

20 MAY 1926

### ORNAMENTAL PLANTING ON THE FARM

#### Some Suggestions on Beautifying the Farm Home Surroundings.

By ALEX LAURIE

With the advent of modern appliances on the farm, and the building of attractive houses, there has come a feeling that pleasant surroundings become essential. While it is agreed that the farm layout should be thoroughly practical, it is an erroneous idea that there is no place for the pleasing and the beautiful about the farm house. For the younger generation the average farm house of a few years ago, with its collection of weather-beaten, unpainted outbuildings scattered hither and yon, had not inspired much respect or pleasant association. The natural result has been the drifting of the younger people to cities, where more enjoyment and pleasanter surroundings are to be found.

The possibilities of the farm home and its surroundings are yet to be thoroughly realized, and when compared with the crowded cities, with their smoke laden atmosphere, their noises and hot, stifling pavements, it is difficult to see why farms cannot be made attractive and inspiring to their occupants. It is not proposed that a great deal be spent in beautification of the grounds, for it is possible at very little cost to make the home a thing of beauty.

The first aim should be toward an orderly arrangement of the barns, poultry houses, and other features necessary for useful purposes. Proper order serves not only convenience, but beauty as well. With walks and drives arranged carefully, and with proper regard for beauty, the rest of the work is simple and inexpensive.

**LAWN IS FOUNDATION**

The lawn is the foundation of all planting. Made perfectly level and graded tightly with border plantings, the whole property looks cramped. Gentle slopes and easy depressions create a feeling of size, especially when bounded with irregular natural borders. Since the lawn is a permanent plantation, its initial preparation must be thorough. Proper manuring at the rate of one load to 100 square yards, will give the desired soil condition, provided the underdrainage is sufficient. The time of sowing seed is either in the spring or fall, preferably during the months of April and September. Lawns seeded late in the fall should be given a mulch as a winter protection. The grasses which are suitable for good lawns must be adapted to close clipping, be of uniform color, and be able to stand drought. The best all-around grass is Kentucky Blue Grass, but since it requires two years to produce a good turf, other kinds are added to serve as a filler during the first season and also as a sort of nurse crop. Among these are Red Top, Rhode Island Bent, English Rye and White Clover. The last named is sometimes deemed objectionable on account of its white blossoms. The seeding is done at the rate of one quart to 300 square feet. After seeding and raking, a thorough rolling should be given to compact the soil. When the grass is making vigorous growth it should be cut once a week with the knives set so as to cut no shorter than two inches above the ground. An occasional rolling will be of benefit. Clippings may be left on, serving as a mulch during hot weather. A good soaking of water is preferable to a mere sprinkling, because the latter will cause the roots to grow close to the surface, with subsequent injury during periods of drought.

**PLANT HARDY SHRUBS**

All plantings should be composed of trees and shrubs that are very hardy and easy of culture. Among the shrubs such old-time favorites as the Bridal Wreath, Golden Bell, Mock Orange, Rose of Sharon, Snowball, Lilac, Weigela, Japanese Quince, Hydrangea, Japanese Barberry, and the Privet are still the best. As a means of ornamentation these kinds may be used to advantage in any location about the building. Grouped about the base of the house in pleasing borders, they furnish bloom over a long period and help in uniting the structure to the lawn. Planted at intersection of the walks, fence corners and in curves of the roads, they appear to give justification to any appearance of artificiality of the layout. The barnyard may be successfully screened off by this means. The vegetable garden may be divided from the rest by a hedge or a flowering border, and a flower garden should find its way into the general scheme, not only for the pleasure it affords, but because of the possibility of direct sale of cut flowers.

