twice in a life time.

In selecting plants for specific locations, decide first what size and shape plant you need. However, grouping plants by heights mean little. The tallest growing plant can be kept low by constant pruning. However, some plants naturally grow slower and lower than others and thus would be easier to keep within bounds. "Many of the plants in a particular group could also be listed in another group. For example, Chinese Holly is in the 4 to 6 foot group, but with little or no pruning it would fit better in the taller group. Use the groupings as a general guide only."

One hundred and thirty-one public spirited citizens, each with a crew of his neighbors, serve as co-operating Fire Wardens to help protect the North Carolina National Forests, 201 industrial crews make up the second line of defense.

Studies show that about 60,000 nails go into the average house, says the Southern Pine Association. Nail holding power is one of the chief criteria used by builders in specifying structural lumber.

Start Early if Making New Lawn This Spring



To have a smooth lawn, fill up all low places before sowing seed.

When a new lawn is made in the spring an early start is advisable so that the new grass may become established before the onset of hot weather. As soon as the frost is out of the ground, and the soil is dry enough to work, the lawn area may be prepared. Never work wet soil.

Grass will grow in poor soil, and its roots are soil builders, but a porous soil enriched with organic matter, 4 to 6 inches deep, will bring faster and more lasting results. Additions to the soil should be spread evenly and mixed thoroughly with the existing soil, not applied as a thin top layer.

Grass will not thrive in acid soil, so a check should be made on this point. The soil should test at least pH7, which is the neutral point. Crushed limestone is best to correct acidity, and also improves the texture of heavy clay soil, causing too-fine particles to collect in crumbs which permit both air and water to pass between them.

After the soil has been turned over, large lumps should be broken up and the surface leveled, because it will be difficult to fill low spots after the grass is sown. A rake is the best tool for leveling and removing stones and debris.

A pulverized surface is not as good as a pebbly condition, as small soil lumps will break down and help cover the seed. Pulverized soil after watering may be baked by the sun into a hard crust.

When the surface has been leveled, seed and plant food may be spread. To spread the seed evenly at the desired rate it is best to use a plant food spreader. The

practice is growing of mixing seed and plant food together, as this provides enough bulk in the hopper to insure an even flow.

For example, if it is desired to spread 30 pounds of plant food over 1,000 square feet, this amount may be placed upon a sheet of heavy paper. The amount of grass seed intended for the same area may be poured on the plant food and the two mixed thoroughly. The paper can be lifted and the mixture poured into the spreader.

Adjust the spreader to apply the plant food at the desired rate, and this will be satisfactory for the distribution of the seed in the mixture as well.

If the top soil is pulverized the seed and plant food should be raked in lightly, to cover the seed. This may not be necessary for a pebbly surface. In either case the lawn area should then be rolled with a light roller, or firmed with a tamper or the back of a spade. This brings the seed in firm contact with the soil, which aids germination.

Now the lawn area should be sprinkled with a fine spray, not sufficient to produce run off or washing of seed. Germination of the seed will depend on warmth and moisture, and in cool weather may take considerable time. Once the seed has sprouted the soil must never be allowed to dry out until the seedling plants have established substantial roots, even if sprinkling is required twice a day.

In hot weather it may be necessary to cover the soil with a light mulch of straw or similar material free from weed seed, to shade the ground and protect the seedling plants from drying out.

Improperly Cut Forests Lose Value

By CARL E. DALTON
N.C. Division of Forestry

In recent months the North Carolina Division of Forestry District headquarters in Sylva have received several requests for information in regard to oak trees dying. All of these have been investigated and one cause of death has been found common in each case.

In the past a great deal of forest area of Western North Carolina has been cut repeatedly — year after year. One forest recently had been cut four times in 35 years. Each time, leaving only the smaller, poor, defective trees. These same trees have been left after each cut. Most of these trees tried to develop and take over the position of the large virgin as second growth trees and in so doing have literally worn themselves out.

These trees might be compared to a sick man trying to carry on his farming work after his sons have left the farm and gone out on their own.

