



A Tangle of Flowers. (Illustrations chiefly by courtesy of House Beautiful.) The Possibilities of Vines.

spring to bother with such things. Let your lawn or flower garden (which are what we wish to talk chiefly about to-day) go until spring, and the chances are that the place will go "bare as a barn" for yet another year. When the fields are calling for every moment of time, very little "puttering" about the house is likely to be done, and so the wise farmer is likely to do his decorative planting in fall. If he is very wise, he will consider our native trees, bushes, vines and plants in his scheme; in fact, he will make them the very body and backbone of it, for he will know that they are perfectly hardy, already acclimatized, less expensive (obviously!), and quite as beautiful as any that can be brought in from other places. They will grow, under fair conditions, and grow without care; and, for looks, you need not be afraid to set up any time a native oak, or beech, or maple, or elm, against a cut-leaved, droopy "weeper," a red-eider or sweet briar against most foreign shrubs, a bitter-sweet or a wild clematis against the most gorgeous purple "Jackmanii," and our dainty woods and river plants against the most showy that can be brought in from abroad. Of course, it is very well to have a few exotics, but these can be added at any time.

THE PROCESS

Suppose it is settled then, that a start on the beautifying of the home grounds is to be made in fall, the next point is to remember that it will not do to begin helter-skelter, anyhow. When you put in a bush or a tree, it is put there to stay, and so you should begin planting with a well-defined idea of just exactly what you are going to do. In fact, you should have a plan all drawn out on paper; draw a dozen, if need be, until you have achieved the one that suits you. On this plan should be indicated the buildings, and the position of

every tree and clump of shrubbery that is to be set out; and, in order that the arrangement may be made to the best effect, it is necessary, before drawing a stroke, to grasp a few outstanding principles that are recognized in all landscape or decorative gardening.

(1) A small plot cannot be treated in the same way as a large one. If only a small area can be spared, the first essential is to understand that it does not require a great array of trees, shrubs, paths, driveways, sundials and pergolas. Better make it

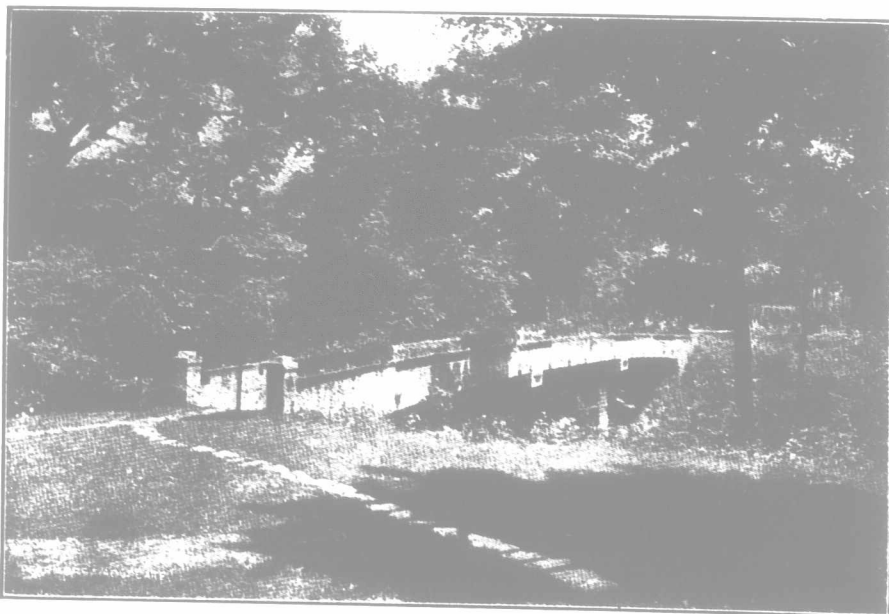
times necessary to introduce clumps of trees or shrubbery to give some apparent reason or excuse for the turning; a winding road with no patent reason for its deviations is only an exasperation, reminding one of the Chinese roads, which must run crooked to escape the evil spirits, which, according to Oriental belief, can only travel in straight lines.

(2) Avoid spotty planting as you would the smallpox. Have trees for a background to the house, trees for a border to the lawn, running into "bays" here

and there to avoid stiffness, trees along the front, and, perhaps, one or two fine ones right on the lawn for shade. Shrubby may be used in places to form a transition from trees to ground, to screen unsightly fences, etc., and always about the foundations of the house. Make no provision for fancifully-clipped trees; they are troublesome, and are quite out of place, except in a regular Italian or Japanese garden. In fact, in all your planting, study nature and its masses. She is usually a safe guide. When choosing trees, remember that you need both evergreens and deciduous trees. Evergreens alone would have too sombre an effect, but they combine well with other species, and provide a look of coziness for the winter. As a rule, they look best and suit best when they are used only as wind-breaks, in odd corners, or to give character to a clump of deciduous trees when used as a background for them. Long, straight rows of trees are seldom pleasing, except when used as the border to a driveway or across the front of a lot. In other positions, irregular planting, either for trees or shrubs, is more likely to give an artistic and restful effect. As was said before, "Study Nature."

In regard to species, among the evergreen trees, none are better than our native Canadian pine and spruce, particularly the pine-graceful while young, majestic when old, with a million Eolian harps to sigh you a sleepy song when the wind blows. Norway spruce is a well-formed tree, and hardy. Among deciduous trees, use maples—yes, and maples. They are clean, hardy, and always beautiful in foliage, especially when they have donned their gorgeous autumn tints. Besides, the maple is the national emblem of Canada. Why not give it the place of honor? . . . If there are any elms or oaks about the place, build near them, if possible. There is no tree in Canada more picturesque or more magnificent than the majestic elm, and it is a great pity that so many of them have been sacrificed to the sordid greed for money.

Beech and butternut trees are both finely ornamental, if given a chance to develop, while, for certain situations, even basswood, and poplars, with their over-trembling leaves, may be used to good purpose. The catalpa is very decorative, and grows with



A Bridge is an Attractive Feature.

simply into an old-fashioned flower garden, or else have a simple grass lawn, with the necessary paths heading straight to the point, and with "just enough" trees and shrubs to give shade and coziness. The small place, by the way, lends itself particularly well to the use of vines. . . . Where the grounds are very large, on the other hand, walks and drives may curve as sinuously as one wills, although it is at all

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