Trees are used as windbreaks, as a frame for the house, and for their individual beauty as specimens. For windbreaks, evergreens, like White Pine, Scotch Pine, Norway Spruce and Arborvitae, are quite commonly used. The kind of a tree used for framing the house depends upon its style of architecture. Where horizontal lines predominate the Lombardy Poplar and the Larch are particularly effective. On the other hand, vertical lines call for trees of more spreading characters, to which description the oaks, the maples and the elms answer fittingly. Low branching kinds are the most desirable for specimen planting, but care should be exercised in the selection

of the deep rooting types, which will not deprive the lawn grasses of their proper nutrients. The oaks, the Norway Maple, the American Elm, American Ash, Norway Spruce, Blue Spruce, White Pine and Silver Fir are among the leaders in this group.

**HOW TO PLANT**

The planting of trees and shrubs is a simple operation, yet certain precautions must be observed if success be attained. If the material is shipped from the nursery, it should never be allowed to lie around and dry out. If impossible to plant at once, the plants should be "heeled in," that is, a trench dug deep enough for the roots to be placed, and covered with loose soil. The time of planting depends somewhat upon the favorableness of the season. If proper care is taken good results are obtained from either fall or spring planting. In either case, a mulch of manure is desirable—in the fall to act as a protection against the heavy frosts; in the spring to serve as moisture retainer. In planting shrubs the tops should be cut back to correspond to the amount of roots which are usually cut off in digging. The same holds true of trees, except that only lateral branches should be cut back. Removal of the terminal shoot will be large enough to permit of natural spreading of the roots, around which the loose soil is filled and then packed to form close contact and prevent drying out. The evergreens are dug with a ball of soil and are so planted. No pruning is given. Spring planting for evergreens is preferable.

Flowering plants are a welcome addition to the garden, their ease of culture and inexpensiveness making them very desirable.

**A GOOD LIST**

The following suggests the best of the herbaceous perennials which last two years or more. The botanical and common names are given.

- Alyssum saxatile—Alyssum.
- Anemone japonica.
- Aquilegia canadensis—Columbine.
- Asters.
- Bellis perennis—English Daisy.
- Campanula medium—Canterbury Bell.
- Coreopsis grandiflora—Tickseed.
- Delphinium hybridum—Larkspur.
- Dianthus plumarius—Pink.
- Dianthus barbatus—Sweet William.
- Dictamnus alba—Gas plant.
- Digitalis purpurea—Foxglove.
- Gaillardia cristata—Blanket Flower.
- Gypsophila paniculata—Baby's Breath.
- Iberis saxatilis—Candytuft.
- Iris germanica.
- Lathyrus latifolius—Perennial Pea.
- Lupinus polyphyllus—Lupine.
- Monarda didyma.
- Paeonia officinalis—Peony.
- Papaver orientale—Oriental Poppy.
- Phlox paniculata—Phlox.
- Rudbeckia laciniata—Golden Glow.
- Solidago species—Goldenrod.
- Veronica officinalis—Speedwell.

Annuals are plants which bloom the same season from seed. They are usually started in coldframes in April, transplanted once and the seedlings set out of doors after all danger of frost is past. The seed may be sown directly out of doors, but somewhat later flowering results. The more common kinds are listed:

- Alyssum maritimum—Alyssum.
- Antirrhinum majus—Snapdragon.
- Centaurea cyanus—Cornflower.
- Delphinium ajacis—Larkspur.
- Gaillardia picta.
- Gypsophila elegans—Baby's Breath.
- Lathyrus odoratus—Sweet pea.
- Mirabilis jalapa—Four o'clock.
- Matthiola incana—Stocks.
- Reseda odorata—Mignonette.
- Scabiosa.
- Tagetes patula—French Marigold.
- Tagetes erecta—African Marigold.
- Tropaeolum majus—Nasturtium.
- Verbena chamaedryfolia.
- Zinnia elegans.

The botanical names are used in order that no confusion arise, since the common names for flowers vary greatly with each locality.

