



# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

AND SOUTHERN FARM GAZETTE

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## A WORD ABOUT THE HOME GROUNDS



WELL PLANNED GROUNDS MAKE OF THIS SOUTHERN HOME A PLACE OF BEAUTY

**M**AYBE some one will say that the time is inopportune for talking about making the farm home more attractive; that in view of the crisis in cotton it is essential that no immediate improvements be attempted, and that expenditures be held to a minimum. In a measure this is true. Certainly it is a time for careful economy, pending a readjustment of affairs. However, there are many things that will help greatly in making our farms pleasant to look upon that may be done with the expenditure of little money, and no very great amount of labor. It is to these few essentials that we would call attention.

First of all, there must be a definite plan, such as that described by Mr. Hayden on page 5 of this issue. Study this sketch showing the location of the house, outbuildings, walks, driveways, and shrubbery. Then with paper and pencil make a sketch showing how you would like for your grounds to appear, of course always keeping in mind the peculiar local and topographical conditions that must be considered. It should not be forgotten in making your plans that what is most natural is always most beautiful, and all striving for stiff formality and garish effect should be avoided. Let us not forget, too, that any plan is faulty that does not locate the barnyard and outbuildings generally to the rear or to one side and back, so that offensive odors and drainage may be away from rather than toward the front of the house.

With our plans made, perhaps the next most important step will be to make the lawn. We are only stating the truth when we say that far too few Southern farm homes have grass covered lawns that are

worthy of the name. In a country where grass of some kind grows the year round, it seems a pity that our front yards should be swept bare and hard. There's nothing prettier than a thick sod of closely clipped Bermuda or blue grass, and to neglect this is to neglect a matter of major importance in making the grounds attractive. It may be objected that the lawn must be mowed regularly, but if a good lawn mower is used this work is certainly not a whit more laborious than "sweeping the yards" once a week.

Another detail that must claim careful consideration is that of trees. Generally, these should be to the sides and back, rather than close

in at the front of the house. In selecting such trees our preference as a rule would be for those that are both ornamental and useful. The pecan certainly falls in this class, and there are literally thousands of hot, glary, dusty Southern lanes that might be immensely bettered by being made into avenues of stately pecan trees.

With the plans made and the trees and lawn planted, there of course remains the planting of shrubbery and borders of flowers. There are dozens of varieties from which selections may be made and which, when properly combined, will add a touch of color for nearly the entire year.

Mr. Progressive Farmer, let's not dismiss this subject as one unworthy of our attention. Green grass, flowers and trees properly grouped and combined, afford us the means for making the rural South a land of infinite beauty. To use these advantages is our duty to ourselves, our children, and our communities.

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