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**PLANTING THE
HOME GROUNDS**

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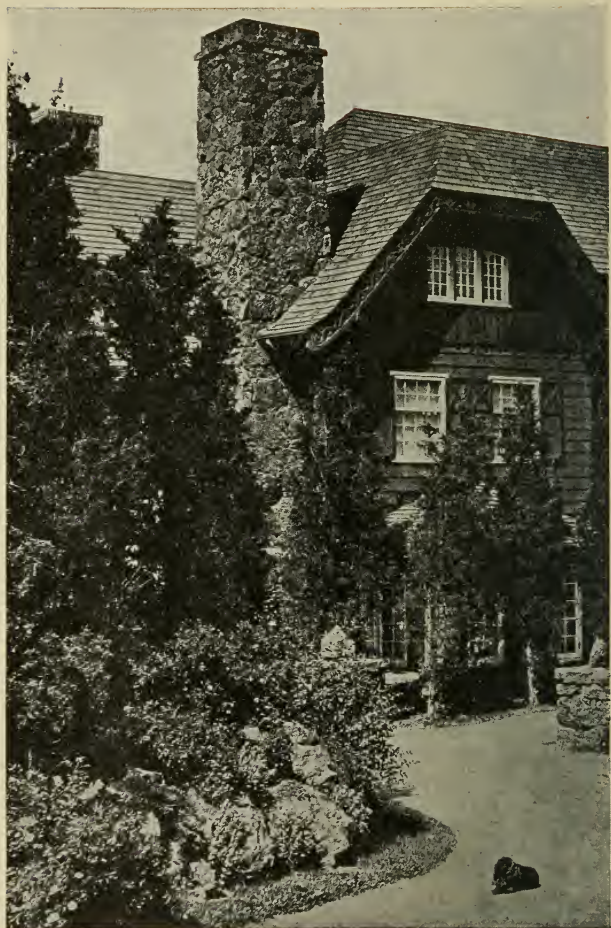


Fig. 1. An ideal approach to the house

PLANTING THE HOME GROUNDS

BY

^{John}
J. HORACE McFARLAND

AUTHOR OF "GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH THE TREES,"
"MY GROWING GARDEN," ETC.

ILLUSTRATED

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PLANTING THE HOME GROUNDS

THIS little treatise is intended as an introduction to home planting, and is not offered as an encyclopedia of gardening. If it shall excite interest in the right-doing of things that need to be done about the home, and then lead to study and investigation and work, it will be doing all I can hope for.

Indeed, I take it that getting a man or a woman thoughtfully interested in improving any ground—be it the smallest “handkerchief-garden” possibility about a city home, or a spacious area there or elsewhere—is the main thing. Gardening does most good as it is taken hardest, so to speak; and there is not much hope for the home planter who is either indifferent or imitative. Through the latter assertion I mean to express the value of individuality in home-improving, as compared with the doing of a thing because someone else did it.

Let me explain. I went to see the lovely home of a friend near Baltimore, whose garden is a joy with planting that is most successful. In a beautiful vista across the place the chief object in sight was a gigantic mullein; just the common roadside weed, if you please, but here splendidly decorative and effective. Did I go home and at once transplant to

my garden from the weedy pasture nearby a half-dozen mulleins? Not at all; I admired Mrs. Bouton's achievement and success, but I had enough sense to know that it related to her particular place and environment; it was hers, not mine.

Now the home-planting interest that put the mullein where it would do the most good is the thing to be excited. Home-ground improving needs a home and grounds to improve; but it needs interest, thought, desire, and actual love, to be really and individually successful.

There is also the preliminary requisite that, before the planting of the home grounds is undertaken, the advance work of clearing up shall have been done. I am not advocating the use of shrubs to hide dirty or disgraceful conditions that ought rather to be changed entirely. If an ash-heap must be tolerated, as a permanent feature, we may plant to contain it. An outbuilding ought not to be so decrepit, or ugly, or ill-placed as to require concealment; but, if it cannot be either removed or improved, it may often be ameliorated by proper planting. But let us clean up, carefully, as a preliminary to planting.

Nor do I intend in these pages to propose plans that will take the place of those, especially for considerable areas, of a competent landscape architect. Rather are these hints in the nature of the simple home remedies, always at hand, good only for what they say, and not "patent medicines" guaranteed to fit all diseases and persons and climates! I want to

propose a right start for the smaller home grounds, including the city back yard, the suburban home plot of modest area, and the farm-home house-lot.

Just why people are scared of the landscape architect I confess I do not understand! Those able gentlemen are nothing but doctors for home grounds and larger areas, after all; and it ought to be no harder to consult one for a planting problem than it is for the housewife to go to her physician for a bad headache! Often the cost of the consultation is trifling compared with the saving in the doing that follows. I know a man who schemed and screwed and shifted and twisted to get for nothing plans for the planting of the grounds around his pretentious home, eventually paying about a thousand dollars more for trees and plants because he had "saved" a hundred dollars on the landscape architect.

True, some of the younger "landscapers" take themselves too seriously, and would feel insulted to be asked to make a ten-dollar suggestion; but others of more ability have better sense, and some very good college and university schools are now turning out every year bright young men who have the principles of landscape design well sewed into their brains, and with a strong desire to make good first on little things.

And, before I venture into the details that must justify this little book, let me mention other and far better books that the sincere home-ground improver can to advantage possess. Bailey's "Manual of Gardening" is just that, and more, for it tells

also of home-ground design and planting in a fundamental way. Mrs. Ely's books on gardening—"A Woman's Hardy Garden" and its successors, are of use for the larger grounds. The book "My Growing Garden" tells of my own trials and triumphs;

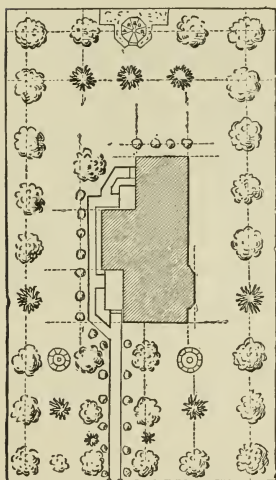


Fig. 2. Showing the effect of having lawn, trees, shrubs, walks, etc., arranged in straight lines.

and the library that contains Bailey's "Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture," in six great volumes, has an unfailing resource for every planting problem, whether of a great estate or a window-box. All may be had through the publishers of this little book.

But, now addressing the subject more intimately, let me say that the saving touch of greenery always, and of plentiful flowers usually, can be had about any home in America, from British Columbia to the Isthmus of Panama (and so on south, of course), regardless of sun, cold, heat, soil, or exposure. In smoky Pittsburgh or in sandy Florida something will draw beauty from the ground and the air for your eyes, if but a little care begins and continues the effort for home-betterment.

For comfortable reference, the subjects relating

to planting the home grounds will be set off in numbered sections, as they follow.

1. *Make a Plan.* Begin right, by first making a plan of *your* home grounds, however small. Have this plan to a definite "scale," even if it be a mere outline. The "scale" I refer to may be of a quarter- or half-inch or an inch, on paper, for each foot on the ground you are considering. Anyone has a yardstick to measure the place, and the same yardstick may be used to lay off little squares on a sheet of plain paper, ruling it at right angles to quarter-, half-, or inch rectangles. Then locate everything—the house, the fence or hedge, the entrances, the out-buildings, the paths—if they exist; the trees and shrubs—if there are any. Get a north and south line indicated, so you will know about what the sun will do for you.

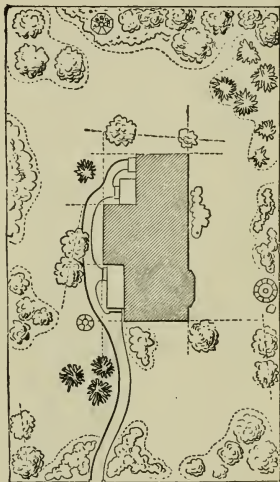


Fig. 3. Showing the advantage of placing the features of the lawn in irregular order and employing curves. Note the open spaces.

Properly made, this plan will show the home grounds about as you would see them from an aeroplane passing slowly over your place fifty or a

hundred feet above. Figures 2, 3, and 8 will show you what the plan will look like. If there are evergreen trees on the place, indicate them like the three such as shown to the left of the path a half-inch from the bottom of Figure 3. Leaf-dropping or "deciduous" trees are properly shown by an irregular encircling line that will give their spread of branches. Shrub groupings are dotted in, as at the left of Figure 3.

Now if you are of mind to materially change any features of the place, make another plan of the same dimensions, with the fixed boundaries and features only upon it, so that you may have opportunity to sketch in the new features. This is a "planting plan," and with the two plans you may have a complete "before and after" view.

2. *Study Existing Conditions.* Look at the plan you have made to show existing conditions; think it over. If there are existing trees, plants, or vines that are to remain, the work to be done must relate materially to these. Are they so located that they may be used to plant in pictures of God's colors—pictures that mean something, and get somewhere? Are the existing growths so located as to be really doing something for these pictures to, from, and along the house?

