

RURAL AND SUBURBAN

PLANTING AND PROPAGATING THE IVIES

The Ivy is probably better known to most beginners in gardening matters than almost any other subject, and yet comparatively little may be understood regarding the method of dealing with the plants and the wealth of material available in the many varieties that are catalogued by nurseries. The Ivy is known to botanists by the names of Hedera, and is a popular genus of evergreen shrubby or climbing plants; it belongs to the Aralia family (Araliaceae). In our British climate the number of hardy evergreen climbing plants is not large, and for this reason the Ivy has an especial value. No other subject will compare with it for covering bare walls or fences and many other unsightly erections. It is in the winter season, when so many trees and shrubs are leafless, that the Ivy asserts its real value. The small-leaved Ivies, of which there are many varieties, are very useful for growing among rockwork; and they are also especially well adapted for training over the roots of large trees. A northern aspect suits these small leaved varieties, where they look very pretty and harmonize satisfactorily with Ferns and similar subjects.

Ivy as an edging is more frequently used now than was the case formerly. Contrasted with the glorious colors of masses of gay flowers in the summer season the effect is beautiful, and is much to be preferred to the many artificial erections, such as tiles, frequently used for the same purpose. A live margin of Ivy some 12 inches to 2 feet in width may be made into a dense fringe if the plants are properly treated. They should be arranged in rows, and the growths pegged down in one direction only as soon as planted. To keep the growths from getting overgrown and uncontrolled, the young shoots should be pinched or cut back two or three times, according to the vigor of the plants, every summer.

In addition to the many beautiful forms of the evergreen-climbing Ivies, there are varieties of the Tree Ivies that are little known. The Tree Ivies are known to the botanist by the name of Hedera arborensis, and are of a non-climbing habit. In Figs. 1 and 2 two examples of the Tree Ivies are shown, and it will be noticed that they are bushes or low standards. They have a special value in the winter season, as they can be lifted if grown in pots and replanted to fill vacant flower-beds. If the plants are to retain their bushy and compact form, they must be grown continuously in pots. The soil for these Tree Ivies should comprise two parts of loam, one part of leaf-mould or decayed manure, and coarse sand in sufficient quantity to make the compost porous. See that the pots are well drained. Potting may be done at any time between October and March. In April the plants should be pruned into shapely specimens. During the growing period water freely, and in the summer established plants in pots will derive considerable benefit from periodical applications of manure-water.

With respect to the planting of the evergreen climbing Ivies, the numerous forms of which have originated from one species, Hedera Helix, a native plant of Britain and other parts of Europe, objection is sometimes taken to the growth of this subject on the walls of dwellings, on the alleged ground that it makes them damp and for other reasons. A moment's reflection will refute such an idea. As a matter of fact it has just the opposite effect. Moisture is drawn off by the aerial rootlets which adhere to the wall, and the leaves throw off the rain. When planting it is important to remember that the Ivy does not take kindly to cemented walls, and unless special measures can be adopted to erect a trellis or something of the kind, it may be courting failure to plant in such positions.

Ivy may be planted at any time between September and November and February and April inclusive. When planting it is better to purchase plants in pots, as the roots suffer less from disturbance. Should the soil in the pots be rather dry on arrival of the plants, give them a good watering before planting. Fig. 3 represents a small Ivy recently planted for covering a wall. Where it is intended to plant Ivy against falls, the ground should be trenched fully two feet to three feet square, working in a plentiful supply of well-rotted manure, and a quantity of old mortar rubbish can be incorporated so much the better, as Ivy revels in soil of a limy nature. It is well to remember, however, that rich soil causes the variegation to lose much of its beauty and the leaves ultimately to assume a green color. For this reason plant the variegated sorts in poor soil.

The various forms of the hardy evergreen climbing Ivies may be propagated by cuttings outdoors, those made from firm shoots eight inches to a foot in length answering very well. Fig. 4 shows a shoot suitable for making into a cutting, and a cutting properly prepared and ready for insertion. Note how the lower half of the leaves have been removed and the stem cut through immediately below a joint. These cuttings should be inserted in ordinary sandy soil, half their length, in small trenches of sufficient depth, and the soil made firm at their base before leveling off and finishing the operation. A border under a north wall, or a similar position, should be selected, and the propagation be done at any time between September and November, and later when the weather is not very frosty. By these means plants may be raised with the greatest ease.

