

# Water Gardens Finding Favour

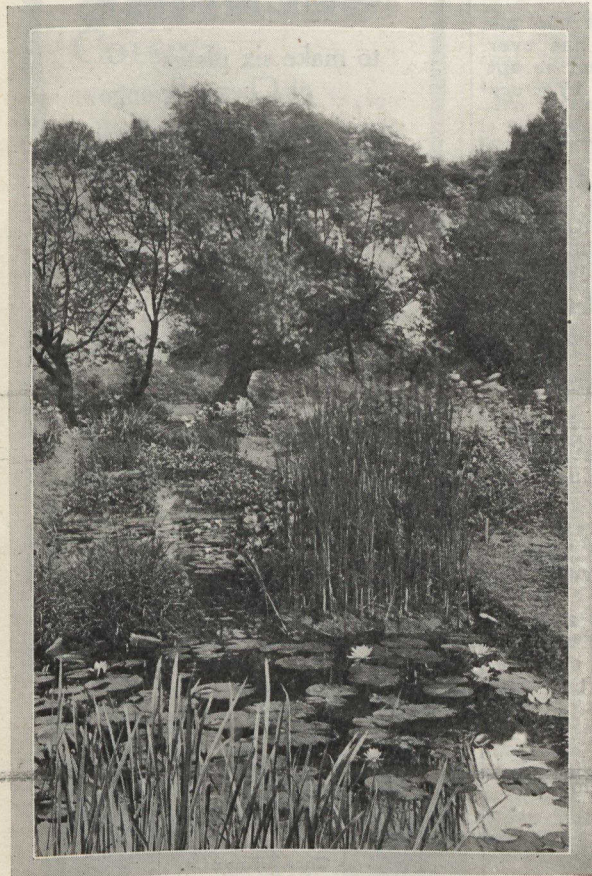
*A Type of Garden, Novel and Attractive, and a Relief from the Ordinary Flower Lawn*

By E. T. COOK

THE illustration shows an attractive type of what is popularly described as "water gardening." The water garden shown here is natural. It is set forth with sufficient clearness to make a reproduction of it in the garden perfectly simple, and it is evident that the more "natural," though requiring a greater variety of plants, is less worthy than the noble design which is one of the features of the Roehampton Polo Club in England. This seems appropriate to surroundings that are not in themselves formal. A complete realization is seen of marrying beauty to, one may say, utility, creating an atmosphere of exquisite surroundings in places where one may reasonably expect something artistic, something to serve as an incentive, an example for those who possess the means to reproduce in a way in their home sur-

this, avoid complicated schemes. Prepare the soil well by the underside, and plant not only flowers from other countries, but those native, too—the Canadian Iris, Willow Herb, Marsh Marigold (*Caltha*), and many another wilding that one has seen in wandering into the country, where streams abound. But as planting time is rapidly approaching, the names of a few beautiful kinds may be enumerated, besides those mentioned: Our Lady's Slippers, *Cypripedium* spectabile or Moccasin flower, and *C. pubescens*, Japanese Irises or *I. Kaempferi*, which were in luxuriant bloom in this Grimsby garden last year, the Loosestrifes, of which *Lythrum roseum* superbum and *virgatum* are the richest in colour, the pure white *Lysimachia clethroides*, Bee Balm or Oswego Tea (*Monarda didyma*), massed over for many weeks in summer with scarlet flowers; the Golden Rod (*Solidago*), though sparingly, and a few hardy ferns that delight in moisture, such as Lady-fern (*Athy-*

*rium felix-foemina*), *Osmundas* (Royal ferns), hard and soft shield ferns (*Polystichums aculeatum* and *angulare*), and *Ostrich Feather fern* or *Struthioptaxis germanica*). It is a mistake to over-plant. Almost every plant that requires a moist and, therefore, as a rule, "fat" soil for its maintenance, is of exceptionally strong growth, spreading rapidly and when overdone simply creating a forest of growth which, through want of space, therefore air and sunshine, fail to assert their own individuality. Two plants the writer had almost forgotten to name, the Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) and the herbaceous Phlox in one or other of its many forms. The former must have moisture, though not actual contact with water, and the Phlox is never more leafy and flower-bedecked than in moist soil and partial shade. A group was planted by waterside and where the shadow of trees shone through a grateful shelter from the sun, though not in dense shade, and the joy of the Phlox, so to say, was shown in a growth that would never be attained under less sympathetic surroundings. Perhaps the names of a few of the most desirable may be wished for, and they are Bridesmaid, white and carmine in the centre of the flower; Elaireur, bright rose; Eugene Danzanvillier, lilac and white; Jeanne d'Arc, pure white; Pantheon, soft pink; and Coquelicot, vermillion.



