



A Bed of Asters in the Garden of J. Gadsby, Hamilton, Ont.

## Planting Shrubs and Trees for Winter Effect

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THE impression that the spring time is the one and only time for active garden operations is being proved more and more a fallacy each year by the more enthusiastic and progressive of our gardeners. More planting and preparing for the following year's garden is being done in the autumn than ever before. This is a step in the right direction and one that should be encouraged.

Among the many activities that will aid in making the garden and home grounds more beautiful and attractive is the planting of flowering shrubs and trees. This work can be done this fall with equally as good results, and in many cases better results, than if it was deferred until spring. All that is necessary is a little extra care in protecting newly planted stock during the winter.

The number and varieties of summer flowering shrubs are legion. By a judicious selection therefrom, one may have a continuity of bloom from the time that the earliest of the Forsythias throw out their golden bracts, right through the summer and fall, to finish the season with that very popular and much appreciated shrub, *Hydrangea Paniculata Grandiflora*.

It does not necessarily follow that when the flowering period of these shrubs is past that the garden need be a dreary, bleak spot. There are many trees and shrubs whose flowering is only a passing incident, but whose fruits and berries possess the color and stability to brighten the home surroundings long after the foliage has gone. While planting operations are in progress, select a few of the best of these berried shrubs. True, not much could be expected of them this coming winter, but they will prove a source of pleasure later. A little

studied effort in the selection and disposition of certain of those trees and shrubs that possess beauty of bark and berries will go far towards making the garden a very pleasant place in winter.

### SUGGESTED VARIETIES

Try grouping a few specimens, as for example, the Bayberry, or wax myrtle, with its shoots thickly clustered with wax-like masses of fruits, with the common barberry, with its orange-red berries in rich clusters. The contrast is a strong and pleasing one. With a background of these two, to the group could be added that very common and useful shrub Thunberg's barberry — a shrub that has many other attractions throughout the year. Add to this the snowberry (*Symphoricarpos Racemosus*), whose great white fruits hang persistently all through the winter, and its red-fruited relative, the Indian currant, and there exists a group that can be carried out on any scale, according to the space available.

Another group suggests itself in the viburnums: *V. prunifolium*, which grows to the size of a respectable tree and covers itself with deep blue fruit until frost destroys the berries; *V. lantana* and *V. Sieboldi*, with a foreground of *V. cassinoides* and *V. acerifolium*, covered with clusters of black berries that hang long after the foliage has fallen. Some of the thorns (*Crataegus*) that are indigenous to North America, should not be overlooked; they make small, neat trees, and should be far more frequently seen in small gardens.

The Euonymus or spindle tree is also a brilliant spot when it is smothered with its bright fruits. *Ilex verticillata*, very appropriately named winter-berry, make another picture against the snow.

The *Pyracantha* is an evergreen thorn far too little seen in gardens. It will train against the wall, and make an admirable covering and a great mass of color when bearing its clusters of orange-red berries.

Our native holly (*Ilex opaca*) is worthy of the special care needed to establish it in the garden. In order to secure the ornamental fruits a staminate bush should be planted among the pistillate ones. The rowan tree or mountain ash makes a fine specimen for a lawn. Its bright scarlet berries hang from early summer until late winter.

In planning the shrubberies about the home keep in mind the essential point—that of having something that is pleasing and attractive for the greatest length of time. Don't let the factor of flower bloom deter you from planting some of the shrubs that will help to brighten the garden well into the winter.

### PREPARE YOUR SOIL

Soil required for vegetable or other plant growth in the spring should be deeply dug or trenched this fall. Anyone who has grown plants in trenched ground only requires the one experience to always practise it in the future. Digging the ground two spades deep turns up dormant food supplies to the action of the air, allows the moisture to penetrate into the hard pan or subsoil, and leaves the soil porous and full of air and full of cavities, into which heated air, moisture and solvent foods for the plants are absorbed. It allows also the young plants of next season's growth to let their roots down into the loose, rich, moist, cool subsoil below, and thus keeps, no matter how great a drought may prevail. Your plants grow as by magic, and all from the important fact that your soil was prepared by thorough deep cultivation the fall previous. I could not enlarge too much on this subject, and I would count my time well spent could I but so convince the reader who has not tried it in his garden to give it but one trial.

Now all this talk is but a repetition of the same advice given every year to the garden amateur, and as this is also the month to plant your tulips, hyacinths, lilies, and other plants of the bulb family, prepare your beds for them by trenching instead of just one spade deep, and you will marvel next spring at the results.

You can have the earliest sweet peas by preparing the ground for them now. Also try planting a part of them in November. They do not make any growth until spring but will be much earlier than those planted then, and some claim their flowers are much larger.