Often a tree will seem to be in the wrong place; but be careful about removing it or other well-established and healthy growths. John Muir once said, "Any fool can cut down a tree in a hurry, but it takes even God a long time to grow one." Some-



Fig. 4. An instance of the effect of your neighbor's grounds as related to your own home

times a rearrangement of lesser objects will permit the developing of a fine tree to a great advantage, or of a noble shrub to be part of that picture-gallery about the home I shall keep harping upon. I remember one tree directly in the center of the approach to a home that seemed for a while impossibly placed. Sufficient thought worked out a simple rearrangement of the walk that left the tree as a charming incident.

But sometimes a tree or plant is hopelessly out of place and must be removed. One efficient, well-placed tree or shrub is worth a dozen that are crowded, or out of place, or sickly. It took me nearly a year to make up my mind about a certain hemlock that was interfering with the dignity of a great sycamore. When I did take it out, the betterment was instantaneously obvious.

It is not improper to consider your neighbor's grounds in this connection. Of course you cannot cut or plant for him, but often his tree or shrub or grouping will be a part of your home picture-gallery, and there is no dishonesty in thus annexing his grounds (See Figure 4). In a certain other case, a man planted with care a long garden border, the vertical axis of his home place. He was a little higher than his neighbor across the street, who could thus get full benefit of this rose-decked axis. But the neighbor avoided thinking, and built a kitchen lattice-screen right across that axis, shutting it off for both! He cut himself and his neighbor out from the full-seeing use of a five hundred dollar improvement.

3. *Plant for Simplicity.* Not infrequently the unguided feeling for improvement, the perfectly proper desire to get the benefit of greenery about the home, leads to mixed-up or complex planting. Contrary to casual thought, that simplicity which is permanently satisfactory is more difficult to attain than a general mess! Recall your feeling when planting a tree or shrub purchased from a persuasive agent, or selected from an enticing catalogue without any clear idea as to where you would plant it. With no thought of making the plant part of a picture, you probably placed it in the center of the largest open space you had. If several plants came at the same time, what more likely than that you located them in a row, and at equal distances? I remember a dooryard in which the home-owner had planted at regular intervals in four straight lines a dozen Kilmarnock willows which a slick agent had induced him to buy, and which produced in time a grotesque and ludicrous appearance. The impulse was right, but the uninformed action was unfortunate! One good climbing rose, for instance, such as the Dorothy Perkins shown, planted close to the house, in Figure 5, is worth far more than a whole yard full of messy and purposeless planting.

4. *Unreasoning Imitation.* Too often these planting messes come about because of imitation without thought. The value of individuality has already been urged; why put an expensive blue spruce in the exact center of your little lawn simply because your neighbor did it? Consider well the plantings that

impress you as beautiful; but, before adopting any one of them for your planting, also consider *your* conditions, your home, your exposure to sun and wind. Think particularly of the picture idea, to and from your living-room window, your porch,



Fig. 5. One good hardy climbing rose, properly placed, is far more effective than a messy planting

your front door. Be guided more by your study and observation than by the persuasions of the agent or the catalogue, capable as either may be; remember that the salesman is selling, and will pass on, but you must live with what you plant.

One form of imitation is safe—the imitation of

nature. That lovely country roadside you remember passing—there were no straight lines, few individual specimens, no formality at all—and you liked it! Remember the pleasing mass effects you have seen in a really good public park, where the capable landscape engineer has studied mostly in God's open book of planting—you will quickly see pictures for your own little grounds, rather than a formal orchard effect, or a painful specimen showing.

All this time you may be making plans on the second one of the plots you have prepared. It is fascinating work, this planting with a pencil, for you can change and transplant most easily on paper.

One very good way to get a fair view of what is to happen is to select the trees and shrubs you think you will want, all of them. Then let each be represented by a bit of cardboard or paper, clipped to an approximate circle. Take green for the evergreens, blue for the deciduous trees, yellow for the shrubs, for instance. From a good catalogue or from Bailey's Cyclopaedia get an idea of how large a spread on the ground each tree or plant will take in seven years from planting, and proportion your cardboard dummies that way. For example, a good lilac may be expected to grow to a diameter of five feet in ordinarily fertile ground within seven years. If your plan is on a scale of a quarter-inch of paper space for each foot of actual ground area, the yellow circle representing the lilac would be about an inch and a quarter in diameter. You might write the

name on it, also, and a figure to represent the height—say 8, for it will reach about that height in feet.

Now these little disks can be moved around, just as the artist arranges the details of a picture before he begins to draw. Too many? Better to find it out thus before you buy! Too high? For a sun-loving plant you have only a shady spot? Now is the time to settle that! This is interesting work, and it is a saving of money, too; for you will not buy much more than you can properly place and plant.

There is one point to here enforce. Many good landscape architects say that it is proper to plant more than will eventually flourish, for the better immediate effect. One man says, "Plant thick, thin quick!" Another insists, "Plant thick, never thin at all," for he believes in the effect of close masses, not in individual specimens. Both plans have their merits, and I suspect the right way is to follow both, in part.

5. *Open Spaces of Grass.* Nothing so adds to the restful character of the home grounds as an open space of turf, be it ever so small. Even the space of two yards square (but not laid out *square*, by any means!) in clean grass will be far superior in effect to the same space jammed with plants. I have a friend who has his twenty-foot dooryard so disposed as to make it look park-like and far larger than it really



Fig. 6.

A series of characterless serpentine curves.

is. He does it (a) by maintaining a little bit of lawn, and (b) by planting the profusion of flowers he always has in simple borders. Figures 2 and 3 show how the same space may be crowded or open, according to its poor or proper arrangement, and the open areas for grass are seen to appear at once in Figure 3.

6. *Avoid Straight Lines.* Nature has little use in her work for "the shortest distance between two points." Our home grounds are usually bounded by a rectangle, and that affords straightness enough. Judicious curves greatly help in making beautiful home grounds, and they afford natural places for groups of plants or small trees, as well. Refer again to Figures 2 and 3 for evidence as to curves. Plants themselves avoid the straight-edge, and will, if left alone, soon open out into grace, and get away from the unnecessary and unnatural direct line. But curves without reason are mere wiggles, and thus worse than the severely straight disposition. Figures 6 and 7 contrast the bad and the better arrangement, and the walk from the front in Figure 3 also shows a desirable curve.



Fig. 7. Pleasing curves, because the bends vary considerably in size.

But straight lines have their uses in the arrange-

ment of home grounds. In a larger area, where separate beds of all one sort of bloom, and also economic plantings of vegetables, are desirable, the rectangle has its place. (Personally, I am not in love with flower *beds* as compared with *borders*; for the latter give so much better opportunity and setting, though it is of course not always possible to border-treat a whole place.) The plan outlined in Figure 8 provides a satisfactory combination of useful curves and useful straight lines, and I can see how it has many fine pictures to and from the house-center. Purely as a memorandum, and not at all as a statement of especial suitability, the items of the planting of this larger area in Figure 8 are given, at the foot of this page.

Another straight-line use is shown in the hydrangea hedge that shuts off sight of a vegetable garden, as in Figure 9. Just why an orderly vege-

Trees and flowers used in the plan (Fig. 8) on the opposite page

B. Birch Trees	5. Yucca	25. Larkspur, Annual
E. Elm	6. Chrysanthemum	26. Lilies
F. Fruit	7. Geranium	27. Dahlia
H. Hemlock	8. Hyacinth	28. Lychnis
M. Maple	9. Tuberous Begonia	29. Cosmos
P. Scotch Pine	10. Forget-me-not	30. Golden Glow
S. Shrubs	11. Early Phlox	31. Lily-of-the-Valley
a. Evergreens	12. Late Phlox	32. Roses
b. Box	13. Coreopsis	33. Sweet Peas (Spencer Hybrids)
x. Tulips	14. Cockscorn	34. Sweet Peas (Ear- liest of All)
o. Narcissi	15. Gaillardia	35. Aster
O. Peonies	16. Snapdragon	36. Shirley Poppy
* Hydrangea	17. Platycodon	37. Verbena
∴ Phlox, Hardy	19. Oriental Poppies	38. Nicotiana
Barberry Hedge	20. Larkspur, Hardy	39. Begonia
Privet Hedge	21. Canterbury Bells	40. Physostegia
1. Sweet William	22. Gypsophila	41. Phlox, Annual
2. Foxglove	23. Heliotrope	
3. Hollyhock	24. Stokesia	
4. Privet Hedge		

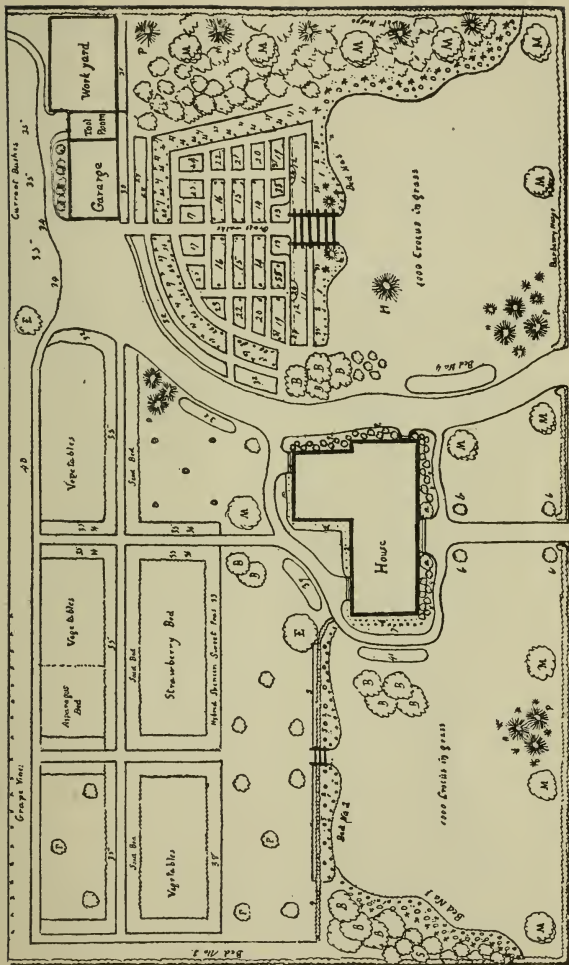


Fig. 8. A plan showing the use of curves and straight lines. See list of plants on page 22

table garden should be screened off I do not know, but some prefer to consider the vegetables as unornamental, and to be kept out of sight. A hedge of *Spiræa Van Houttei* would be as good or better, or a lilac hedge, or one of the lovely *Abelia grandiflora*.

