

The Planting of the Farmer's Home Grounds.

The making of a lawn was discussed in our last article, and it was shown how easily and cheaply the work could be done. While it would probably not be possible in many cases to do all the necessary planting of trees, shrubs and vines the first season, a beginning should be made, even although it be with but a vine or two or a few shrubs and trees. Sometimes planting is put off from year to year because it is thought that there will not be time to do all that is in our mind, whereas, if a beginning were made, and a little done each year, it would be surprising how soon there would be a change in the appearance of the home surroundings.

There is nothing which improves a place so quickly as vines, and there is an advantage in beginning with them, as they can be procured and planted by almost any member of the household who is old enough to know how to plant anything. Three of the best climbers are three of our commonest wild plants, namely, the Wild Clematis or Virgin's Bower, Climbing Bittersweet, and Virginian Creeper. If these vines are not growing somewhere on the farm, one should be able to recall where he has seen them growing wild, and they can usually be obtained without cost. For a veranda, we prefer the Virgin's Bower, as it has attractive foliage and flowers, and is not troubled with insects, and hence the veranda is kept cleaner, and one can sit out with comfort. The Climbing Bittersweet is also a very clean vine, and it is not affected with insects, either. It has bright-green leaves, and although the flowers are insignificant, its highly-colored fruit, which remains on the plant most of the winter, makes it quite attractive at that season of the year. It is a very strong grower, and will soon add much to the appearance of the place. The third climber, and one which is perhaps more often used than either of the others, is the Virginian Creeper. As is well known, this is a rapid grower, and will cover a veranda in a short time, and in the autumn is very attractive on account of its highly-colored foliage. This vine is, however, much troubled with a little hopping insect called a thrip, which is so destructive to the foliage that many of the leaves wither, and often during the latter part of the summer the vine is quite disfigured.

This is a very difficult insect to control, and because of this we prefer keeping this vine more in the background, where its luxuriant growth in the early part of the summer and its brightly-tinted foliage in autumn may be seen from the distance. There is a self-fastening variety of Virginia Creeper which will cling tightly to a wall, and this is very useful for the side of the house or unsightly out-houses. In the warmer parts of the Province of Ontario the Japanese or Boston Ivy is one of the best plants for covering walls. There are other climbers with more beautiful flowers than any of those mentioned, but they are not so hardy. Among the best of these are the Crimson Rambler Rose, the flowers of which are a gorgeous sight in summer; the Scarlet Trumpet Honeysuckle, and the large-flowering varieties of Clematis.

Plants should be dug up with as many roots as possible, but instead of trying to save all the plant, only about two feet or less of the wood should be left on, the rest being cut away. If this be done the plant will grow much more thriftily than if a long piece of wood is left. The earlier in the spring the planting is done the more growth there will be, but if planting is neglected at the proper time, we should not hesitate to dig up a plant even when it was in leaf, as, if the roots are not allowed to become dry before planting and the soil is moist, it will be almost sure

to grow, although it should be well cut back when planted. If the soil close to the house is not very good, it should be removed to a depth of about eighteen inches and for about two feet in width, where the climbers are to be planted, and replaced with good soil. The strong growth which will be made when this is done will well repay any trouble which is taken. As the planting is done close to the house, there should not be much disturbance of the surrounding soil, which, we are taking for granted, is seeded down with lawn grass. In planting, the roots should

up it will not shade too much of the lawn. Elms look well when skirting a roadway, and an avenue made of these trees is a fine sight, but even one or two will show up well. They have an advantage over the hard maple in that they may be pruned up when necessary without losing their graceful appearance. Other large-growing trees which may be used with good effect, but which are too large for a small lawn, are the hard maple, Norway maple, red oak, white, red and Scotch pines, and the Norway spruce. They may be grouped at the rear of the house and back of the lawn, and will form an excellent background if planted in a clump, and will make a splendid wind-break both in winter and summer.

For shade and ornament on the lawn, and near the house, smaller-growing trees and shrubs may be used to advantage. There are many of these to choose from, but a few only will be mentioned, all of which are easy to get, and are among the most ornamental. One of the most useful of the smaller-growing trees is the European Mountain Ash or Rowan Tree. This is a hardy, rapid-growing, symmetrical tree, and is attractive in flower, foliage and fruit. It looks best when the branches are left on near the ground.

Cut-leaved Birch.—While this tree is a little more expensive than some of the others, it is so graceful and ornamental that one will never tire admiring it. It is very hardy, and a quick grower.

Crab Apple.—There is no tree more suitable for a farmer's lawn, or for any lawn, for that matter, than a well-shaped crab-apple tree, the wealth of sweet-scented flowers in spring and the highly-colored fruit in autumn making it very ornamental, and the fruit being always in demand for preserving and jelly-making by the thrifty housewife.

Among ornamental shrubs, the following will give bloom for most of the summer, among the earliest-flowering being the Spiræas, which begin to bloom early in May, and become a mass of white flowers. Two of the most satisfactory are Spiræa arguta and Spiræa Van Houttei. As these are under five feet in height, they may be planted near the house, and look well if several are grouped together. Following the Spiræas are the Lilacs. There has been such a marked improvement in Lilacs during the past few years that the old-fashioned kind is now surpassed by many of the newer ones, which vary much in color and have both single and double flowers; but, even if these cannot be obtained, there is no more popular shrub which blooms in the spring than the common Lilac, and it should not be difficult to get some from a friend. Then, there is the Tartarian Bush Honeysuckle, a hardy shrub, and a very free bloomer, which grows to about 10 feet in height. This also blooms in May. Some of the best shrubs which bloom in June are the common Mock Orange or Philadelphus, and the large-flowering species, which blooms a little later; the Snowball, and the High-bush Cranberry, the latter being a native species which is not appreciated as much as it deserves, as the leaves, flowers and fruit are all ornamental. The fruit remains on the bush most of the winter, and brightens up the grounds in winter very much. A shrub or small tree not often planted, but a very desirable one, is the Japanese or Tree Lilac. This has white flowers, and grows to a height of fifteen or twenty feet, and although it does not begin to bloom so young as the common Lilac, it is well worth planting. It blooms from the last of June to early in July. The last shrub which we shall mention is the large-flowered Hydrangea (Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora). This blooms during the months of August and September, and the immense panicles of flowers must be familiar to everyone. In order to succeed best, the Hydrangea needs plenty of



Virginian Creeper, covering a back porch and kitchen, turning an unsightly place into an attractive one, and making the kitchen cooler in the hot days of summer than it otherwise would be.



View of ornamental grounds, showing High-bush Cranberry in foreground.

cut back from time to time they can be kept well under control.

It is a mistake to plant trees too close to a house, as when they grow up they prevent a free circulation of air, and sometimes make the house too dark. Some of our native trees are among the best for planting, and there is no tree which in time will give such character to the farm home as the American elm. As it is a rapid grower and reaches a great size, it should not be planted within fifty feet or more of the house, and should be placed in such a position that when it grows

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