They were much too old for their size to be able to ever have developed into sound, merchantable trees even had they not been

The U. S. Forest Service is charged with the restoration and wise use of the forest land of the United States, Alaska, and Puerto Rico.

The National Forests in North Carolina make up the largest area under one management east of the Mississippi. It has more Ranger Districts (11) than any other National Forest.

disused.

Another comparison might be that of thinning corn. If you went through the field and pulled out all of the better stalks, what kind of a crop would you have at harvest time?

Yes, timber is a crop and requires care and management just as do your other field crops. It is with this reasoning that the North Carolina Division of Forestry extends the invitation to each and every one to call upon their trained foresters for assistance and advice in the management of their woodlands.

Aromatic Tobacco Puts Farmers On The Move

Increasing interest in aromatic tobacco has kept quite a few North Carolina farmers on the move lately.

R. H. Crouse, State College extension agronomy specialist, says that farmers from at least 12 different counties have visited some of the more progressive aromatic tobacco growers in Wilkes County during the past few months.

And the farmers, who went to the Wilkes county agent's office in Wilkesboro for directions to individual farms, have been making many favorable comments about

what they have seen, Crouse adds. Crouse says that when these farmers go back and put these improved methods on their own farms this year, the information, through properly conducted demonstrations, will be passed on to many farmers who won't have to drive to a distant county to get it first hand.

But Crouse admits that seeing and talking to an experienced grower can mean much toward satisfying a prospective new grower about the possibilities of growing a new crop.

MORE ABOUT

Mineral Search

(Continued from Page 1)

mining in Macon and Clay was carried on profitably for a number of years.

Haywood County has for many years furnished a good share of the mica produced in this region, as has also Jackson County.

In the limestone belt of Cherokee were found stores of marble, iron and gold. Gold in paying quantities was found in the valley river. There was an iron mine near Tomotia and probably a small forge. Marble is still being worked extensively in the rich veins at the little town by that name. Gold had been discovered in this county before the Civil War, but work was suspended at the outbreak—to be resumed in the '70's.

Big Ridge Mine Discovered By Bear Hunters

About this time three brothers, viz., Eldridge, Wild and Nick Medford, are said to have discovered the Big Ridge mica mine about five miles south of Waynesville. They were trying to get a bear out of what seemed to them nothing more than a cave in this spur of Lickstone Mountain, and while digging, uncovered the mica crystals.

It seems that the Medford brothers either leased the mine or bought the mineral rights; but probably not being equipped sufficiently or able to work the mine, they soon contracted or sublet it to a Virginia company. They later sold it to W. F. Gleason.

The Big Ridge mine, it seems, did not prove so very profitable until the outbreak of World War I, when it is said to have paid handsomely. It was then being owned by Jim Long. During World War II it was operated by Tom Blaylock, also of Hazelwood, who is said to have "made a killing".

The Redmond mine in the lower Pines Creek-Hurricane section near the river is thought by many to be promising one. Two or three unsuccessful attempts have been made here to get out mineral in paying quantities. If and when the Pigeon River road is made and the problem of equipment, supplies and transportation is solved, then this old Redmond mine, with its deposits of iron, silver, copper, etc., will in all probability become a paying mine.

The North Carolina National Forests cover an area of 1,118,000 acres, which is 3.1% of the land area of North Carolina or 5.3% of the states commercial forest land area. Including intermingled private land, 1,874,000 acres are protected from fire.

Bookmobile Schedule

Tuesday, March 27

DUTCH COVE - MORNING STAR
Quay Smathers 9:30-9:45
Jack Chambers 9:50-10:00
Wilson's Store 10:15-10:30
Finley Cook 10:35-10:45
Morning Star School 11:00-12:30
B. M. Stamey 12:45-1:00
Smathers Dairy 1:15-1:30

Thursday, March 29

BETHEL
Bethel School 9:15

Friday, March 30

FINES CREEK
Trantham's Store 9:30-9:45
Francis Rogers 10:00-10:15
Fines Creek School 10:30-12:00
I. L. Rathbone 12:15-12:30
R. G. Rathbone 12:35-12:45
C. R. McElreath 1:00-1:15
Paul Ferguson 1:30-1:45

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