Good sorts to grow are Hedera Helix canariensis (the Irish Ivy), a very reliable variety, suitable for covering fences, walls and bare, slightly places; H. digitata, dark green, variegated with white, equally good for walls, etc.; H. dentata; H. purpurea, purplish; H. troeneriana (the Giant Ivy), large heart-shaped leaves, suitable for arches, pergolas, tree trunks and walls; H. canariensis aureo-

maculata, green and gold; H. marginata, leaves green, edged creamy white; H. Silver Queen, margined and splashed ivory white; H. Tricolor, green leaves, splashed ivory white; H. maculata, green leaves, margined and splashed cream; H. madrensis variegata, beautifully variegated and suitable only for warm positions, like most of the variegated varieties, the extremely hardy and beautiful H. caenwoodiana, with deeply lobed leaves of medium size, dark green; and many others.—The Garden.

ROCK GARDENING

Take a walk out to the golf links, or further afield to Mount Tolmie and Cedar Hill, or, again, take a boat and row round to Esquimalt, and land at any of the numerous little bays that you see on your way or that capture your fancy when you reach the harbor, and you will find a rock-garden-clothed-by nature with



1.—A golden variegated form of the Tree Ivy (Hedera arborensis)

lichens and mosses, with sea-pinks and sedums, saxifrages and heucheras, that at almost any season of the year, form a pleasant picture to the eye.

Perhaps it is owing to nature's lavish handiwork in this respect that so few people have taken up this form of gardening; rather, it should be an additional incentive to continue the good work by building a rock-garden close to our home and introducing some of the many flowering rock plants and alpines that a little care and attention will cause to flourish as luxuriantly as in their native habitat.

There must be many people who, if they had ever given attention to these dainty tufts and cushions of dense foliage, and noted the exquisite coloring of the masses of brilliant flowers, would be seized with the desire to excel in their cultivation. In England in the last few years there has been a remarkable growth of interest in the cultivation of rock plants, and numerous rock-gardens have been constructed all over the country. There, however, the rock necessary for the work has in many instances to be shipped long distances, making this form of gardening the luxury of a few; here, on the other hand, there are few gardens of any extent that have not some portion occupied by rock that could with very small outlay be concerted into an excellent rock-garden.

Messrs. Backhouse & Co. of New York, one of the best known firms engaged in that class of work, advertise to build rock-gardens from two hundred and fifty dollars up. I venture to say that for the tenth part of the cost of the smallest rock-garden this firm constructs, one could lay out in Victoria quite an interesting garden of this description.

On this continent generally, alpines have been but little cultivated, but I think I am right in saying that there are as many species and as attractive plants of this class native to North America, as among those long cultivated in Europe.

Foremost amongst the joys of rock-gardening is the pleasure of collecting the plants that we cultivate. Within a day's journey of Victoria may be found a collection of rock plants large enough to furnish charming groups of flower combination to the flower lover. There is no form of gardening that appeals so much to our finest feelings, or is so full of sustained interest as rock-gardening; every month of the year has its own blossoms. At the date of writing the rocks are bright with Sisyrrinchium and Erythronium, with saxifrage and bearberry, minulus and arabis and wallflower. A gardener coming in two or three days a week will keep up a bright show of color in the garden during the flowering months; but the rock-garden is more dependent on the touch of the owner's hand to produce the best results; put in the plants yourself, form your own combinations of color and massing, and your rock-garden will be a thing of joy and satisfaction the whole year round.

KITCHEN GARDEN

Those beginners in gardening who invest in a frame will naturally wish to make the fullest use of it, and to do so at this season it is essential to form a good hot-bed on which to place it. The materials for making the hot-bed should now be got together, the best undoubtedly being one-half long straw, and fresh stable manure, and the other half freshly gathered and unfermented leaves. Many, however, cannot procure leaves in this condition, and must, perforce, rely on manure of the kind mentioned above. It will be necessary to secure enough to form a solid mass 2 feet thick at the top end and 1 foot wider each way than the frame, and before being made up into the bed it should be thoroughly turned and shaken up every other day for a week or ten days. In making the bed form a good slope towards the south, so as to catch as much sun as possible, and tread the whole firm as the work proceeds. After placing the frame in position, a few inches of finely sifted soil may be placed over the manure, and in a

few days should be fit for sowing or the standing in of seed-boxes.

