



God Keep You.

God keep you, dearest, all this lonely night;
The winds are still,
The moon drops down behind the western hill;
God keep you, dearest, till the light.
God keep you then when slumbers melt away,
And care and strife

Take up new-arms to fret our waking life,
And keep you through the battle of the day.

God keep you! Nay, beloved soul, how vain,
How poor is prayer!
I can but say again, and yet again,
God keep you every time and everywhere!

—Indianapolis News.

Written for The Progressive Farmer.]

The Farm Home Beautiful.

IV.—Hints on Laying Off the Lawn and Setting it With Grass—A Word Also About the Flowers and Other Ornaments.

The lawn is almost as much woman's province as the house, and there is scarcely a woman but who is interested in the beautifying of it.

In laying out the lawn study broad effects. If the lawn be small, do not cut it up into flower beds and walks, for it will look yet smaller; and if it be large, many flower beds make it appear trivial when it should appear stately. Always take in consideration the lay of the land and cut the walks accordingly. In laying out your walks never sacrifice a tree; have the walk curve around it.

The Grass is Most Important.

All seed houses now furnish grass seed suited to particular localities. Be sure to order only from those seedsmen who are recognized as thoroughly reliable, for in no seed is there more adulteration than in grass seed. In ordering be sure to state whether your lawn be sunny or shady, in the low or hill country, also the nature of the soil. These points are necessary in determining the kind of seed best suited. I repeat, deal with some well-known, reliable house—which is a good practice whether buying seeds or other goods, at home or away from home.

A proper growth of grass upon the lawn is not always easily obtained; so do not lose heart if much time and trouble be consumed in obtaining it, for when once had, it will be truly "a joy forever." What the carpet is to a room the velvety grass is to the lawn. I recall a dear, old-fashioned house, weather-stained, standing in the midst of a grove of fine oaks, but not one blade of grass around it; a broad expanse, which always looked as if freshly swept! How bare and cold and unrelenting. I often wondered if the old people who lived there were like it. While a clean lawn is all right, a bare, swept stretch is all wrong.

As to the Trees for the Lawn.

Many desirable trees may be obtained from the near-by woods; the maple, willow, elm, Carolina poplar, sweet-gum, and others. If you care to purchase them, the pecan and the English walnut are greatly admired, and for an ever-green, nothing equals the magnolia. Desirable ever-greens are easily obtained from the woods also, the long-leaf pine, cedar, holly, and fir.

Do not plant the trees too near the house, or two close together. Sunshine and the free circulation of air are necessary both for the health of the home and the preservation of the house itself. When laying out your lawn do not, except for the very best

of reasons, cut down or too closely trim a tree. One never realizes the value of a tree until waiting year after year for one that has been planted to furnish just a tiny bit of shade.

In a growing family, a clever idea is to plant a tree upon the birth of each child, and when he becomes old enough to care for it, to give it into his keeping.

Ornamental Plants and the Walks.

If a grove or large lawn surround your dwelling have wide walks and mass large leaved plants and brilliant colored flowers near the house. If your lawn be small, the broad massing near the house of large plants is equally good. The caladium, canna, castor oil plant are excellent for this purpose. The canna is particularly good, the broad leaves are beautiful and the flowers gorgeous and most attractive. A row of these bulbs planted around the porch, the madeira, clematis, or Japanese morning glory trained upon the banisters and posts, leaving the view unobstructed, would be a charming arrangement.

The walks leading to this porch may be treated in many ways, hedged by old-fashioned box or privet, bordered by violets or hardy roses. A lovely arrangement for bordering the walks is to plant those flowers which will give blooms in succession, the daffodil and narcissus bulbs, the poppy, then the red sage, salvia; this combination, and similar ones, will give you something attractive from spring to late frost. Bear grass is very attractive and gives quite a tropical appearance to the lawn.

Hardy perennials give more satisfaction than any other flowers. The double holly-hock is excellent both for a back-ground or for massing. The crysanthemum is a glorious flower for borders, but does not produce so handsome a flower as when grown merely for the flower.

The peony, columbine, poppy, phlox, sweet William and larkspur give much beauty for little care, and best of all, the violet and the rose. The most desirable flowering shrubs are the snowball, lilac (both white and purple), bridal-wreath, and the beautiful crape myrtle. Beds of ornamental grass, the striped or ribbon, and the fluffy plumed pampas, are beautiful always.

The hardy bulbs, the lily, hyacinth, tulip, daffodil, narcissus, and crocus are extremely desirable both in beds and in borders.

The Climbing Plants.

The two most desirable vines, coming up each year without the trouble of planting, of which I have personal

knowledge, are the clematis and the madeira. I do not include the climbing roses, they are always desirable, but of course do not grow so rapidly as a vine proper. Of the annual vines, the morning glory, the moon flower, the cypress, and the gourd are all good. I like the gourd because of its fruit, for which I find many uses. There are two vines to be had from the woods which cannot be surpassed—the yellow jessamine and the wood-bine. The wood-bine can be transplanted, but a successful transplanting of the yellow jessamine is unknown to me, though, I doubt not, it has been accomplished.

Flowers Should be a Pleasure, Not Too Great a Care.

An excellent plan is to have the large effective shrubs, plants and flowers on the lawn, and the dear, sweet flowers of smaller growth planted in the kitchen garden. This plan adds greatly to the beauty of the kitchen garden, which often has to be placed quite near the lawn. Here the proper care may be more readily given, and here they will not be molested by the poultry. The kitchen garden thus becomes a combination of the beautiful and the practical.

I advise only those who have an unusual love for flowers, and only those who have ample spare time, to attempt the culture of delicate flowers or novelties. Flowers should be a pleasure, not too great a care.

Other Ornamentations.

If stumps have been left on the lawn, fill the hollow ones with good soil and plant with seeds of quickly growing vines and flowers. The nasturtium is particularly good for this. If the stump be in a shady place fill completely with ferns which you can no doubt easily obtain from some nearby low, damp place. Encircle the ferns with vines. I have seen stumps beautiful with canna, others with red sage, others with red geraniums—all lovely. Let your ingenuity have full play here and a happy effect will, no doubt, be obtained. A treatment of stumps, when not hollow, is to completely cover them with dirt, turving the mound and then planting flowers.

Be careful as to the ornaments you

place on the lawn. Do not turn it into a menagerie for iron beasts, such as deer, lions, dogs, etc. Statuary, of course, is most beautiful, but only the extremely wealthy should attempt such adornment. With every necessary adjunct, they produce charming effects, but we should not imagine that we can produce like effects, hampered as we are by unsuitable surroundings.

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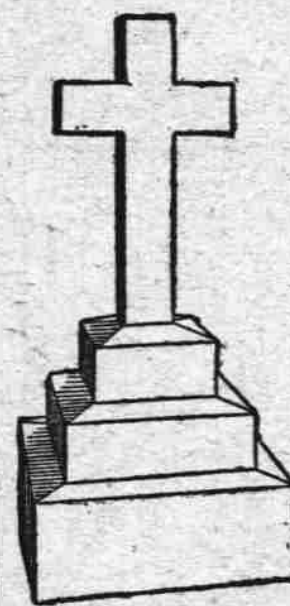
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