



This illustration shows how Mr. Ellis is succeeding in solving the ugly fence problem. The grafted varieties of lilac and other shrubs here used do not rob the flowers in the borders of the moisture and plant food as many shrubs or trees would do.

later. He found that the first part of his problem was solved by making a twelve foot border around three sides of his lot. This he planted with perennials. This system left a nice piece of greensward in the centre which looked well from both the house and the street. It has been suggested already how by a skilful system of double planting and by restricting his efforts to certain flower groups he secures abundance of bloom. Now it should be stated that the flowers of his choice are generally those vigorous kinds which will reward a little labor with fragrance and color in almost any kind of a season.

#### A SIMPLE SOLUTION

The solution of the next part of the problem sounds simple enough. If you look at the illustration above, you will notice that shrubs are used at the back of the border on the west side of the lot. These were planted to form the screen to hide the board wall. Already they are nearly tall enough to do this. Suggesting that shrubs be used for this purpose was easy. To find varieties that would grow high enough for this purpose without encroaching on the room of the flowers, and robbing them of food, moisture and light, was more difficult. And to work in kinds that would give bloom at different seasons, so as to add to the charm of the border was less easy still. However, Mr. Ellis found what

he wanted, and the effect has been pleasing ever since.

A similar problem to that just mentioned, presented itself in connection with the rear of the house. The illustration on page five shows how a rather unsightly outhouse was screened and the whole of the rear of the house made to offer both convenience and charm during many months of the year by the addition of a rustic pergola. The pergola Mr. Ellis made himself from cedar poles and when the several plants of Clematis Jackmanii, which are now growing on it, are in full bloom the picture is as pleasing as one could well imagine. Roses and other vines are also grown on this pergola.

It will be seen then that the solutions of these problems were definite, simple and effective, and it should be added that they were inexpensive also. The cost of the materials which Mr. Ellis has used has been low because he has adopted a system of replenishing his borders which is worth recording. It was mentioned that only perennials were found in this garden. In the case of such perennials as the Delphiniums or Poppies, he will collect the seed from a plant as soon as it ripens, or he may take the seed of something new, for he believes in having the best of everything, and this seed he will drop near some old plant that he intends pulling out next year or

in some little vacant spot in the shade of other plants. By giving the seedlings, as they come up, a little watering and judicious thinning out he will have a nice clump of new plants in bloom there the next year. And the work has been practically nil. He replenishes his borders by using in part Nature's own method. Of course not all seeds can be treated in this way but nearly all that he sows can. And it will be interesting to know what plants Mr. Ellis finds most useful in a garden of this character.

#### THE VARIETIES GROWN

The German Iris he has found to be very effective for spring effects. He groups them in masses at the ends and in the corners of his borders. Of these he has about fifty varieties, and his object for some years has been to eliminate from his collection the dull shades of purplish-blue. This makes the spring effect much more sparkling and effective.

Following the irises the peonies hold sway in the garden for nearly a month, and at that season the garden is a splendid sight from the street.

Mr. Ellis believes in letting the public share in the joys of his flowers to an extent, that is, "a vista to the public should be allowed by each possessor of a good lot," such a lot has an educational value, and it is but neighborly to share it with all so long as enough privacy is retained to make it "home."

Such flowers as the platycodons, Chinese Bell-flowers, pyrethrums (Spring Marguerites), gaillardias (Blanket flowers), delphiniums (Tall Larkspur), hemerocallis (Day Lilies), dwarf or Chinese Larkspurs, and sweet williams, give color to the borders until the time of the perennial phloxes, which form fine strong groups of color in this garden.

Other flowers, like the herbaceous spiræas, coreopsis, Helianthus multiflorus, and golden glow, do well at the back of the border, while that charming little free flowering plant, the Iceland Poppy (*Papavera nudicaule*), together with *Achillea Funkias*, and others, add charm to specialized parts of the border.

Cannas, which of course must be treated as annuals, are grown to good effect by the wall of the house where they get some protection from the first frosts of the fall and thereby continue their bloom much later. Darwin and cottage tulips are grown in the same bed for spring effects, and as a background *Hydrangea paniculata* are used.

Of new varieties of his chosen plants, Mr. Ellis imports and buys quite a few. Three of his best peonies are *Asa Gray*, *Festiva Maxima* and *Mons. Jules Elie*.

Color harmonies have been worked for in some measure by Mr. Ellis, and he states that he likes to get his strong colors as a rule at the back of the border.