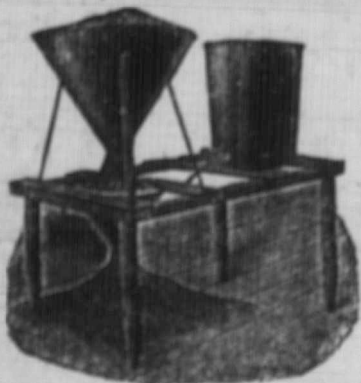


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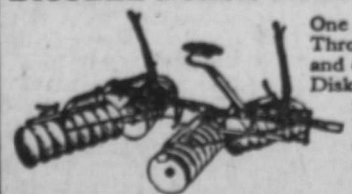
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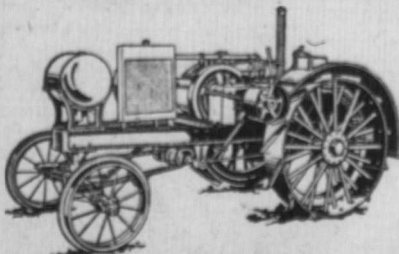
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## Ornamental Trees and Shrubs

By A. P. Stevenson



A. P. STEVENSON

The early settlers in a new country were as a rule too busy with breaking the prairie and similar work to pay much attention to the planting of ornamental trees and shrubs. As the land is brought under cultivation however, and money becomes more plentiful, there comes a desire to plant trees,

shrubs and flowers on the home grounds. Those who live in towns and cities begin the work of lawn making and planting ornamentals earlier because of the smaller extent of their grounds. "Ornamentals" is a nursery term meaning trees and shrub intended for decorative purposes.

The first attempts at landscape gardening usually result in expensive failures, because varieties are planted that are not adapted to our prairie climate. Selections are often made at random from some eastern catalogue, many varieties of which are unsuited to our western conditions. Purely as a financial venture, money wisely spent on the decorations of the grounds will add greatly to the selling value of the property, to say nothing of the pleasure and satisfaction of the home surroundings which cannot be measured by dollars and cents. On the other hand, homesickness and dissatisfaction often comes to the dwellers on the prairies simply from the lack of a few trees, flowers and shrubs such as grew around their old home in the east. Anything that will make the surroundings of the farm home more cheerful adds to the working ability of the dwellers there.

### Planting and Care

Shrubs should be planted in thick, irregular clusters or groups with no sod among the plants in the group. The common way of planting shrubs is to scatter them out singly, so that each lonesome little bush soon gets sodbound and its days are few and full of trouble. Groups should be mainly in the corners and at the sides and back of the lawn, leaving the centre of the lawn free. Cutting up the centre of the lawn with beds of geraniums or other flowers should be avoided. These appear to better advantage in the front of clumps of shrubbery or near the house. Trees should not be planted in straight lines except on division lines. Drives and walks should be laid out in graceful curves. These curves must appear for the purpose of passing some obstacle, otherwise the eye is not satisfied and there is the constant temptation to "cut across" the grass, hence trees and shrubs should be planted in the hollows of the curves.

The greatest enemy to trees and shrubs on the lawn is grass. The grass roots rob the soil of moisture. During the first 10 years of a tree's life it must be protected against having its moisture robbed by grass roots. After that it will be able to take care of itself. Clean cultivation is better than mulch unless in light sandy soil. If watering becomes necessary remove the top soil slightly and give a thorough soaking, then replace the soil. This should be left saucer shaped, so as to more readily catch the rain from passing showers.

### Some Hardy Ornamentals

The following is a brief descriptive list of some of the most hardy and desirable ornamental trees and shrubs that are safe to plant anywhere in this country, provided there is a windbreak or shelterbelt. On our farm lawn we have over 100 ornamental trees and shrubs growing and giving satisfaction. It will be understood therefore that the short list given does not by any means exhaust the list of pretty things that with a little care and attention will grow and give pleasure to the planter in this new country.

Manchurian Maple (*Acer Ginnale*). A hardy maple forming a large shrub or small tree. The bright red coloring of leaves in the autumn makes this graceful dwarf maple desirable for the lawn.

Soft or Silver Maple (*Acer Dasycarpum*). As received from the east, this tree kills back, but trees on our grounds from Minnesota seed are now 50 feet in height and have been bearing seed for many years. The resultant seedlings appear to be as hardy now as the box elder.

Tartarian Maple (*Acer Tartaricum*). A handsome large shrub or small tree with foliage coloring beautiful in autumn.

Cut-Leaved Weeping Birch. There are many beautiful specimens of this tree to be found on private lawns throughout this country. It is without doubt the queen of lawn trees either in this country or any other. It is a tall slender tree with long, graceful, drooping branches. The pruning knife should never be used on it. The many slender, weeping branches from the main stem add to the beauty of the tree and should not be removed. It should be planted where it will not be crowded by other trees. Our oldest specimens are over 30 feet in height.

Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus Agastifolia*). This beautiful little tree is an importation from Russia. It is allied to the buffalo berry. Its silvery leaves give it an olive-like appearance. Our oldest specimens are over 20 feet in height with rounded top and long narrow leaves, silvery white beneath, light green above. The small yellow blossoms are remarkable for their spicy fragrance.

Caragana. This shrub has been more extensively planted throughout the prairie provinces than any other. There are something like twenty varieties of this hardy shrub. The *Arborescens*, being the coarse common variety and being easily propagated from seed, is the sort mostly planted. The dwarf varieties, such as *Caragana Pygmaea* and *Caragana Frutescens* are far superior in flower and foliage and for hedge purposes.

Mountain Ash. Another tree of great beauty. Its rich dark foliage and bright red berries give it a striking appearance. It is somewhat liable to sunscald in exposed locations.

Honeysuckle. There are a great many varieties and types of this hardy shrub. The dwarf form, *Lonicera Alberti*, forms a dense rounded mass of bluish green foliage. The Tartarian form is of upright habit. Blossoms in all the forms range from white to dark pink.

### Varieties of Lilac

Lilac (*Syringa*). The lilacs are universal favorites both in flower and foliage. The flowers range in color from white through various shades of lilac, purple and red. This group of ornamental shrubs contains many varieties that are quite hardy with us. The common lilac is too well known to need description. Aside from this a few varieties of outstanding merit might be noted: Charles X. This is a very profuse bloomer. Its large clusters of rich reddish purple flowers are produced in great abundance. The flowers are highly fragrant. Josikea. This is a robust growing species. Its leaves are large and glossy, of a deep green color. It flowers about ten days later than the common variety. The clusters are smaller, of bluish purple color, and have little perfume. Vilosa. A low growing variety with flowers of an attractive shade of pale bluish rose, and pleasant fragrance. Blooms two weeks later than the common lilac. Madam Casimie Perier. A variety with pure white double flowers produced in large clusters.

### Other Hardy Shrubs

Siberian Almond. A low bush of compact habit. This is the first shrub to bloom on our grounds in spring. It bears pink blossoms nearly an inch in diameter, followed by almond shaped pods.

Spiraeas. The spiraeas are a very popular and useful class of ornamental