



Fig. 5. The Most Popular Shrub for Foundation Planting

Who has not admired Van Houtte's spirea? It is famous for its arching stems, silvery with flat clusters of white flowers in May. It attains a height of about five feet. This is the best of the spireas and is very good when not over planted. One group of Van Houtte's spirea makes a much more effective showing than a border around the whole house.

Japanese barberry and Japanese barberry, which is the best in the estimation of landscape gardeners.

Vines play a part and an important part in the beautification of any country home. For covering brick walls, the Japan or Boston ivy is hardy, and a fairly rapid grower. It requires no support or trellis. For covering a porch Japanese paniculata, Wistaria or clematis, are good flowering vines while Dutchman's Pipe or Woodbine offered a dense shade. The honeysuckle is beautiful for entwining pillars and affords bloom and perfume for several weeks.

The two illustrations on page 6 tell of the effectiveness of planting to screen unsightly objects. I do not believe that I have ever been on a farm where some unsightly fence, some dilapidated outbuilding or conspicuous rubbish heap, would not have been the better for screening. Sometimes trees can be used effectively; more often for small objects, vines will serve the purpose just as well. Five cents worth of wild cucumber seed will provide enough vines to screen all the unsightly objects on a 100-acre farm. Permanent vines, however, are to be preferred. Where special seclusion is desired, around the privy, for instance, evergreens are most desirable, as they afford a screen year round and are always beautiful.

A few evergreens here and there at the sides of the lawn behind the shrubbery give the home a cosy look in those months when hardwood trees are denuded of foliage.

And now for the flower garden. Here again, permanency should be valued. Well assorted shrubbery will afford cut flowers the greater part of the summer. What finer table decoration could you desire than a vase of lilacs, weigelia or Tartarian honeysuckle. For the rest, perennials, such as phlox, peony and iris arranged in a border near the house where they can be watered easily, afford a minimum of work and expense and a maximum of satisfaction. Let annuals for cut flowers be sown in the vegetable garden in long rows and cultivated by horse power. Not much sentiment in this method, but lots of common sense.

The city man of means employs a professional gardener to plant his grounds. Few farmers can afford to do so. If the information given in this Farm Improvement Number of Farm and Dairy by word and picture is not sufficient to enable you to plan intelligently why not write to the agricultural college of your province, submitting diagrams of buildings, lanes, fences, and so forth and asking for suggestions? I know that the professors would be glad to make practical and helpful suggestions.



Fig. 6. The Best Shrub for Foundation Planting

The Japanese barberry, listed in all nursery catalogues, is an A1 foundation shrub. Its arching stems are beautiful even when leafless. The foliage turns scarlet in summer and the red berries are attractive all winter. Nearly all other shrubs are bare at the base, but this one hides the ground completely. It attains a height of five or six feet.

Cooperative Light and Power

By Dr. C. W. Pugsley

In Denmark I stumbled upon a little illustration of cooperation that rather surprised me. In riding out from Odense I came upon a prosperous dairy community. The farm buildings were lighted by electricity, and the mills that ground the feed were run by electricity. I was not so much surprised at the use to which electricity was put, because I had learned soon after my arrival in Europe that they were much more advanced in the use of electricity for practical purposes than we were in America, but I was very much surprised to find a community of farmers making such extended use of this wonderful power.

Upon inquiry I found that here was a farming community of practically a thousand acres owned by a hundred people. The average size of the farm was ten acres. The electrical plant was owned cooperatively by an association formed of these farmers. It was supplying electrical power for lighting their buildings, cutting and grinding feed, running their small threshing machines and other machinery at about half what was being charged by privately owned plants in the cities near by.



Fig. 7. The Gaudy Style of Lawn Appeals to Beginners

Resisting such as this is in bad taste. In addition it costs more to maintain lawns where the grass must be cut around flower beds and specimen plants scattered over the lawn than where these are limited to borders.



Fig. 8. The Open Lawn is Restful and Economical

If necessary the open lawn can be mowed by horse power, and in the country mowing need not be done so often as in the city. The open lawn is simpler, more dignified, more restful and more appropriate to the country.