While I am discussing straight lines, let me mention the more set and formal use of such lines, as in

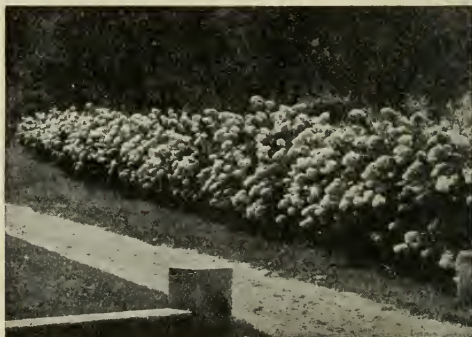


Fig. 9. The use of a straight-line hedge as a screen.
The plant is *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora*

the terrace view shown in Figure 10. This was a beautiful and successful effect, but I beg of the readers of this humble little book of ideas for starting home planting to note that it is not shown for imitation. It was the result of the development of the plan of an able landscape architect, made after much study, and at large expense, and just for this one location. It would be a sheer crime for an amateur to try to work out such a planting. Most

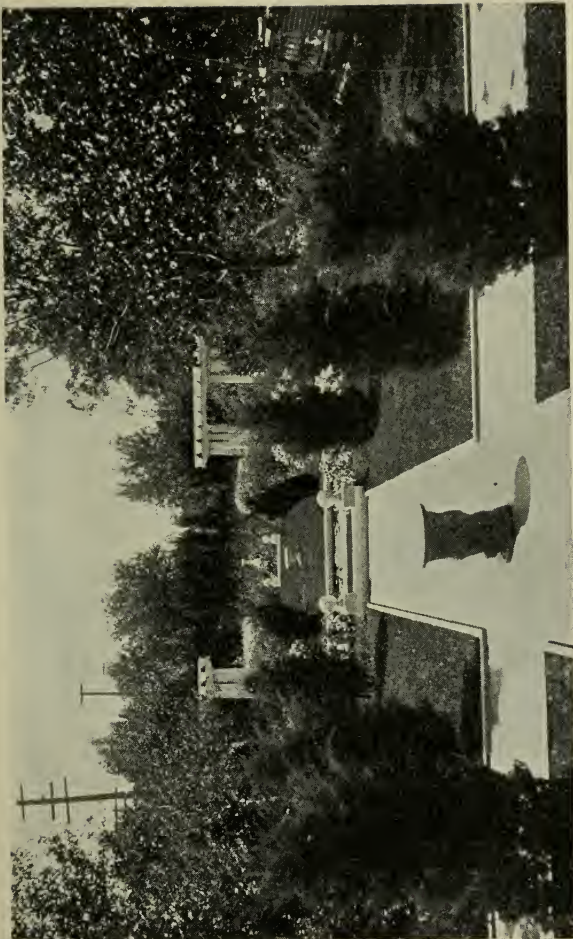


Fig. 10. Showing successful use of straight lines in the formal terrace; effects proper only under the hand and plan of a skilled landscape architect

of us home-lovers can write a pretty good love-letter to the one girl, or to the wife; but we are not just ready to produce a Song of Solomon or a Browning epic! Let us stick to the love-letter class in the home planting!

7. *Slopes Rather than Terraces.* If your home yard rises sharply from the highway, a proper access must be had. A terrace is a step cut in the ground. Necessary occasionally for a considerable ascent, it is always difficult to keep in order. Nature slopes all her banks; let us use slopes if possible. Sometimes careful grading will bring the last steep slope or rise next the house, and there we may use steps to the entrance, securing in the rest of the slope a great chance for effective planting of vines—honeysuckle will cover any bank; Multiflora, Wichuraiana or Rugosa roses; matrimony vine, wistaria, trumpet vine, Dutchman's pipe, and a dozen others, all hardy and permanent, will make a steep slope a thing of beauty.

Of one thing the home planter who is undertaking actual change of grade must make sure: There must be a footing of level or nearly level space about the house, unless, as in a hillside or a cliff-surmounting location, there is an architectural treatment not at all within the scope of this treatise. For the simpler home, the footing of ground is essential. Without it, the house may appear to be insecurely placed, to be slipping down hill. It is also most desirable that the slope of the terrace include a double curve, however gentle. Follow a flattened-out letter S,



Fig. 11. An excellent treatment of a sloping approach

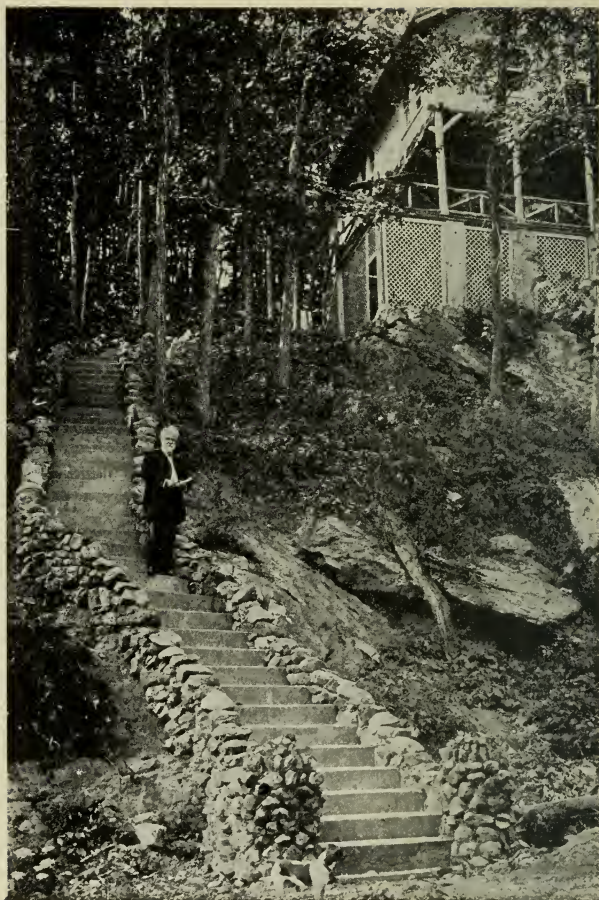


Fig. 12. Example of deficient footing for the house, and of incongruous steps

laid down, rather than the half of a capital O, also laid down. A fine example of a successful slope, pleasingly planted, is seen in Figure 11, in which case a sloping path did away entirely with any approach steps. Yet steps may be made, and

often are made, an exceedingly attractive feature of an approach, if planted carefully, and thus decorated with greenery rather than with architecture.

Figure 12 shows two home-ground misfortunes—a side-hill house without a footing, and expensive steps that are an incongruous

combination of formality and informality. If these steps, or rather the stones at the sides of the steps, were covered with Boston ivy or Virginia creeper, the condition would be much bettered.

8. *Plan and Plant Suitably* To be attracted by a stately elm in perfection after a generation's growth in a park, and therefore to plant an elm in a little dooryard is a mistake not infrequently made. To make the best of the space at command, we must plant to suit it, considering (a) the space we have, (b) the exposure to the sun, (c) the character of the soil, and (d) the *ultimate* size of the tree or plant of which we are enamored. Figure 13 shows how an



Fig. 13. The small evergreens seemed far enough from the walk when they were planted, but six years of growth showed the mistake.

unwholesome crowding resulted from lack of consideration of the last item. Again, if it is a tree you are planting, consider carefully its *mature* shape—whether it makes a rounded head, or one that is pyramidal, or resembling an inverted cone. The grand elms of New England are of the latter shape,



Fig. 14. Maple; the heaviest growth in the bottom branches; hence not well suited for street planting, where long trunks are desirable.



Fig. 15. Elm; the heaviest growth at the top, inducing the tree to have a high trunk; hence well suited for street planting.

while a sugar maple takes up more room below. See Figures 14 and 15 for examples, and note that shrubs also have a definite shape, not always amenable to training. Here the use of the little disks of scale-size previous to planting would avoid some errors, at least. The planter must remember that the size of the small shrub received from the nursery has little to do with what is to

happen in two, three, or ten years. Once I planted two new honeysuckles as received from a propagator of Chinese shrubs. Both were the same size then; but in three years one had grown seven feet high and across, while the other proved to be a trailer, and was covered out of sight until I moved it.