A water garden in Grimsby, Ontario. Nature has done much and man a little more to make it the beautiful thing it is.

roundings. Here is a polo club, which is naturally the meeting-place of those who are rich in this world's treasures, or should be, and in the lay-out of such places of recreation and resort in our country one object, we are grateful to write, is becoming more decidedly so, that is to make everything as beautiful as art can make it, not in the design only of the club-house itself, but in its environment. Clubs for the resort of those who can afford expensive luxuries are springing up in all parts of the Dominion, devoted, perhaps, to golf, polo or other games and pursuits, and when these are designed with the idea of not only a meeting-place for some specific purpose, but to be something that represents the progress of artistic conceptions to our country, then two noble ideals have been achieved.

A visitor to the Roehampton Polo Club goes away with the impression of having lived a few hours not only in the tournament ground of an exhilarating pastime, but in a garden of noble design in which the scent of flowers and the music of playing waters bring a sense of languorous refinement without ostentatious extravagance. The simplicity of the formal garden, its exquisite proportions and massing of hardy flowers, all are possible of achievement, but a complete whole in which the commonplace and near do not exist. Such a garden as this may well form the foreground to a home of similar outline to prevent clashes of severely opposing designs. Then the "natural," so-called for the obvious reason the beautiful ways of nature are followed, the fringe of meandering brook and placid lake, with the native flowers flung from her bountiful lap here, there and everywhere, splashes of colour melting one into the other in glorious harmonies without a jarring note to disturb the wonderful picture that puzzles the mind of man to paint.

The illustration of the more natural water garden reminds the writer of a little scene in Grimsby, Ontario, the town set in the Niagara fruit belt, where a love of gardening is written over the home surroundings. And in the making of such a garden as

## Utilize the Back Yard

*Save Money, Find a Hobby and Brighten Up the Neighbourhood*

By HUGH S. EAYRS

NEARLY every daily paper nowadays has a department devoted to talks on gardening. It wasn't so a few years ago. There wasn't the need for it. People in Canada did not bother very much about gardening. There were too many other things to do, of greater moment. There were railways to be made, and buildings to be put up, cities to be laid out, and resources of the forests to be exploited. And so, a small affair like the making of a garden had to wait. But gardening is coming into its own nowadays. In a city like Toronto there are many scores of householders who have a lawn in front of the house. Every year they plant some seeds, and have flowers and borders and shrubs making more and more prepossessing the approach to the house itself. All this is along the right lines. But it must be remembered that comparatively there are few who have the chance of a lawn in front of their house, made beautiful by flowers and shrubs and borders. The average householder has only a very small plot of grass in front of his house, and much as he would like he cannot very well make a garden out of that. So the average householder, the working man if you like, says he has no chance to do any gardening. He forgets, or he ignores the fact that he has at any rate a back yard. What is wrong with the idea of making the back yard into a garden? Why not make it less of an eyesore and more of an asset? Why not utilize the back yard?

Have you ever noticed that the newspapers very rarely contain a report of a market gardener or a nursery man getting into trouble? Cast your mind back, and think of the police court news you have read in your newspaper. A tinker or a tailor, or a soldier or a sailor is often the culprit, but for some reason or other the market gardener hardly ever seems to get into trouble. You don't hear of him filing his petition, or being sued in the county court. There is a reason for it. If he is worth anything at all, he can make enough out of his garden to save his wife a good deal of her housekeeping money, and she doesn't need to run up bills. Every man his own provider could become a fact to a considerable extent.

The only thing that the average back yard is used

for is a sort of dumping ground for such odd things as cannot find a place inside the house. It is a fenced-in wilderness. True, it serves its purpose as a drying ground for the clothes, but then, so it would if it were turned into a garden. Apart from that, it serves no useful purpose whatever. It is just so much of the house and lot wasted. It could be made to be productive.

Take the average city lot, which covers a twenty-fifth of an acre, and turn it into a kitchen garden. Two dollars' worth of seed, and care and attention and hard work will make that twenty-fifth of an acre produce enough summer vegetables to keep an ordinary family of five or six. For an expenditure of two dollars in money, and many hours of spare time, enough potatoes, peas, radishes, lettuce, corn, beans and so on can be grown to make the housewife independent of the green-grocer. True, the green-grocer might suffer for a little while if a lot of people began to grow their own vegetables. But, he would soon adjust his supply to his demand, and while no man liveth to himself alone, he doesn't live to his green-grocer, anyway. Presumably, the voice of the people is clamouring for some reform which will pull down the h. c. of l. Here is one very effective way. Produce a part, at any rate, of your own requisites. You can't dispense with your butcher, and you can't get along without your grocer. But you can, for a part of the year at least, be your own green-grocer. The home garden is worth trying as a business resource.

OF course, a great deal depends on how you deal with it. To begin with, the man who is going to turn his barren back yard into a source of income has to have some ideas as to how it can be done effectively. There are enough simple textbooks on this subject to paper the walls of a house. There isn't a lot to learn before a start may be made. The great secret is to make the garden an economist. One man will only get one crop from the same soil that another man will get three crops from. This is largely a matter of laying out, and plucking out; laying out in alternation, and plucking out in time.

(Concluded on page 15.)



A back yard in Toronto which was utilized. It is a picture of the result of a dollar's worth of seed.