

WINTER PLANS FOR SUMMER GARDENS.

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Nothing appeals to one more than photographs. Try, therefore, to have photographs of some bare back yard in Spring; and then get another picture of the same spot when the garden, shrubbery and vines are at their best. The contrast will make both parents and children think it worth while.

Have the children write letters describing all their garden operations and results. Let them state, too, how they like the garden work and what changes they would like to make next year.

Try to form clubs among your children. For example, some schools will form a Potato Club. Others a Rose Club, Tomato Club, Strawberry Club, Poultry Club, etc. In any one school, I advise only one club for the first year. If a Potato Club were formed, all the children would grow potatoes, competing for prizes. They will, of course, grow them according to scientific directions. Instead of a small potato garden, in many cases, the farmer will allow his boy to take charge of one-eighth of an acre of the regular potato field. If the boy can make his rows produce better potatoes than the adjoining ones of his father, it is something to be proud of. Surely the father would allow the boy part of the potatoes for himself, in payment for his work. Let him sell them himself, thus giving him a little business experience.

A teacher could do very much toward improving country appearance by organizing a Town or Village Improvement Society. Both parents and children may be members of this; but the parents must take the lead. Among the objects of such a society would be the improvement of fences about dwellings and on the roadside; the planting of trees along the roadside throughout the village; planting something on vacant lots and waste places; covering all unsightly spots and out-buildings with vines; planting hedges; painting houses; making gravel side walks in country villages, etc. In towns and cities, the Women's Council frequently undertake work of this kind. Such Society may co-operate with school clubs in holding a local fair once a year. No school section is too small to undertake such work.

One feature of these Improvement Societies should be its Literary Society. At its weekly

meetings, part of the time should be devoted to reading and discussing farm literature. Nor is farming the only phase of this work. Domestic Science for girls is equally important. The regular teacher has not time for this, but she can encourage the girls to learn the "why" of many of the home operations. Canned fruits and vegetables would be a valuable part of the annual fair. A winter exhibit of house-grown bulbs would also be interesting.

What Shrubby to Plant.

Cost is always an important item in the selection of shrubbery. For that reason, we should use as much native material as possible. A border of wild shrubbery may be indeed attractive. Apart from its beauty, such a border near a garden has its economic aspect. Birds prefer many of the wild fruits to cultivated ones. To save our cherries, raspberries, etc., from the birds, therefore, plant fruit-bearing wild shrubs near them.

A few suitable shrubs for this purpose are Elders, Dogwood, Mountain Ash, Wild Cherry, Bayberry, Indian Pear, Mountain Holly, Viburnum, Hawthorn, Chokecherry, and Bearberry. A few to buy and plant for the same purpose are Virginia Creeper, Russian Mulberry and Buckthorn.

What Flowers to Plant.

It is wise to introduce new flowers, and thus give variety. There is a "sameness" about most country gardens that approaches monotony.

Among flowers well worth growing are Salpiglossis, Salvia, Zinnia, Centaurea, Candy Tuft, Snapdragon, Petunias, Poppies, Stocks, Foxglove, Bachelor's Button, Canterbury Bells, Sweet William, Cosmos, Verbena, Marigold, Asters, Clarkia, Columbine, Hollyhock, Kochia, Coreopsis, Helianti, Scabious, Eschscholtzia, African Orange Daisy, Godetia and Helenium.

These are in addition to the good old Nasturtium, Sweet Peas, Phlox, Dahlias, etc., which no one will want to discard.

Order the seeds early. Read the directions on the packets. Study the seed catalogues. Above all things, don't plant too early in the spring. Have patience. Let each child have only one or two of the foregoing seed packets for the first year.