9. *The Small Dooryard.* As I have insisted, any little space can be planted to some success and to some beauty. The window-sills and the fire-escapes of city tenements shame many a home-owner who has an available square yard of space as compared with a square inch in worse conditions. If there is the will to plant and the heart to tend, the green will surely come, and probably the flowers.

About the door vines may be grown, for the fine Boston ivy (*Ampelopsis tricuspidata*) will push up from the space of three bricks, if a little encouragement of good soil is there. The Japanese honeysuckle will do as well, and south of Pennsylvania the English ivy (*Hedera Helix*) will provide a permanently elegant green growth, while in the colder regions the sturdy *Evonymus radicans*, also evergreen, will work up toward the sun, with beauty along the way.

Clematis paniculata, as shown in Figure 16, or any one of a dozen glorious climbing roses of the newer type, better than the famous Crimson Rambler, will grow over the doorway with sun part of the day, especially in the morning.

If the spot is entirely sunless, take a lesson from the deep woods, and plant some of our lovely native

hardy ferns, taking care to give them, if at all possible, a little of the forest soil of rotted leaves in which they flourish best. (See Section 24.) The lily-of-the-valley (bulbous, planted in late fall, permanent) will bloom among the ferns in spring before the fronds of the latter do their fascinating unfolding. Our superb mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) will live and stay green in dense shade, but it must have a little sun to bring bloom. The equally fine great rhododendron of the North (*Rhododendron maximum*) will produce its flowers of aristocratic elegance in deep shade, if it is footed or rooted in leaf-mold, and if it is kept moist by watering in dry times through a constant mulch of dead leaves, which as they decay form its food.

In partial shade pansies bloom well, particularly the so-called tufted pansies (*Viola cornuta*). The hardy English daisy is also there at home, as also are the fall-blooming sedum, the fine Japanese anemone, and the various forms of hardy phlox.

Of course the hardy bulbs will bloom in shady places—the hyacinths, the various desirable narcissi or daffodils, the crocuses, snowdrops, and scillas; but they may not find strength enough to be permanent. So, too, the tulips can be had to throw brightness into dark places, and the splendid colors of the Darwin tulips, if selected to fit, can play a symphony of shades in a shady corner. All these bulbs must, of course, be planted in the fall, at any time up to freezing, save that the daffodils do best if planted as early as the bulbs can be had.



Fig. 16. *Clematis paniculata* as a porch vine

I want to say a special word about the columbines for shady dooryards, and at the same time say that, because they are adaptable to hard conditions of light, there need be no idea that they will fail to do even better with more sun encouragement. The native sort, *Aquilegia Canadensis*, will carpet a shaded corner even with little moisture, and in spring its red-and-yellow flowers will nod in every breeze. The taller sorts are able to endure partial shade, and their flowers—of the selected long-spurred types—are long-enduring and lovely. If the flower-stems are cut down promptly when the blooms fade, there is often a second crop of flowers.

But our dooryard or back yard may be sunny, and not shaded. The vines will grow, and more of them—trumpet vine, wistaria, the clematises, the annual hyacinth bean, and very many others. The fine blue spirea, which is not a spirea at all, will fairly glow in the sunshine; the hardy phlox will give richest coloring and a splendid showing all the late summer; the deutzias, spireas, weigelas, and hydrangeas will do superbly, and the golden wands of the forsythia will open in earliest spring.

Is it sandy in the yard, as along the seacoast? Sunflowers and hypericums will grow; the vincas or periwinkles will fairly cover themselves with bloom; the lovely little portulacas will defy both sand and sun; blazing star and cobea will bloom. For rocks, there are hundreds of lovely plants: campanulas, the exquisite moss-pink, the sweet daphne, the hardy cactuses, and so on. For heavy clay many hardy

plants are available: the lilacs, the altheas, the columbine, the gas plant, the lovely forget-me-not. There are annuals of merit also for clay, including sweet peas and zinnias.

10. *A Natural Plan for the Larger Areas.* All that has been said of the dooryard applies to the larger grounds, and more, for here may be planted the shrubs of more robust growth, as well as smaller trees. I can suggest no better way to improve and plan a suburban lot, a small country home, the farmhouse flower garden, than to propose careful consideration of the plants and trees native to the neighborhood. In a certain city, a well-planted yard on a prominent street shows for three midsummer weeks a superb rose-mallow in bloom, always attracting attention; yet, within two miles of the spot, two acres of the same plant bloom almost unseen, and tens of thousands of "commuters" see—or don't see—hundreds of acres softly aglow with the same rose-mallow as they cross the Hackensack marshes daily! How much better to individualize these plants of the neighborhood, sure to do well, than to work only with the monotony of geranium, coleus, canna, and verbena! A few trips to the woods and meadows nearest the home—and I have purposely spoken of beautiful but common flowers seen near to the greatest congestion of urban population in the United States, having also seen many lovely wild things in bloom close to the smoke of Chicago—will give suggestions worth while.

There are nurserymen who specialize in the hardy

wild flowers, and from whom may be had plants of better transplanting quality than can be "collected" from the woods. Moreover, I want here to record my deprecation of the ravishing of the nearby bits of wild nature yet remaining. It is unfair and selfish to take from the woods and meadows anything that, if left, will make them more beautiful for those who come after you. A skillful transplanter can at times thin out a long-time-growing clump of columbine or wild phlox so that its beauty will shortly be enhanced; but to ruthlessly take up all of anything is most improper and unfair. As I have said, there are nurserymen who grow better plants, which you can have delivered to your door for a small sum.

11. *Plant for Succession of Bloom and Interest.* The proper home garden should show something interesting every day from snow to snow, from crocus to chrysanthemum. Often there is a fine burst of spring bloom, followed by a lack of flowers in the summer months. This need not be, for, with care in selection, something attractive can be had all the growing season. Even with purely hardy plants this may be arranged, and it is quite easy if some of the good annuals are also included. A few suggestions follow; they should be considered in connection with the remarks as to location and condition found in Section 9.

12. *For Spring Bloom.* This list is made purposely sparse, as in every locality the spring provides a profusion of flowers.

Bulbs, planted the autumn before, hardy, and may

be left in the ground; other plants may follow them as foliage dies away: Snowdrops, crocus, scilla, early and late tulips, hyacinths of many kinds (may freeze if unprotected in the far North), daffodils, and other narcissi; and for shady places trilliums, dog's-tooth violets, lily-of-the-valley.

Hardy, Low-growing Plants, set the autumn before, if possible: Moss pink, columbines, sweet williams, clove pinks, dwarf and German iris; and for shade, blue phlox, spring beauty, bluets, Virginia cowslip, toothwort, moccasin flowers, Dutchman's breeches, hepatica, bloodroot; many ferns; English daisy, hardy primroses, periwinkle.

Shrubs and Larger Plants: Forsythia, *Deutzia gracilis*, early spireas, peonies, bleeding-heart, oriental poppies, lychnis, German and Siberian iris, many lilacs, spice-bush, many mock oranges, many roses, snowballs and other viburnums, dogwoods, weigelas, bush honeysuckles, elders, the smaller magnolias; also, good but less hardy, tamarix, Japan quince, jasminum, *Azalea mollis* and *A. amæna*.

Trees, especially small trees suited for lawns: Double-flowering apples, wild crab, Chinese crab, Siberian crab, magnolias, white dogwood, hawthorns, yellow-wood, red-bud, Japan tree lilac, kœlreuteria.

13. *For Midsummer and Early Fall.* This is the time when bloom is likely to be scarce, and the planting ought to be carefully worked out.

Bulbs, not hardy over winter, planted early and in several successive plantings (except the hardy



Fig. 17. Auratum lily; blooms in midsummer

lilies, which should go into the ground the autumn previous): Gladioli, tigridias, and tuberoses; many fine hardy lilies (must be planted without manure, using peat or leaf-mold). Dahlias are superb till frost (tuberous roots, planted in spring).

Hardy Herbs, Shrubs and Plants, planted early in same season: Japanese iris, hollyhocks, perennial sunflowers, golden glow and other rudbeckias, monardas, cardinal flower (in wet places), American rhododendrons (in shady places, not in limestone soil), late spireas, achilleas, tansy, perennial phlox, caryopteris, hemerocallis, funkias, later Canterbury bells and larkspurs, fire-pink, rose-mallow, water-lilies and lotuses (for the aquatic garden), boneset, Joe-pye, black cohosh, dwarf horse-chestnut, coreopsis, aconite, purple loosestrife, sumacs, white elder.

Annuals, grown from seed the same season: Alyssum, candytuft, summer chrysanthemums, coreopsis, marigolds, coxcombs, portulaca, annual sunflowers, ten-weeks stocks, four-o'clocks, verbenas, clarkia, zinnias, garden asters, Shirley poppies, Drummond phlox, dwarf nasturtiums, dianthus (perennials and biennials).

Large trees that bloom or are otherwise especially attractive: Sweet chestnut, tulip or liriodendron, basswood, locust, catalpas, maples, liquidambar.

14. *For Late Fall, until Cut off by Frost, and for Winter*. Including some fine plants, to round out the season; there are many others.

