

supplied with deep green foliage. It is the *Fagus sylvatica cristata* of the catalogues. There are two forms of this kind occasionally to be found in foreign collections, with variegated leaves, but as our hot summers invariably scorch them badly it is wise to reject both.

It would be unjust to one of our most valued native trees if in this paper we were to ignore the importance of the American beech (*F. ferruginea*). It is not so dense a grower as its European relative, nor has it as fine large foliage as its foreign relative, but it possesses a beauty peculiar to itself and a character that belongs to no other tree. In a word, it is invaluable as a lawn tree in grounds of ample extent, but would be entirely out of place in the limited door-yard.—Josiah Hoopes.

### GRADING A LAWN.



THE grading, when properly done, is a most costly and difficult task, and that wherein the artistic tastes and judgment of the workman most plainly come to light. Around dwellings there should, of course, be as perfect a grade as possible. Away from dwellings, especially on large lawns, many prefer an undulating surface as being more natural and, therefore, more artistic, with which idea I am in full sympathy. The undulations, when they naturally exist, should be carefully smoothed and made gradual, so that when mown with a horse lawnmower the grass shall not be cut too long and too short in places, making the lawn look spotted, especially in a dry time, when grass cut extremely short is likely to burn out, or at least get badly injured.

I find it takes more care properly to grade a lawn with an undulating surface than on a comparatively perfect grade. The top soil for at least 12 inches should be carefully cleaned of all stones the size of a hen's egg and up, and of all roots and trash of every kind. It cannot be made too clean. For sake of both economy and good work, I use horses and horse implements as much as possible in grading. In so far as they can be used, they are much cheaper than the average Irishman with his wheelbarrow, pick and shovel, and the inevitable short stemmed pipe, smoked upside down. Where soil is not likely to wash, I think it best to let it lie (when graded in the latter part of summer or in the fall) till the following spring. Unless carefully firmed by hand, an expensive task, it is bound to settle more or less unevenly. After settling, the unevenness of the surface can be easily corrected just before seeding. Where any grading is so deep as to go into the subsoil to a considerable extent, care should be used in saving the top soil, so as to have it on top when the grading is completed. The more even the depth of this top soil, the better for the appearance of the lawn.—Country Gentleman.