

BEAUTIFYING THE HOME GROUNDS

Some Hints for Laying Out the Grounds and Making Attractive Grounds Already Laid Out

CONSTRUCTION of anything pre-supposes a carefully made plan. Every home deserves proper outdoor planning; it will save a thousand after regrets for mistakes made, and insure perpetual delights and comforts instead. A landscape architect is just as essential as the house architect. If the architect could have your place "in the rough" and plan the entire layout of buildings and planting after getting an outline of the style of improvements you desire, it would be far better. Since, however, most of this work is bestowed upon places already



MR. KERR

small group of them should be planted near each end and extending rather back of the house, which in time will form the framing of the house picture, as well as furnishing the comforts of shade.

Blooming shrubs should be planted in groups, naturally, not checker-board style, the larger growing ones four to five feet apart, and as a rule toward the back of the groupings, especially the back part of the grounds, forming the skyline, those of smaller growth spaced two to three feet apart, toward the front of groups, around the base of the house, and near the front of the lot. Southern people have been slow to appreciate the fine effects of blooming shrubs, but are now using them freely.

Evergreens may be used very effectively to form entire groups, and in the front borders of groupings of shrubbery and sparingly some large specimens in the open lawn, to accentuate the project, especially to give life and greenery during winter, the defoliated season of deciduous things. Vines, nature's own drapery, may be

HAPPY IS THE FARMER

FALL is with us, and the ever decreasing length of the days reminds us that winter is on his way. Twilight overtakes us long before the evening chores are done and as the nights grow colder we will hurry a little faster with the work, visions of the crackling fire and cheery lights of the family sittin' room hastening us along. I don't know of a thing in this world that is quite comparable with the homey, restful and contented feeling that comes over a man who sinks to rest in a cozy chair by the old fireplace after a hard day's work out in the barn or woodlot. Do you? Isn't it perfect contentment, then, to settle back in the old chair, shoes off and mayhap carpet slippers on, and bury yourself in the pages of the farm paper, while gathered around, Mother and the children sit likewise happy and at peace.

You, my farmer friend, are the envy of the age. Most likely the world knows not of your discouragements and failures. They are many, I right well know, but the man who works and lives by the sweat of his brow, is a stranger to the mental unrest that besets those of almost every other vocation of life. You are comparatively free from the fear of failure, the infidelity of friends, the frenzied desires for place and power that torment the minds of many men in other walks of life.

Therefore, sit you down by the glowing fire with the family gathered around; your cares and worries vanished with the disappearing day and you are at rest with the world; shut your eyes, relax, doze a little, if you please, but before you go to bed thank God—on your knees or standing—with your lips or heart—that you are a farmer. —Forrest A. Lord.

partly-improved, we must shape and utilize the material at hand.

No hard and fast rules can be made to fit all cases, because places, soils, climates, tastes and purses differ widely, and in a sense each case must be treated specially.

The natural in landscape architecture is more popular in the South than the formal; therefore preserve natural effects and plant trees and shrubs naturally rather than in stiff formal lines.

The lawn, which serves as the canvas for the landscape picture, should largely be preserved intact, open in the center. The ground for the lawn should be well prepared, and made rich if not already so, smooth (not necessarily level), and covered with a good coating of grass kept velvety and smooth with lawn mower.

Unity is desirable, and is possible, even on small properties. It may be secured by keeping the greensward open, confining the plantings to the borders of the lawn, especially in the backgrounds; around the base of the house, and along the paths, drives and street lines, all shrubs and trees to be so selected as to habits of growth, of foliage, flower and fruitage as to develop into a harmonious whole.

Groups of shade trees, three or more, are much more artistic on the margins of lawns, along curved driveways and even on street parkings. Shade trees in straight rows may be used on street parkings and on straight drives, especially if these drives lead directly to the portals of the house, as is frequently the case, the rows to have good distance, thirty feet apart, and be planted alternately rather than opposite. A tall tree or a

used to fine advantage on verandas, pergolas, trellises, walls, rockeries, fences, unsightly objects, etc.

Hedges are serviceable especially to divide between the front and back yards, and between the yards and ultimate back of the premises and on the sides of the lots, while the front is usually kept open. Yet small front hedges are permissible, especially where an air of privacy is desired. The Ligustrums or privets, especially Ligustrum Amurense and Ligustrum Nepalense, make the best ornamental hedges over most of the South, being evergreen. For defensive as well as ornamental hedges, Citrus Trifoliata is best. Hedges must be kept sheared closely for best effects.

Drives and walkways are frequently enhanced in attractiveness by being slightly curved.

The catalogs of nurserymen of your section will furnish lists of suitable trees and plants.

JNO. S. KERR.

Sherman, Texas.

More About Threshing Velvet Beans

IN ANSWER to Prof. Massey's question in regard to threshing velvet beans, we have no trouble at all. We use our J. I. Case Separator, just as we thresh oats, except we drop cylinder a little and take out all concaves but one and put boards for blanks and open adjustable sieves so as to let beans through. We always thresh in rainy or very damp weather.

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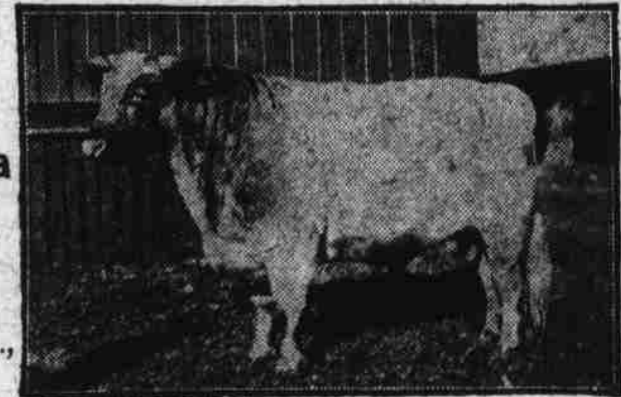
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