

would use the species and varieties of our own country, rather than the exotic or foreign varieties, harmonizing this material in its arrangement with our own style of architecture as applied to our houses or buildings as well as with our own natural landscapes.

In the laying out of grounds, however, whether in formal or informal style, in order to get a clear and definite conception of the results in a finished state, a plan should be made, and after being decided upon should be strictly adhered to. The foundation of the Natural style of Ornamental Gardening is the open lawn. The plantings should, generally speaking, be confined to the boundaries; buildings where possible, ought to be located at one side; drives and walks should never be cut straight through the grounds, but of graceful curves, unless there is the best of good reasons for having them otherwise, for you will seldom find a straight line in Nature. Trees should be planted in groups—never in straight lines—for that is the way they are found in Nature.

A liberal planting of shrubs and flowering plants is fully in accord with the Natural style of gardening and these should be planted in clumps and masses, for nature rarely scatters her plants. Tall trees should be planted to screen out objectionable features in the near landscape and low shrubs and plants to keep before you some desirable features of the surroundings.

#### *The use of Shrubs.*

In order to obliterate the lines of demarcation of a building, shrubs should be grouped irregularly around its walls and massed in the nooks and corners. Climbers should also be planted to cover certain portions of the walls and porches. Avoid the conventional rockery unless naturally placed. Don't place a trellis on a lawn for climbing plants. Let them climb naturally on the porches, walls, trunks of old trees, or over the tops of shrubs. Be careful in placing the summer-house, for if placed naturally and artistically, it is a feature of

harmonious beauty. If not, it can easily be made a monstrosity of ugliness. Wherever possible, avoid a fence, for there is no beauty in the fanciest fence made; in fact, the fancier the fence, the uglier it is. A hedge, while planted in a straight line, may be broadened out at one point, drawn in at another, and finally merged into a clump of trees or shrubs, and thus serves the purpose of a fence and at the same time adds to, instead of detracts from, the naturalness and beauty desired.

I dislike "weeping trees" of the top grafted, umbrella-shaped species, and shrubs or evergreens sheared into unnatural or grotesque forms, not only because of their ugliness, but also because of their lack of harmony in otherwise natural surroundings. Yet it is strange the fascination these have and the prominence given them on so many of our Canadian lawns.

#### *Plan the Grounds.*

A plan of one's grounds should express an idea as well as perform a service. It should be in harmony with the architectural design of the dwelling and its proper design is just as important, for one dollar expended on the grounds will produce more beauty than twenty spent on the house. It is, therefore, surprising, that of the vast amounts of money expended on the Architecture of the dwellings in our land, more thought and money is not devoted to the proper treatment of the grounds, for good grounds, like good houses, result only from intelligent study and design. Especially is it surprising, as there are so many good books on the subject of Ornamental Gardening, any one of which will give an intelligent person a working knowledge of the subject. —E. B. Luke.

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