

we shall secure nature's beautiful effects. Neither does the border show the effect of inattention so readily as the formal flower bed, and its soft outlines even though assisted by occasional weeds, give pleasing and restful effects.

To return to hedge plants and hedging, their principal features of usefulness may be briefly stated as follows :—

1. Ornamental boundary or dividing lines.
2. Defensive barriers.
3. Wind breaks and screens.

The planter should consider his situation and the effects he wishes to obtain before deciding upon the hedge plant which he shall use.

If for a defensive barrier, a strong growing deciduous and spiny species should be selected. If for a wind break or for ornament, among the conifers he will find desirable varieties.

PLANTING.

As in all other tree planting operations a thorough preparation of the soil will do much towards insuring the ultimate success of the hedge. Plough or dig deeply a strip 4 or 5 feet wide. In the centre of this pulverized strip set the plants in a trench which has been dug some inches deeper than the depth at which the plants are to be set. It should be filled in with a sufficient amount of good surface soil. The spaces at each side should afterwards be cultivated.

DISTANCE APART TO SET PLANTS.

Why do many of the hedges we see in the country and city present a bare and ill-clothed appearance about the base? Mainly because very large plants were used in setting the hedge. These were severely cut back, which induced a strong bushy growth about the top, but did not increase the amount of foliage about the base. I would therefore strongly advise the use of young plants, so that the hedge may be trained from the beginning with a view of obtaining a certain form. The distance apart at which the plants should be set will be governed both by the species and the ultimate height to which it is intended the hedge shall be allowed to reach, as before stated. In planting an evergreen hedge, it is especially desirable to use small stocky plants. They need very little cutting back the first year, other than that required to equalize their height. At the Experimental Farm the plants in the hedge rows vary in distance from each from 15 inches to 3 feet, the former distance being applied principally to small growing deciduous trees and shrubs, and the latter to larger conifers set in the boundary hedges.

PRUNING.

The same principles which govern the operation of pruning as ordinarily practised may be applied to hedges. If we wish to increase or encourage growth the pruning should take place late in the season; on the other hand, if we wish