

down. Should the soil be heavy, or the situation damp, it is necessary to put in a two or three inch drain pipe along the bottom of the trench. The joints of the pipes must be covered with a turf, grass side downward, then cover with the rubble, coarse and fine gravel as before.

A foot is about deep enough to dig the trench. These directions serve for all ordinary purposes, remembering, of course, wherever a drain-pipe is put in,

that it must have a slight slope in the direction of the outlet. Paths may be surfaced with gravel, ashes, flagstones, concrete or cement. Where gravel or ashes are employed, the middle of the path must be slightly higher than the sides, and it is most important where these are used, that the rubble and coarse gravel is well pounded before the fine gravel is put on. The gravel should be about three inches deep.

two borders full of plants, not breaking it up by numerous meaningless small beds.

Another important feature of your home improvement is to make your place attractive in winter. This can be done by having a few evergreens grouped in threes or singly. The contrasting effect of evergreens with the winter snow is fine. Evergreens give an air of comfort to the place by their appearance. If you have a steep terrace or bold bank its stiffness and barrenness is removed by planting a few dwarf evergreens starting near the bottom and gradually working your way diagonally across till you come to the top, dotting an evergreen here and there, just as you may notice them growing up some farm hillside. For this purpose the junipers are just the thing or a few shrubs may be sparingly planted for the same purpose.

In the way of manuring, dividing and keeping the weeds down you may have by a judicious selection, plenty of flowers and foliage the season through.

The earliest flowering plants should always be planted in the most conspicuous place. Such plants as the Bleeding Heart follow any bed you may have of tulips or hyacinths. On the edge of the border or bed in front have a mass of pansies and forget-me-not, or a clump of daisies are pleasant to see. In the shady place caused by a fence or the side of the house, close to a walk, have a clump of lily-of-the-valley and some ferns. Two or more paeonies in variety are indispensable. Their bold character of foliage and flower make them fine lawn plants, either singly or in a group.

Plans for This Year's Garden

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WHEN planning the improvement of your home surroundings, have in mind some special feature of ornamentation, either by trees, shrubs, or flowers, different from your neighbors within the bounds of good taste. See in your mind's eye your house as a picture and your grounds surrounding as the frame to set it off.

When an artist paints a picture he has first the story to tell. Then with the aid of his canvas, paints and brushes and technical skill he tells the story as best he can.

The gardener gives us the real picture. True he has the real sky above him and real nature and things to work with. Then on the canvass of his ground he spreads the green grass, either by sodding or seeding it. With real plants he produces real flowers. Real trees grace his lawn, and real roses climb up his cottage window.

To have a nice front lawn it should be properly laid out, and to do this let me point a few rules to observe: Never plant anything in front that will obstruct the view from the window to the street, or obstruct the view from the street to the house. In other words, plant your garden so that it will look nice from the house or the street.

Have as much grass as you can. Nothing looks better than a nice, green, neatly-kept lawn. Place your walk as much to the side of your lot as possible and on that side which you use when you leave your house going or returning from business. Leave enough room on the narrowest side to allow a shrub or group of three to grow in. This enables you to have a larger lawn in front of the house curving your walk gracefully to the steps, and to branch the walk to a side path to suit children and the butcher and baker for kitchen demands.

If your ground is low raise it up so as not to have water standing on it after the spring thaws or heavy rains. Nothing is more disagreeable than to have to wade through water on the paths.

If your plot is large enough to have a border let it commence ten or fifteen feet back from the front fence, running back

with dividing fence as far as you wish and desire to plant. If your neighbor and you are good friends, get him to start his border opposite yours having both front outlines run back irregularly, that is never a straight line but vary it as nature does planting your tallest shrubs at the back, the tallest perennials also, tapering down to the front, finishing with some plant that serves as an edging, such as sweet alyssum or sea thrift, pinks.

Start your border on the other side on the large side of the lawn in front of your house by the steps, and carry it around to the fence and down towards the street. Never put a bed in the centre of your lot or lawn as it spoils the effect, and breaks it up. A bed of geraniums in the centre of your lawn looks like a scarlet patch on a green coat.

Aim to make your lawn or grounds look as large as possible and also at simplicity of design, so as to have a grander effect of masses of growth in flowers and shrubs. This is done by having one or



The First Prize Lawn of Ex-Mayor Guest, St. Thomas, Ont.