

# The Embellishment of Home Grounds

C. Ernest Woolverton, Landscape Designer, Grimsby, Ontario

TO those who have grounds of their own, the subject of their improvement for the most beautiful effect should be one of the greatest interest.



Mr. C. Ernest Woolverton

The true artistic features of the rooms of a house are not brought out until they are properly furnished. So also the lawn must be furnished in order to bring it into true relationship to the house.

Few people seem to appreciate the true beauty that lies within an open green sward, but if they were to go to the best art museums in the world and study the finest landscape pictures that the most celebrated artists can produce, they would find that the very heart of the landscape picture lies within this tender green space. This, therefore, places the lawn next in importance to the house, as the home should nestle down in the heart of the picture.

It is, then, around and about the house that the true value of the open lawn is apparent. It lends dignity and at the same time gives the house its true setting. Shrubs and flower-beds scattered about would be sure to mar the artistic effect which the open lawn gives and should, therefore, be confined to the boundaries, grouped in the corners or in turns of roadways. By so doing, the framework of the picture is constructed.

No hard and fast rules can be given for the planting of trees and shrubs. Every place requires a different treatment and this treatment must be governed by its condition and location. For instance, a small park in a city square would be best suited by an architectural design, because its surroundings are of a formal nature; whereas, a gentleman's country home would, in most instances, call for a natural design to harmonize with its surroundings. Where the natural style is followed, however, the following principles should be observed: The lawn should be kept open; walks and roads, where possible, should be laid out in curved lines; trees and shrubs should be grouped and not placed in straight rows; the buildings should be united to the grounds by the use of shrubbery planted at the base. Climbers also aid wonderfully in bringing into closest harmony the house with the grounds.

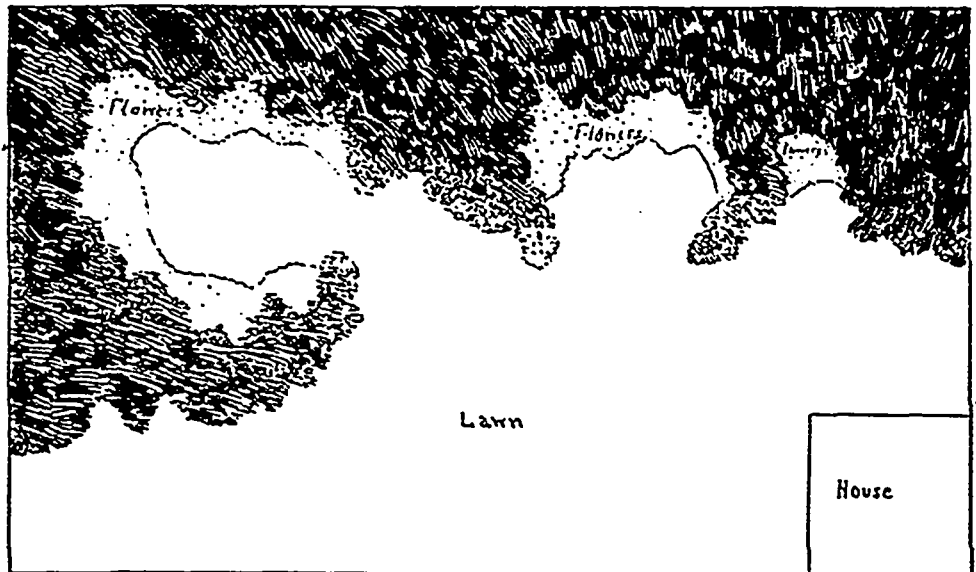
Very picturesque effects can be produced, even on small grounds, by strictly following out the landscape idea. The illustration shows a section of a small lawn, about 100 feet deep, which has been laid out in the natural style. The trees and shrubs are so arranged as to form points and bays of green. In the depth of the bays and in front of the shrubbery are planted hardy flowers. No better place can be found than that to plant hardy perennial flowers, as the dark background of foliage sets them off to a wonderful advantage.

This section of the lawn was planted so as to give the most beautiful effect as seen from the house. Here you look right into the recesses of the bays, which give the lawn the appearance of having much greater depth than it really has. This effect can be heightened by planting blue flowers in the innermost depths of the bays, as blue always lends distance to a scene.

When planting the border do not

would have never-ending attractions. By a good selection of shrubs and flowers, bloom could be had the entire season. As one moves about the place, he is continually greeted by new surprises, because the scene is continually changing. In fact, the same objects viewed from different positions appear altogether changed because new settings are given them.

How much more beautiful and home-like is a lawn laid out in this simple and natural way than one geometrically divided into so many parts, all brilliant and aglow with showy beds of geraniums and gaudy colicuses and acalyphus, showing perhaps the day of the week or some other extraordinary and unnatural figure! Pattern bedding does not belong to the architectural ideal, nor, indeed, does it belong to any system of landscape gardening. The architectural style suits many places that the natural would not, but, until pattern bedding with all its oddities and monstrosities is completely



§ An open Lawn with Trees and Shrubs Grouped on Border is Effective.

make the mistake of planting one little flower by itself, to be neglected and unnoticed, but plant in bold masses. The effect is much more striking and beautiful. Be careful, also, about the colors. Some colors are always at war with one another, and unless they are blended off they will continue to quarrel all summer. Yellow and red, for instance, would never look well together; they should at least have an intermediate color such as bronze, but it is best to keep them well apart. Use plenty of white, as it is the great harmonizer.

A lawn planted as the illustration suggests, and, of course, with the same idea continued on the rest of the grounds,

forsaken, landscape gardening cannot be spoken of as a fine art.

Amaryllis bulbs that have been semi-dormant will soon show signs of growth. When this occurs pot them at once in fairly rich loamy soil.

If new chrysanthemum plants are required, do not pinch off the young growth. When three or four inches in length, cut them off below a leaf joint and insert the cuttings in sharp sand. Keep them in a shady spot where the temperature is about 60 degrees. When rooted pot them singly into small pots. Re-pot when necessary.