Plants: Various hydrangeas, various goldenrods, many fine hardy asters, boltonias, hardy chrysan-

themums (some of the Japanese varieties *become* hardy).

Plants and Trees Attractive in fall by reason of showy fruits are exceedingly useful, and have not been availed of to any great extent; most of them furnish also handsome bloom earlier in the season: All the dogwoods, including kinds with red, black and blue berries and red bark; snowberry and Indian currant; all the viburnums (these are superb both in flower and fruit, and some have foliage that colors brilliantly); both American and European mountain ashes; witch-hazel blooms about freezing-time; foliage and fruit of Thunberg's and the common barberry, black alder, red-berried alder.

Particularly consider the Japanese or Thunberg's Barberry (*Berberis Thunbergii*) as a shrub useful in many places, and individually beautiful all the time. It will grow in almost dense shade as well as in full sun; it "breaks" in early spring into dainty leaves, followed by pleasing yellow flowers, quickly maturing into bright red berries; the midsummer foliage is of richly varied deep greens, and it early begins to assume brilliant fall tones, which hold in crimson and scarlet until heavy freezing; the scarlet fruit persists all winter, and it is exceedingly beautiful when encased in sleet or partly covered with soft snow; at all times the shrub is of gracefully arching form, and it requires no trimming.

15. *These Lists are Incomplete.* They are intended to start home-improvers in various parts of America to noting for themselves the trees, shrubs, vines, and

plants that are doing best and covering the longest seasons of usefulness in their own neighborhoods. If this inquiry is made, it will undoubtedly result in much successful home-ground planting out of the ordinary, and both permanent and pleasing. It should be remembered that many herbs and shrubs can be easily transplanted from nearby woods and fields, and these are often fully as attractive as the garden kinds. Some nurserymen make a specialty of the "wild" plants, as I have said, and others show assortments of ornamental plants for special purposes that are usually worthy. It may be generally depended upon that the nurserymen advertising in the garden periodicals are the more enterprising, and are more likely to have a varied assortment. Some of the older nurseries have as yet paid but scant attention to ornamental trees and shrubs, resting their offerings upon a few "standards" that are already overplanted. The varied exposures and opportunities of the United States are worth better planting than can happen when the choice is restricted to Norway maple, cut-leaved birch, oriental plane, two or three deutzias and spireas, the overdone hydrangea "p. g.," golden glow, Norway spruce, and the glaring Colorado blue spruce. Let us branch out into the glory of a flora that includes literally thousands of fine trees, plants, and shrubs to choose from, "for every place and purpose," as one enterprising nurseryman puts it.

16. *Hardy Herbaceous Perennials.* Especial mention must be made of the plants that are generally

hardy, being "perennial"—as living over from year to year with little or no protection in winter, and "herbaceous"—dying down to the ground in winter.



Fig. 18. A good border of mostly hardy herbaceous perennials.

(These plants are by this term "herbaceous" distinguished from other plants which are called "shrubs" because they have a persisting woody frame that lives partially or wholly from year to

year, losing foliage in winter if called also "deciduous"—the lilac, for instance—or keeping foliage if "evergreen," as does the laurel or the rhododendron.)

Hardy herbaceous plants have been mentioned freely in these pages, but it is well to separately call attention to their value for home planting. They are usually easy to grow, easy to transplant, and inexpensive to purchase; without them, a home planting



Fig. 19. A rich herbaceous planting along a stone walk.

would suffer in the loss of the peonies, the delphiniums, the phloxes, rudbeckias, funkias, and scores of other favorites. Very many of the wild plants that are loved for beauty are herbaceous—as the asters, mertensias, and goldenrods. It is well to note particularly the significance of this herbaceous feature, because the overlooking of what the little "root" in April may become in August is likely to cause confusion. For instance, the pleasing "day lily," or

funkia, can easily be planted in a foot of space in spring, but its handsome foliage may cover a circle of a yard's diameter by midsummer.

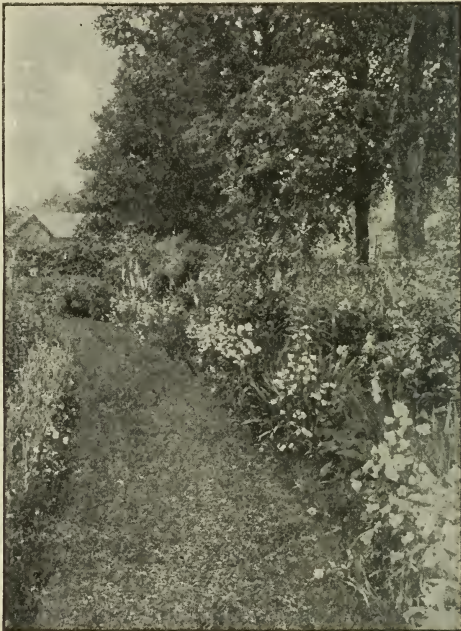


Fig. 20. A fine herbaceous planting along a grass walk in the garden

It is wise for the home planter who reads these pages to secure for his further enlightenment the catalogues of nurserymen who specialize in the hardy herbaceous perennials, for there are many of them

not commonly grown that will prove particularly useful in the varied and individualistic planting I am preaching of in these pages. Hardy herbaceous perennials are the most easily managed and inexpensive colors on the palette of the home artist who is planting growing pictures.

Figures 18, 19, and 20 are illustrations of the effects attainable in the use of hardy herbaceous perennials in combination with trees and shrubs, and with such "in between" subjects as the German iris, which is partially evergreen, it is practicable to have bloom all the growing season from some one of the plants included in this most useful class.

17. *Tropical and Tender Plants.* It has been well said that only the very rich can afford to adorn the home grounds with palms and the like; yet one sees most frequently about humbler homes plants of ephemeral character—cannas, coleus, geraniums, palms, tender ferns, etc. Scarcely a score of species are included in the usual round of easily grown and as easily killed plants offered for home adornment by the florists; yet I have named at least a hundred hardy plants and vines that give greater beauty from time to time, and increase in strength from year to year. True, these hardy plants do not bloom continually; but that is one of their merits; for it means a changing feast of flowers in the well-planted home yard, and this without the elaborate and continual attention required to keep in order the ordinary "beds" that are the same from July until frost. An occasional palm or fern as a pet plant, to be taken

into the living-room over winter; some of the easy-blooming tender plants for the window-box; heliotropes and mignonette and sweet alyssum for fragrance in the home—these can be cared for to advantage. The main reliance, however, should be on hardy plants and vines, needing less recurring annual expense, and providing individuality utterly lacking in the florist's planting. I have in mind, as an instance, a certain street in a mid-Pennsylvania city where it is the excellent habit to adorn the front porch of each house with a flower-box of some length, or to plant one border fronting the said porch, or to do both. Now the idea is altogether commendable; but it does seem as if imagination or knowledge must be lacking when all the boxes and all the beds or borders have red geraniums, periwinkles, and "dusty millers!" Fortunately, there is a pleasing variety in the house architecture, so that the monotony is somewhat broken, despite the effort of the florist to make the entire street look like a row of toy tin soldiers! Not a fuchsia, not a heliotrope, even among the tender plants; and entire overlooking of the hardy plants that would have made individual pictures at each home instead of "chromos!" Yet not fifty miles away the mountains are full of laurel, rhododendrons, ferns, viburnums, and the like, and the little streams around this city are gay all summer with spirea and monarda, with bonset and Joe-pye weed and the asters.

18. *Annual Flowers*. By these I mean the pansies, balsams, salvias, marigolds, four-o'clocks, garden

asters, zinnias, cockscombs, and scores of other beautiful flowers that give bloom the same season the seed is sown. They fill in the gaps while the hardy plants are growing, and have merits of their own. A half-dollar's worth of seed will do wonders. There are quick-growing annuals that are fine to serve as screens for unsightly spots that cannot be removed. Sunflowers, castor beans, cosmos will soon shade the ash-barrel. Shirley poppies will give a great burst of June bloom, and, if kept picked, will continue for many weeks. The showy and sturdy African marigolds can be bloomed right into the teeth of Jack Frost, and the sweet tobacco, or nicotiana, will give both bloom and fragrance from midsummer to the very end of the season, self-seeding then for another season.

Annuals are indispensable in a home garden. With a sunny kitchen window to help, the earlier asters, the salvia, and the petunias—and many others—can be advanced for weeks by sowing ahead of outside warmth. Some of the finest flowers of the dianthus or carnation family may thus be brought into sure bloom in one season.

The seedsmen's catalogues—some of them, at least—give carefully studied suggestions for the varied uses and locations of annuals, with details as to their heights, color effects, and like essentials. Or the gardening books I have referred to, particularly Bailey's "Manual of Gardening," afford safe guides to the inexperienced.

