

ARRANGEMENT OF LAWNS.

From the Michigan Farmer.

Happy indeed ought to be the possessor of a wide, sloping lawn, on which the turf is thick, soft and elastic, and such an expanse of verdure may be made yet more beautiful by exercising a little taste and skill in planning and arranging the shrubbery. Too often the beauty and grace of the whole is spoiled either by a superabundance of flowering plants and shrubs, like "Ossa upon Pelion piled," or else by the queer fancy that every tree must be duplicated, each shrub must have its counterpart on both sides the prim unswerving walk from front door to front gate. Flower-beds on strictly geometrical principles only are permissible, and the whole effect to an artistic eye is as pleasing as a patchwork bedquilt. Nature never works in this wise; she flings a wild vine here, a rose-bush there; two or three shrubs of different species grow in loving juxtaposition, but she never duplicates or repeats herself. To many eyes, the unbroken sweep of greensward is more charming than if its expanse were broken by any object, however beautiful, while others prefer to mingle flowers and foliage plants in picturesque confusion. Many plants are far more beautiful in the emerald setting of deep green grass than in the flower garden proper. Among these, the Pæony ranks high, its large, deep red blossom and lighter hued leaves contrasting finely with the darker tint of the surrounding grass. A double scarlet Zonal Geranium, if planted where it is partly shaded, will keep in bloom, by a little attention in the way of a drink now and then, nearly all summer, and its vivid scarlet is ever charming. But a new departure is a "grassy bed," in which grasses of various colors and kinds are intermingled with Lilies and Gladioli, and various other plants, to vary the light foliage of the former, and give effective relief to the glow of the Gladiolus, and the pallor of the Lily. Those who can devote a large circle or capacious oval in a place upon their lawns where it is in full view of the windows, will not regret such an arrangement. Just a breath of air, on a serene summer morning, will stir the light feathery grasses, and give that movement to the group that adds life to its beauty. No matter if the bed is partly shaded, it will do no harm. In the highest part may be planted the Tritoma, or "Red-hot Poker," as it is sometimes called. The tropical looking Yucca, with its tall spike of flowers, is fine in such a location. The Pampas grass is beautiful, but will not endure our northern winters, but its twin, Erianthus Ravennæ, is perfectly hardy. The Arundo has golden-yellow striped leaves, and grows six feet high. Next to these may be planted Lilium Longiflorum, a spotless oval of purest white, the fretted spires of the Gladiolus, and the pale yellow of the old fashioned Lemon Lily, so well known but so universal a favorite. There are places too for the Euphorbias, whose curiously margined leaves suggest its common name, "Snow-on-the-Mountain," and which is more strictly a foliage plant, but may be used here with good results; also for the broad corn-like leaves of "Job's Tears," *Coix Lacryma*. Near the edge of the bed we may have *Briza maxima*, one of the very best of the ornamental grasses, and also *B.*