#### Profit From Bees.

In the fall of 1923 ten colonies of bees were set aside at the St. Anne de la Pocatiere, Experimental Station to ascertain the profit there is in honey. The colonies wintered well and were set out in the spring for their year's work. The ten colonies produced 679 pounds of honey at 18 cents per pound, 4 lbs. wax at 40 cents per pound and 6 new colonies at \$7 each; total \$165.82. The expenditure was 6 per cent. on \$300 invested—\$18, honey and sugar consumed \$22 and 128 hours of labor at 35 cents per hour, \$44.80, total \$84.80, leaving a profit balance of \$81.02, or \$8.10 per colony.

A study of honey flows showed that the maximum was reached between 4 and 6 p.m.; that when the weather is dry the bees gather nectar on sunless days; that the increase is larger after a rainy day; that strong winds affect the work of the bees; that the greater increase was when the wind was south-west or north-east, and that a south wind was not favorable.

#### Teaching Horticulture in the Schools

By Mrs. Jeanette Leader, for the Ont. Horticultural Assn.

Is it not amazing how very little most school children know about flowers. Few know one variety from another. Is it not time that horticulturists tried teaching the students in our schools about them? So long as the boys for the simple things is deeply implanted in the minds and hearts of the students, so long as the beauty of flowers appeals to the soul there is no doubt but that "every day in every way the world will grow better and brighter." It is difficult to think that a boy or girl who becomes interested in flowers and birds will ever go very far astray. But some one must take the time to awaken in them the ability to appreciate the beauties of nature. Our high school pupils were delighted to be given the opportunity of studying flowers. An experimental plot has been established. We have bought many varieties of bulbs and plants and friends have donated some as well. These are labelled with name of variety and donor and the fact that people even out of town were interested enough to send donations has added to the interest of the pupils. The blossoms will be used to decorate the pulpits of the churches, they will give cheer to the sick, the sad and the shut-ins. In the fall the pupils will have an exhibit of the flowers grown. Not only will hundreds of pupils learn in this way to love flowers but the interest will be carried to the homes of their parents, and to their own homes in later years. It is sometimes difficult to get older people interested in growing flowers but it is no trouble at all to teach the students in our schools to love them.

#### Live Stock Prospects Encouraging.

There is much that is encouraging in the sixth annual Live Stock Market and Meat Trade Review for 1925, just issued by the Live Stock Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa. It was the best year for the feeder of good live stock in this country. It would appear, says the Review, that after a long period of depression in the industry that a cycle of prosperity has been entered upon and that, given normal pasture and feed conditions during the next few years, cattle, sheep, and swine

production should more than compensate for the troubles of the past. Prospects, it is definitely said, are encouraging.

The hog situation in Canada in 1925 was remarkable for strong and steady prices on a pretty good run and there was a very noticeable improvement in the general quality of the offering. Hogs of good bacon weights and quality were \$7 per head higher than in 1924. While short supplies from Denmark and the United States and the shipment of 86,000 head from Canada to the Pacific Coast were in a measure responsible for the betterment of the situation, the main reason for the improved market was undoubtedly the generally higher standard of quality in the select and thick smooth classes, due to grading, combined with a better export pack, and a regained reputation among British consumers for the producing and manufacturing of high quality bacon.



**Hopelessly Lost.**

"Would you believe it? That girl follows all the beauty hints she reads."

"Well, she certainly is a long way behind them."

We had a cow that we often found roaming around in the stable in the morning when we went down to do the chores. It took some time for us to find out that she had discovered the trick of reaching up with her horns and lifting the latch of the stanchion. Then the rest was easy. We might have done one of two things. We could have saved off her horns, or tied the latch down every time she was put in the stable. We preferred to tie the latch down, and did it usually.

—E. L. V.

Brain power, and not lung power, will solve the farmer's economic problems.—L. J. Taber.

### GET READY FOR SUMMER

By MARY HAMILTON TALBOTT

Now is the time not only to brighten and clean up the furnishings of the home but to improve the equipment and care for the things which will be out of use until fall.

How about your cellar? If it is a hodge-podge of disorder it can never be kept in a sanitary condition. Have you a storage rack for trunks and boxes? If you build one you will wonder how you ever lived without it; and the packed things will remain sweet and free from mold if you pick out a dry corner. It can vary in size according to your accumulation of trunks and boxes.