19. *Use Vines Freely.* Nothing should prevent

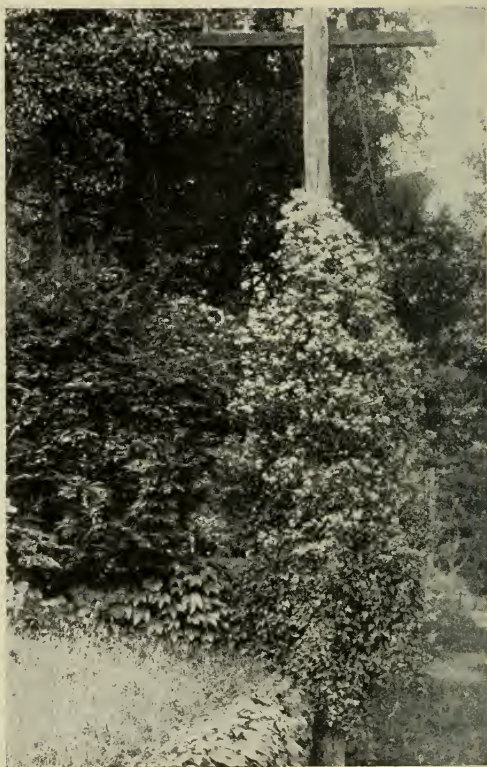


Fig. 21. A telegraph pole dressed in clematis becomes less unsightly than if bare

the free use in home planting of the superb vines, both hardy and tender, available at little cost in the United States. To the graces of the standard shrub the vine adds the ability to creep or to climb, thus covering objects with a mantle of greenery, and usually of bloom. (See Figure 21 for an example of the way in which a clematis mitigated the bare ugliness of a telegraph pole.) Moreover, certain vines that attach themselves to walls afford, in addition, an important protection and an insulation from heat and cold. This whole subject of the use of vines is so important that I will treat it under separate headings, for greater definiteness.

20. *Vines to Cover Walls.* In this class are considered only the hardy vines that by curious aërial rootlets attach themselves firmly to walls of brick, stone, stucco, or wood—less efficiently to the latter, and less desirably because of the assumed necessity arising from time to time for repainting.

In the north, such vines include several sorts called either *Ampelopsis* or *Parthenocissus* by botanists. Of these the best known and most largely used is the "Boston ivy," or *Ampelopsis tricuspidata*, formerly known in trade as *A. Veitchii*. Of close and rapid growth, and with a certain admirable regularity of foliage as it gains age and strength, this hardy vine is not only beautiful but protective.

A silly idea has been started on its course (by some brother of the man who thinks street shade-trees need frequent beheading under the guise of "trimming," or by some sister of the woman who

makes her children drink sassafras tea in the spring to thin their blood), to the effect that vines injure walls. They hold dampness, they breed malaria, they are "unhealthy," and probably—just as probably—cause corns on the feet! It needs but the exercise of unobserving eyes, and the use of a little brain power, to show the entire fallacy of such bosh. Notice in a heavy summer rainstorm the action of the close-setting, shiny leaves of the Boston ivy; see them flatten to the wall, forming a smooth surface from which even a dashing rain is turned aside. Just so do they act in keeping off the hot sun and the chill wind, until frost has removed them in a shower of crimson glory; and then, as the vines age and their air-roots extend, these also shield the wall against the elements. I have proved for myself the protective action of this vine by tearing away a close network of its tendrils from the wall of the building in which these words are printed, to find fresh brick-work underneath, as compared with weatherbeaten masonry outside the vine's reach.

Similarly, I have personally seen how a tremendous wistaria which does not cling of itself (see Figure 22), that had grown to the eaves and then up a roof valley of my boyhood's home, had actually preserved from decay the shingles it covered, while outside its reach the sun and rain had made these same shingles mere porous blotters. And I have never seen, nor has anyone been able to tell me actual details of, injury to any wall-surface by reason of a vine covering. Let the vine-slander perish!

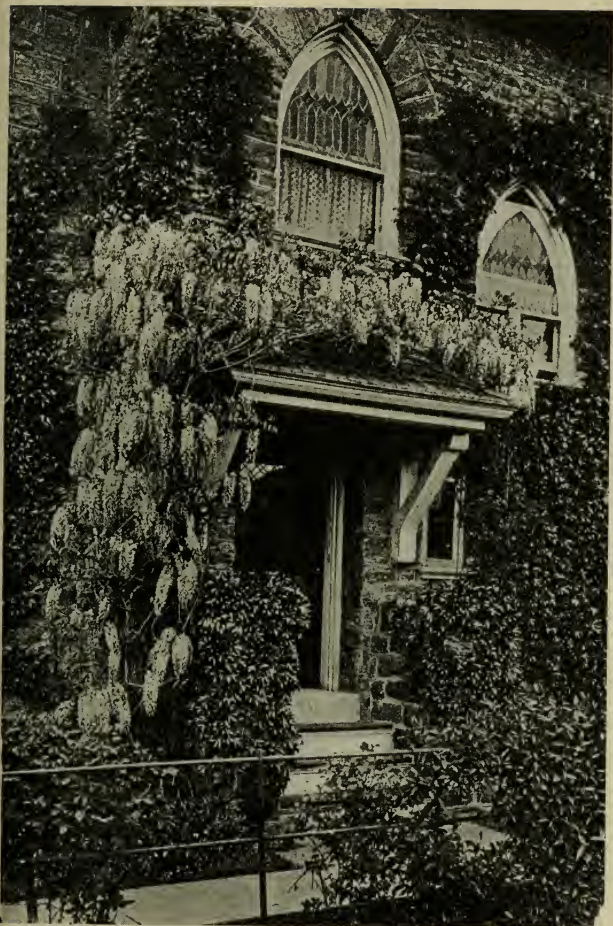


Fig. 22. Wisteria to cover an entrance

There is one possibility of annoyance. If the tendrils of any vine are permitted to enter portions of a window-opening that are movable, the vine will tie it tight. If wistaria shoots are permitted thus to enter, they will later on, by the unsuspectedly great power of gradual growth, burst apart any small opening. The remedy is easy; just keep back intrusive shoots by cutting them off about once a year.

As to painting the home that is vine-covered: Don't paint it, at least under the vines. It is wholly unnecessary for protection, and it is sure to destroy the beauty of your vine blanket. The painters, in unthinking vandalism, will tear away the vines, and will actually paint right over the remaining rootlets, not actually covering the wall with pigment. It is a simple matter to insist on having them paint up to the vines, but not over them. It is not so simple to cause painters to realize that splashes of oily paint are death to vine stems. Indeed, house workmen as a whole are vandalistic in their habits in relation to growing things, and the home-owner who has worked hard to use God's greenery of vines and plants for making his house into a home will suffer tortures when he sees how carelessly the workmen have acted. There is a sure and easy remedy; make it a *written* part of your arrangement with carpenter, plumber, bricklayer, painter, that the plants must not be injured, under a definite money penalty for damages. Don't I know? I have now a certainty that the carpenters will not throw boards over my ferns and wild

flowers about the home; because I have made such carelessness costly to them.

But now let us look briefly at other hardy clinging vines. The Virginia creeper is a rampant grower, and fine for very large surfaces. Sometimes the lovely trumpet creeper (*Tecoma* or *Bignonia radicans*) will cling. Of slower but sure growth is the evergreen *Evonymus radicans*, of which the broad-leaved variety *vegetus* is better and much more vigorous. When this vine gets age, it shows a marvelous covering of scarlet berries in fall. There is a rare and lovely climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*, formerly called by the awful name of *Schizophragma hydrangeoides*), which will cling, when it properly starts, and which has not only broad leaves but superb flowers.

The so-called hardy or English ivy (*Hedera Helix*) is a splendid, evergreen, clinging vine where it is hardy; and the only way to know is to try. It will grow in shade, and, even if it freezes back, the young growth is lovely—if it has vigorous roots in good ground to push it along.

Just here a word of caution. The home planter who sets vines wants them to grow. The house workmen who built were not concerned about vines; wherefore it is usual to find the space within two or three feet of the walls carefully unfertilized with brickbats, stone spalls, tin refuse, and anything and everything but arable soil. Also, to protect the wall, there is always and properly the overhang of the eaves, and frequently a "water-table" to further

direct water away from the foundations. Now if the planter is really interested in having his vines or other plants grow close to his home walls, he must provide for them good soil and enough water to permit the plants to use it. Some vines, especially the Boston ivy, will find water afar off, if it is there; but two feet of rich soil, and a little depression into which storm drainage may readily run, will assure earlier good results. If bricks are taken up to give space for vines, do not be stingy with the open space. There ought to be a diameter of at least two feet to the opening, which can be screened with heavy two-inch-mesh galvanized wire netting if traffic across the place is essential. Yet, as I have earlier said, a vine can start in the space of three bricks. (See Figure 25.)

21. *Vines for Trellises, Arbors, Pergolas, etc.* Of these there is a vast variety. The house-side—and it is good practice, especially for a painted wooden house—may use this class of non-clinging climbers if a suitable trellis is provided. This can be made of wire or wood; and, if the latter, cypress, well painted will last longer than ordinary galvanized steel wire.

All the climbing roses come into use in this class, including the so-called ramblers, and the newer and finer hybrids, like Climbing American Beauty, Purity, American Pillar, Dr. Van Fleet, and so on. Select sorts of which there is assurance that the foliage is not easily subject to mildew.

Certain of the climbing roses are especially pleasing to cover old trees. Dawson and Excelsa, for

example, will go up twenty feet or more, providing a fine foliage cover and one marvelous burst of bloom.

A telegraph pole that offends the home front can readily be made pleasing with a vine. Just a little support will sustain *Clematis paniculata* for such a purpose. (See Figure 21.)

