

The Farm Home Grounds

Are the Grounds Around Your Home Neat? Many Must Answer in the Negative

During 1915, an agricultural survey was conducted by the Commission of Conservation on 400 farms in Ontario. In answer to the question "Are the grounds around the house neat?" it was found that 53 per cent of the replies were in the negative. In



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Ten cents' worth of Morning Glory Seed made the difference



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travelling over Canada one cannot but be impressed by the general untidiness and the absence of plan or system in the planting and care of the farm home grounds.

Clean-up and Arbor Day campaigns, conducted each spring in many of our towns and cities, should be extended to rural communities. The first question the farmer asks is: "What will it cost?" feeling that he cannot afford it. It will cost a little time in planning and work in planting, but these will be well repaid by the added attraction and consequently increased value of the farm. In many parts of Canada trees and shrubs for planting can often be secured from the wild. Nothing is better for home planting than the common trees from the surrounding woodland; no shrubs purchased from an agent are superior to those native to the district, and no purchased vines can surpass some of those growing wild, such as the Virginia creeper, bitter sweet or the wild grape. Many of the choicest wild flowers, when transplanted to the flower border, often flourish more than in the wild. Yet in spite of the ease with which these attractions may be obtained, many farm home grounds are unplanted, untidy and unattractive. All that is needed to make them really beautiful is a little planting and care.

The morning glories, used to beautify the cabin shown in the illustration, were planted by the housewife. In fact, it is usually the woman who takes an interest; the man is too busy with the crops to bother with such things.—F.C.N.

Care With Well Water

Pollution from Many Sources—Precautions for Early Spring

Melting snow, carrying with it in solution much of the refuse and decaying matter accumulated during the winter, constitutes a serious danger to the water supply from wells. Many wells are so constructed as to allow surface water to find its way around the

tops, while in others, particularly dug wells, it seeps in through the brick lining near the top. Where there is any danger of this pollution it is a measure of safety to boil the water before it is used for human consumption.

For lining dug wells reinforced concrete has been successfully used. Concrete may be made practically impervious to water, so that a concrete-lined dug well can be polluted only from the bottom.

The water supply on the farm is always an important matter, and too much care cannot be taken in its location and protection. The farm well should be placed where the surface drainage from all possible sources of contamination is away from the well. If possible, it is advisable to provide impervious floors with watertight drains for farm buildings and stock pens. Under the same conditions concrete manure pits might well be provided not only to prevent the liquid manure from polluting the neighbouring soil but to save the manure. No garbage, manure, or rubbish should be dumped into sinks or basins in the immediate neighborhood, and such basins should be fenced off and kept free from polluting matter. The house should be provided with some safe method of sewage disposal, while slops and garbage from the kitchen should be deposited in tightly covered garbage cans and disposed of by burying in the fields, burning, etc. The use of privy vaults and leaching or overflowing cesspools should also be absolutely avoided, as they are likely to be sources of the worst contamination.

SPRING FIRE PREVENTION SUGGESTIONS

Keep basements, attics and closets free from rubbish. Many fires originate in the rubbish heap.

Beware of the defective flue or chimney. Take down stovepipes and have them thoroughly cleaned, and have chimneys carefully examined at the same time.

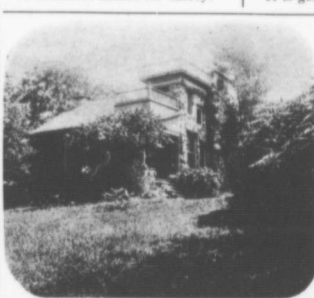
Keep oily rags and floor polishing mops in metal boxes or cans, as they are liable to cause fires from spontaneous combustion.

Use care in the handling of matches. Keep them in metal receptacles and teach children how to use them. In putting away clothes remove all matches from pockets.

Bonfires have been the cause of much property damage. If one is necessary have it well removed from buildings and wooden fences, and before leaving it make sure it is thoroughly extinguished.

The safest place to use gasoline or other dry-cleaning compounds is out of doors, where the dangerous gases formed may be dissipated in the atmosphere.

Cleanliness makes for safety.



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SAFETY

The human element, the one thing that money cannot surround with a safeguard, is the primary cause of fully four-fifths of our accidents. The crimp of carelessness is responsible for a large percentage of the widows, orphans and cripples.



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Trees and Shrubs from Native Woods Make Home Beautiful

City Shade Trees Suffer

Careless Workers, and Unfavourable Growth Conditions Cause Much Loss

The protection of trees in cities is rapidly assuming a much more important position in municipal affairs. Twenty years ago, the trees received no special care, and were, as a whole, in much better condition than at the present time. But as a result of the growth of cities and towns, the trees cannot now obtain the pure air, moisture, humus, etc., necessary to their growth, and many beautiful city trees are forced to grow under conditions entirely foreign to their natural element.

Noxious gases from manufacturing processes are poisonous to shade trees. Roadways and pavements are laid entirely regardless of the damage done to tree roots. In some cities and towns, the chief essential is to have a sidewalk perfectly straight, no deviation to save a tree being considered, and the tree is sacrificed to this obsolete engineering theory. Careless teamsters, electric and telephone wiremen and malicious persons are also causes of serious damage to the shade trees of city streets. Many cities engage tree-butchers, whose only qualification for the work is the low wage at which they can be engaged, regardless of the great damage they do to the trees.

It is generally admitted that the shade tree is necessary in our cities, and should at least receive proper care and protection.

Many trained arborists are now available for this work, men who have made close study of the conditions under which city shade trees have to exist. With the growing appreciation of the value of shade trees, there is no doubt that at least the larger cities will eventually have trained city foresters in charge of the trees.