Another convenience, which may be built under the stairs, is a rack for storing the storm windows now and the screens in the fall. Go through the rooms and mark each window under the sill, placing a corresponding number on the rack. LR I, II and III mean living room, first, second and third windows.

Shelves for canned fruit, jellies and jams should be in every cellar. Build them substantially in a section that can be kept dark. Twelve inches is a sufficient depth for two rows of jars; more than this is not desirable. If a dark place is not available, hang old shades from the top shelf; these will exclude the light and are convenient to handle.

There is no more fitting slogan to carry into action in the cellar than "a place for everything and everything in its place." There should be hanging shelves near the ceiling on which to store the long poker, coal shovel, lawn mower, rakes, spades, carpet poles, awnings and various other unwieldy things, which are in the cellar at various seasons, and it will save a lot of confusion if they are always kept thus out of the way.

**RAVAGES OF RUST**

Remember that summer is the time that moisture will do a lot of damage, and cause rust which will play havoc with cast iron or steel. When you take down the stoves protect them with a coat of good oil. Don't use odds and ends of cooking fats for a preservative. I know one housewife who did, with direful results, as she did not know that salt aids in the formation of rust. Skates, sled runners and the like should have a coat of lard mixed with black lead and a little camphor.

Many folks with hot-water or steam-heating systems do not draw off all the water in the spring after the

fires are out. This should be done, and then they should be refilled every year to remove the accumulation of sediment and rust. It adds to the life of the heating system material.

If you have a hot-air furnace you will save a lot of dusting next winter if you clean the pipe under the register with your vacuum cleaner; use the small nozzle attachment, without the brush, on the hose. It reaches down a good distance and removes a remarkable quantity of dirt.

So many people have wrinkled rugs in the fall because they do not care for them properly when they are taken up in the spring and stored; for large, heavy rugs should be taken up and smaller rugs and bare floors a rug. Spread newspapers all over it; on top of them sprinkle carbon tetrachloride or a goodly quantity of moth-balls or moth balls, then roll smoothly on a long, thick pole and wrap newspapers around the outer side and carefully seal the ends with strips of pasted paper or cloth.

#### CARE OF FURS AND WOOLENS


At this season you will be putting away your blankets, heavy sweaters and the family's winter underwear. If you want to be sure of having nice, woolly woollens when you resurrect them from their cedar and mothball embalmment with the first snappy days next fall, it is necessary to observe some precautions now about washing them and putting them away. Have all waters of the same temperature, about 110 degrees Fahrenheit. Remember that rubbing and wringing causes wool to harden and felt, and the better your grade of wool the quicker the felting. Strong soaps cause wool to become "tender" and they dissolve the fibers; to save rubbing, soap should be in solution. Borax and ammonia may be used to soften the water, as they are too mild to injure wool. If dried before a fire hot enough to steam the woollens, they will shrink just as if they had been washed in water that was too hot. Ironing with a hot iron shrinks flannels and turns them yellow.

It is a decision to put your furs away for the winter. If you have a pair of hinges on a door, they should be oiled. The bottom, sides and lid, tar paper should be tacked carefully. Over this put unbleached muslin, so that no garment will come in contact with the tar paper. Every article should be well brushed and aimed to make sure that no moths are in it. Remove any grease spots from clothing before storing.


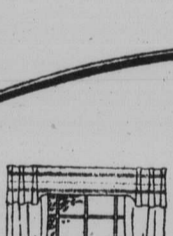
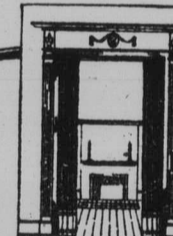
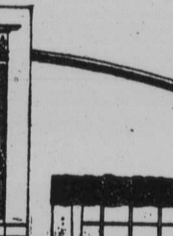

#### Cookery is a Fine Art.

Cookery means the knowledge of Medea and of Helen and of the Queen of Sheba... It means carefulness and inventiveness and willingness and readiness of appliances. It means the economy of your grandmothers and the science of the modern chemist; it means much testing and no wasting; it means English thoroughness and French art and Arabian hospitality; and, in fine, it means that you are to be perfectly and always ladies-look-givers.