Clematis paniculata, *C. tangutica* (yellow flowers and lovely following seed-pods), sometimes *C. Jackmani* (purple flowers; hard to grow, but fine!), *C. flammula*, *Virginiana*, *coccinea*, *crispa*—all have a proper place and use. Matrimony vine and *Akebia quinata* are both vigorous and handsome, and will do well in a small area. For broader effects, several wistarias, the trumpet creeper before mentioned, the superb actinidia, the Dutchman's pipe, and the bittersweet are all applicable.

Of general-purpose vines, the honeysuckles are perhaps best of all. The form familiar in the middle states is the Japanese honeysuckle, or its variety *Halleana*, with or without gold-mottled or striped foliage. This fine plant, though in some sections a roadside weed, is not a native of America, coming, indeed, from China and Japan. It will do any reasonable thing that can be expected of a climber, from trailing over a rough bank to hold the soil, to making lovely a dead tree or an unsightly fence. Other honeysuckles are the woodbine, or Belgian form, and the native scentless scarlet trumpet, or so-called "evergreen" variety. All are good.

Annual vines, grown in one season from seed, and perishing with frost, are very serviceable. No words

of admiration need be written of the much-loved sweet pea. The cucumber vine (*Echinocystis lobata*) is of tremendous vigor, and will cover a rubbish pile or a fence almost while you look. Scarlet runner bean (good also for food), morning-glories (hard to get rid of, later) balloon vine, cobæa, Japanese hop, and many others, can be had for little cost and in a hurry.

22. *Trailing Vines.* These have a special value for covering walls where there is earth at the top so that they may hang over; and for clothing steep banks are better than grass. It is far easier and better to hold a steep slope with a honeysuckle cover, needing shearing say once a year, than to fight to establish and sweat to maintain grass in the same place. The Japanese honeysuckle will grow and root ahead in ground that will not produce a good sward.

The Wichuraiana rose is lovely for the same use, but it is not always hardy. Some of its hybrids are much more hardy; for instance, Alberic Barbier, which has glossy, dark green foliage and creamy white flowers. Any rose which manifests a disposition to creep rather than climb is available for this use. The Boston ivy and the Virginia creeper will also creep rapidly, and some of the clematises are useful. Around a stone entrance-step the fine periwinkle or "myrtle" (*Vinca minor*) will provide a beautiful evergreen cover, with lovely blue bloom in spring. This same excellent trailer is good for a half-shaded bank; but, if the bank be dry, plant it in little pockets, shaped to catch the moisture.

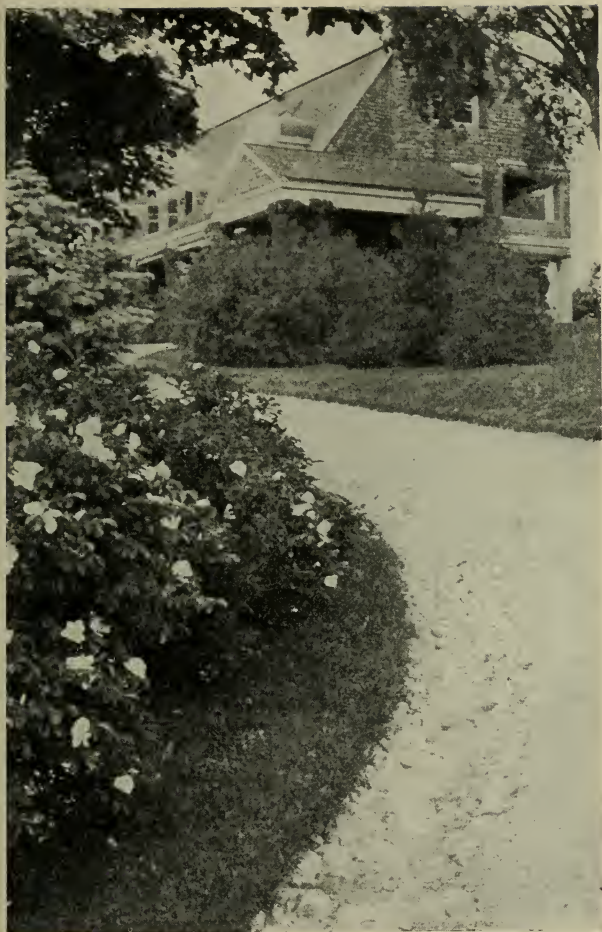


Fig. 23. Use of *Rosa rugosa* as a driveway hedge

In the wonderful Arnold Arboretum at Jamaica Plain, Mass., near Boston, where all hardy trees and shrubs and vines are to be seen as in a living museum or library, great use is made along walls of the wild grape-vines, bittersweet, etc. By cutting these back to a stump every year, new growth is secured that gives a splendidly decorative effect.

To hang over walls, any of the trailing vines will be effective. At Biltmore House there is a living and wind-swayed evergreen curtain of English ivy worth a long journey to see. Use vines freely, and with common sense and kindness, and the result will be pleasing.

The South has many lovely vines not available in frosty states. The tender forms of tecoma, the showy bougainvillea, the fine allamanda, and other vines aid the home decorator.

23. *Living Fences and Hedges.* The very best way to take away the hatefulness of a fence is to cover it with something beautiful, good for the fencer and the fenced to see. For a hardy hedge that is a fence itself, plant California privet, Amoor River privet, Japanese quince, several barberries, *Rosa rugosa*, cockspur thorn, altheas. Of these, the Thunberg's barberry is the very best, as I have previously urged. If *Rosa rugosa* is trimmed annually, it can make a wonderful hedge, or fence. (See Figure 23.) Any of the evergreen honeysuckles will make a fine hedge, and the deutzias and spireas are excellent, as are most of the viburnums. Some of the climbing annuals will cover a fence, and I am partial to the

vine of the sweet potato, also. Do not plant evergreen hedges of pine and spruce, for they grow too high and are hard to restrain without great expense for trimming, also spreading too much horizontally. (See Figure 13.)



Fig. 24. A well-trimmed privet hedge.

If you feel that you must have a formal hedge or fence, and are willing to do the frequent shearing necessary to keep the decided-upon form, it can be said to your help that California privet will give the quickest, neatest, and cheapest effect, and that in a severe winter it may freeze to the ground so that you start all over again. Figure 24 shows a square-

trimmed privet hedge of a pleasing appearance. A hedge of hemlock will stay fine if it is constantly trimmed to shape, to keep bushy twigs outside—I have just seen an awful mess where the trimming was postponed for several years. Boxwood is the most permanent of formal hedges, and also the most expensive.

Living division fences or plantings to shut out the stable or kitchen are often made of trees. The Carolina poplar is excusable for this use, for, if planted not over eighteen inches apart (better in two rows, "staggered"), and trimmed to a whip, it can be made to yield a close fence of any desired height, even up to twenty feet. There are obtainable for the wealthy, wonderful trained beech hedges; and these same gentry can buy old evergreen hedges fifteen feet high which the right nurseryman will move into place successfully.

24. *As to Preparation of Soil.* Having discussed plans and plants, we may well turn to the ground in which they are to be made effective. Formerly there was a great prolixity of directions for the mixing of soils for various plants, and the English gardening books give many prescriptions that would be hard to fill. Many plants have a habit of growing under all sorts of soil conditions; I have seen the periwinkle doing well in heavy soil, and have seen it fairly riot in the Florida white sand. To get home results, let us do the best we can; and that means at least the thorough stirring of the soil, deep enough to give the plant roots a chance. If you make it

easy for them to penetrate the ground for food and moisture, they will give you evidence of that fact in bloom and in growth.

There are only a few truisms about soils. Very heavy, clayey soils need to be broken up and made lighter. Coal-ashes will do it and sand will do it; a shovel and rake must intervene. Turning in deeply loose manure or rotted sods will help doubly; planting the various clovers—red and scarlet—will both break up the soil and add “humus,” if the clovers are then turned in, after growing to the height of a foot or less. These heavy soils are happiness for some plants; simply tame the ground to your needs. In sand, it is difficult to add the lacking element of clay, and easier to adapt the planting to the sand. But always the ground can be fully dug and pulverized, and that is much. Some rotted sods or manure will add fertility.

25. *Have a Compost Pile.* About most places with an area of 10,000 feet or more, it is practicable to have a muck-heap, or soil factory. I have such at my home; at one end are piled all the weeds, soft trimmings, dead-plant remains, grass-clippings, cabbage leaves, and particularly as many fallen tree leaves in the fall as can be had. Snow is piled on, and the hose turned on, while the whole mass is handled several times each summer. Coarse manure, not fit for the garden, goes in; indeed, any vegetable matter that will rot is piled here. At the other end, each year I sift out the precious black leaf-mold which is nearly the English peat, and which if obtainable at

all in commerce will cost from \$4 to \$6 per cubic yard, or half as much per cart-load. Nothing is burned that can be rotted, and thus returned to the soil, plus the precious nitrogen taken from the air.

Smell? Not at all; if properly managed there is no odor, nothing in the least objectionable. A constant summer

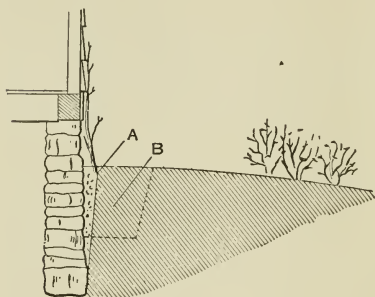


Fig. 25. Preparing for vine against the house. A, sterile soil; B, pocket of good loam.

covering of lawn clippings gives even an agreeable yellow-gray color to the pile. Try it! Many woods plants that will not grow or that barely live in ordinary garden soil will flourish when given half-bulk of this leaf soil. Rhododendrons and laurels live on it; they die in limestone garden soils.

26. *Plants Do Not Like Wet Feet.* Except for the purely aquatic and bog plants, water standing about the roots is fatal. That is one reason for thorough and deep digging, and for the addition of lighter material to clay soils—to afford an opportunity for the surplus water to pass through. If the home grounds are damp, dig deeply and see that there is enough depth and opening to drain the ground of superfluous moisture. Coarse lumps, small stones, rough manure, all are excellent drainage materials

to secure plant comfort. Put them down, down, well below the roots. Don't be afraid to go two or three feet below the surface; prize roses were raised near Philadelphia by a woman who prepared the ground four feet deep, the bottom foot being coarse drainage material.

27. *Give the Plants a Start with Good Soil.* Figures 25 and 26 illustrate this point, both as to locating a tree or shrub, and as to a vine against the house. To put old sods, and old bones as well, at the bottom of these holes, is to provide a store of fertility in connection with the good loam that it is best to use around the trees or plants.

28. *Planting Hints.*

Do not set the plants deeper than they were in the nursery, except in the case of budded or grafted roses, which must be planted two or three inches deeper, so that the lower parent "stock" does not so easily have chance to

send up "suckers." (Watch for these—they will have nine leaflets on a stem; cut them off below the ground.) It is good practice to set all roses a little deeper than the surface. Plant solidly, firming the ground by tramping with the feet, or by the use of a maul. This may seem a contradiction, but it isn't; we dig

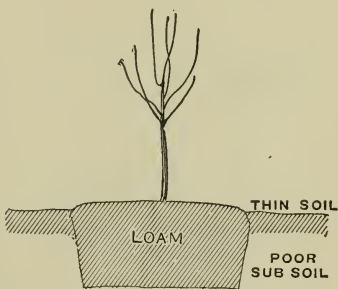


Fig. 26. Providing good soil in which to plant where the land lacks fertility.

and pulverize the soil to break it up into small particles; we firm it around the plant to keep air away and to bring these particles in contact with the roots. Cover the ground, after planting, with some loose material, as leaves, sawdust, bagging, sand, to keep the sun's rays from too soon and too strongly

acting upon the roots.

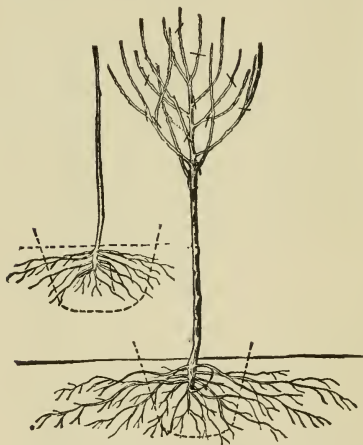


Fig. 27. Three-year-old tree in the nursery; dotted lines show how roots are cut in digging. Upper figure a one-year-old tree; nearly all the roots are saved.

29. *Nearly All Plants and Trees Need Trimming When Planted.* This is to restore the balance between root and top. See Figure 27 to know why, and also to know that a larger proportion of necessary roots is obtained with small, thrifty trees than with larger ones. Trim carefully, cutting out crossing

and opposite twigs; cut close to a bud; use a sharp knife. Trim any torn ends of roots, also; root growth frequently starts from these trimmed ends. Do not allow the roots to become dry while you are preparing the ground or planting; they are just as unhappy in the air as a fish. Keep the roots in moist ground, or

in a puddle of thin mud, until the moment of planting. Plants whose roots have never dried out grow sooner and faster than those that have been hurt by the air and the sun acting on the parts nature wants covered. Particularly is it important that evergreen roots are kept moist, for, if they once dry out, the resinous sap congeals and cannot be again made to circulate. In buying evergreens, it is better to purchase, even at a higher cost, plants shipped with a ball of earth confined about the roots by burlap.

30. *About Watering.* On the whole, it is best *not* to water plants, if they have been carefully set in good soil, that soil thoroughly soaked after planting, and provided with a "mulch" to keep off the sun's rays for a while. Daily sprinkling of the ground is a positive detriment; a weekly soaking, thoroughly done, is useful in a very dry time. The best way to provide water is to keep in the soil what is there for the plant's use by constant and thorough cultivation. I know a skillful grower of dahlias who yearly sets out over fifty acres of those beautiful but water-hungry plants on New Jersey sand. He can't water, anyway, but he doesn't want to; he does keep the ground always so actively stirred or cultivated as to be dusty, and the dust is a good preventive of evaporation from the soil. Hard ground *drips* water upward into the air; weeds and grass *pour* it upward. Therefore cultivate, rather than water, under ordinary conditions.

But there occur long periods of dry weather, under a hot summer sun, when the newly set plants are

hardly able to transpire from the soil enough moisture to meet the evaporative demands. As I have said, a weekly *soaking* is useful, very useful, in such a time. Make it a real soaking—I have poured ten gallons of water around one evergreen tree only four feet high, and have seen the ground take it all in. A sprinkling would have been useless.

Go slow with the favorite and indiscriminate use of the garden hose, squirting water around forcibly where it is of little use, and missing dry places. Take off the nozzle, turn down the water so that it runs from the hose-end without splashing power, and then get this under branches to the roots into ground previously loosened. Keep it running until the ground is wet a foot deep; then quit until it is again moderately dry on top.

There are excellent general sprinklers for real watering like rain waters. The Campbell sprinkler will cover with fine, misty rain a fifty-foot-diameter circle, and it ought to run at least a half-hour in one setting to do real good. The Skinner "Lawn-Mist" will make water dust over a space of twelve feet by six feet, and moisten without packing, if left long enough in one place. Some others of the commercial sprinklers are good; most are good for nothing.

31. *To Make a Lawn.* The charm of green grass about the home is admitted, and grass surely grows easily. To have it under that form of control which makes the result a good lawn, large or small, requires a little care. To begin with, there must be good soil, and of uniform depth, if the result is to be

even and satisfactory. To have small portions of very good or very poor soil makes unsightly spots. If the home lawn is uneven, and if it has in it more grass than weeds, the sod should be lifted and the ground put in proper order. This is not very difficult; cut the sod in strips about fifteen inches wide and four or five feet long by striking through with a sharp spade, held vertically, using a line to keep straight. Then,



Fig. 28. Method of rolling up old sod and regrading a poor slope

with some one to help, cut under the grass at one end of the strip, to form a sod about three inches thick, or less, thus including most of the roots, and turn up the loosened end, rolling it with the grass inside, as you would roll up a thick rug. Figure 28 shows the idea, and also how to re-grade a poor slope or an uneven surface.

With the sod removed, prepare the subsoil by *thorough* digging, to an even depth, working in a dressing of well-rotted manure if obtainable, or if not, some one of the many commercial lawn fertilizers. Whatever else you do, be sure thoroughly to mix the whole upper part of the ground to an even depth of fully twelve inches. If there are bad spots, remove the earth entirely from such, and substitute soil as good as the average. Dig, spade, rake, pul-



Fig. 29. The greenery of planting in four years

verize—make it even all through, and then roll it smooth before relaying the sods.

In relaying the rolls of sod, join the edges smoothly—an old table-knife is a good tool to use. Fill in all crevices with good soil; pound the sods down with the flat of your spade—you cannot have them too solid. When all is smooth and even, water it thoroughly, soaking to the roots, and then sprinkle or sow pure lawn grass seed, especially in any crevices you have filled. The kind of seed will vary with the locality and circumstances—blue grass is almost universally useful, but the seedsman will give you a special mixture of grass seed suited for shady spots.

32. *To Sow a Lawn.* Exactly the same preparation should be made as that described in Section 31, when it is proposed to make a new lawn. Dig, fertilize, pulverize, rake smooth, sow evenly and carefully; sow plentifully; *roll* as soon as the new grass has had one cutting; fix up bare spots with more seed. A good lawn can be well started in three or four months, under favorable circumstances. April and May, and September, are the best months in the latitude of New York. The idea is to sow while active growth is proceeding, and not in the heat of summer, or just before winter's advent.

33. *Plant Something.* If you can't do as these or better hints suggest, plant anyhow, doing the best for the plants that circumstances will permit. It is better to have planted and had failures, rather than not to have planted at all, in the opinion of Dr.

Bailey, of Cornell, who is a wise planter, a great authority, and, most of all, actually human. The effort of planting is beneficial, and it is almost certain that a reward will be seen. Do not expect wonders at once; but any growth at one's own hands is wonderful, in the best sense. Plant for the home, and plant to make the town better-looking. Plant for your own eyes, and plant to help keep the land fertile—for that is one effect of more planting. But plant, plant, as carefully as may be; plant anyway! The lovely greenery of Figure 29 resulted in four years from bare ground, and it was beautiful even the first year. Try it!





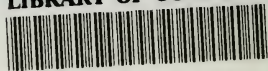
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