If I were a child and some grown-up should presume to call me "kiddie" I would be tempted to march deliberately over to that adult and kick him or her on the shins. "Comfy" is in the same class of imbecile's words. Its tendency is to befuddle the child, causing him to feel so foolish and small that he unconsciously tries to act up to this simper of an appellation.—Mrs. Alta Beech Dunn.



**THE CANADIAN HOMEMAKER**  
A series of weekly articles covering  
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DECORATING . FURNISHING . GARDENING  
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### THE INTERIOR TREATMENT OF WINDOWS

By W. S. Linbery.

We all appreciate the comfort and completeness given to a room when the curtains are hung; in fact, does any one other item contribute so marvelously to the magic of the house-furnisher's wand?

Before considering window treatment itself, it would be well to endeavor to dispose of that nightmare of the decorator and owner—the ubiquitous radiator. The logical position for the radiator is, no doubt, under the window, and this should be considered and settled when the house is building. Do not let the height come above the window sill, and if possible, keep the length less than the window so that curtains can hang down to the floor clear. The radiator can be recessed under the window frame, care being taken to carefully insulate the recess. There are very suitable and artistic metal radiator covers on the market, made of various sizes to fit the standard radiators; or an enclosure of wood can be made, with open metal fronts, ends, and top. These, of course, should be metal lined. Several methods of treatment are illustrated. But in the living-room and dining-room do have the radiators covered; it adds much to the complete finished treatment. Perhaps in the living room you could have it concealed by being built under a china cabinet or cupboard giving the effect of a complete piece of furniture.

As to window hangings, it is a mistake to use a widow treatment so elaborate as to either obscure the light, or hide the beauty of any architectural treatment, especially the former. The so-called Venetian blinds—which were introduced into America as long ago as 1770—have been replaced by the roller shades, these quickly becoming popular because of cheapness and adaptability, but they are ugly unless made of glazed chintz or crepe mahair. The roller blind again has been set aside in favor of the transverse curtains which are a practical and very graceful substitute for them. The blind, however, can still be of service in the bedroom, or where it is imperative to shut out the light at times; even then they should be rolled up to the window top during the day, so that the more decorative window treatment may have full effect, especially in the recess of beauty, use draperies wherever possible. The liner or sash curtains should be made to hang on the sash, if casement, or against the sash if these are of the lifting type, preferably on small rods and rings. The material should be plain open mesh net, silk, voile, or organdie, according to the material of the over curtains; without any pattern, so as not to mar the view by criss-cross lines or other shapes, and to be of a sunny color—light buff, fawn or perhaps grey. Should a cool effect be desired, use

pale green, turquoise blue or mulberry. The outer curtains should be made full enough to cover the entire window opening and at least long enough to reach the bottom of the window sill woodwork, or to within an inch of the floor, as fancy dictates. A valance of the same material, or the more formal pattern valance as shown on the illustrations is much in vogue, and is artistic.

In selecting material for curtains, suitability of design must be considered as well as color and texture. Curtains offer various possibilities of light and shade on the draped folds, and doubtless the beauty of the folds themselves is greatly enhanced by using plain or faintly self-patterned materials. There is always an undesirable confusion of forms in the folds of a large pattern, which still may look well when flat. Bear this in mind. To prevent wastage, do not select a long "repeat" pattern. This for the housewife of limited means, who, however, may plan to use the "wastes" in valances, sofa cushions or lamp shades.

As to materials, lace is taboo, but cretonnes—either cotton or linen or hand-blocked linens, may be used, selecting moderate coloring for bedrooms and the stronger for living rooms. The color and texture of the wall paper or finish must be considered and also the size of wall paper pattern—so that all may scale in harmony.

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