Flower Garden

Where Christmas Roses are grown they will now be throwing up their beautiful wax-like white flowers, and steps must be taken, if not already done, to protect them from bad weather and the ravages of slugs. A hand-light or bell-glass placed over the plants will keep off rain, fog and sooty matter, which do so much to spoil the beauty of the flowers; but slugs are more difficult to deal with. I have found that Kilogrub sprinkled round the bases of the flower and leaf stems is a good deterrent and, moreover, a simple one. Another hardy plant that gives us its blossoms outdoors at this season is the fragrant Iris stylosa. Sparrows are very fond of plucking these blossoms; hence some means must be taken to stop the mischief. A piece of fine fish or wire netting fixed over the plant or plants answers very well, or some strands of black cotton secured to sticks inserted round the clumps will do.

Fruit Garden

Many amateurs make a point of growing a tree or two of Morello Cherries, particularly where a north wall is available, as this is one of the fruits which do well in such a position. We must not, however, think that a north wall is essential, as this fruit will do quite well when grown in bush form in the open. Where pruning has not been done, this should be attended to at once. Before commencing the work it will be well to remember that the fruits are borne only on wood that was formed last year; hence it will be seen that these are the shoots to retain as far as possible. Pruning, therefore, will consist of cutting out sufficient two years or more old shoots to make room for the young ones. In the case of wall trees the latter may be nailed into position as soon as pruning is finished; six inches apart being a good distance to allow for the shoots that are retained, leaving these nearly or quite their full length. Of course, it will be necessary to remove some young ones, and the weakest and most unripe ones should be taken away.—The Garden.

THE HOME GARDEN

The first consideration in the laying out of the home grounds is to know what you want for convenience's sake. The home is for use, not for ornament. The useful should be conformative, and when the attractiveness comes to be artistic. Mere ornament—I mean ornament that is not related to some useful or



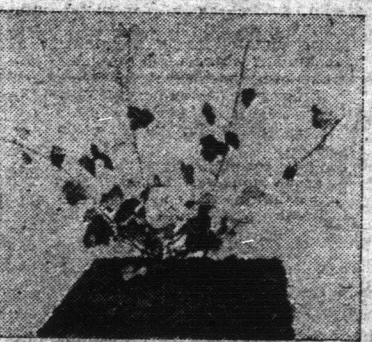
2.—A green-leaved form of the Tree Ivy. Useful for plunging in flower-beds during the winter months

artistic purpose—is of no consequence. "Here is a handsome rose; you should have it," pleads the plant agent. But does your place need a rose? Perhaps it needs a lilac bush, or even mere sward. Consider the place itself before you consider the details.

These are the immovable objects, or the permanent uses of the place. We will assume that the house is built; this, then, is the leading fixed point. The limits of the place also are fixed. It is necessary that the entrance be at a certain point in order that the going and coming may be direct and pleasant. There may be large trees or other natural features on the place.

The General Style of Treatment

Formal or Natural? Then consider what general style of handling you desire. If you want a strictly formal treatment, let it con-



3.—A recently planted Ivy for covering a wall. Note how the growths are secured to the wall by shreds and nails

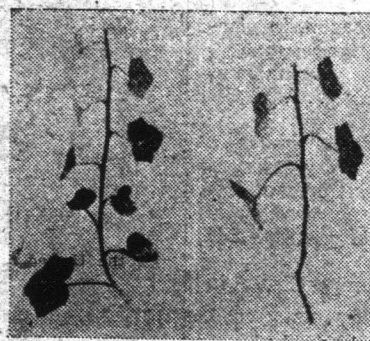
form well with the architecture, being a part of the yard scheme. In this case, the basal line of the building should be carried out horizontally by means of walls and other architectural forms. The cases are relatively few, in which the strictly formal treatment is desirable. If you want a "formal garden," that is a very different matter; this you may place at one side or in the rear of your grounds, in the

same spirit that you would place a rose garden or a vegetable garden.

In general the "natural style" is better. The term "natural style" really means very little, except that it has become established in literature as expressing a contrast to the rigidly formal treatment of grounds. It does not contend the grounds shall be strictly "natural," for then they would be wild and very likely unlovable; it means only that free and often irregular lines shall be used rather than right lines and geometrical figures. The general theory of most home grounds should be the "open centre" and mass-planted boundaries.

The Open Centre and Massed Borders

Of course, the front boundaries should usually be left open, although one sometimes may wish to screen the place from undue publicity



4.—Cuttings of the Evergreen Ivy. That on the left is the kind of shoot from which cuttings are made, and that on the right is a cutting properly prepared and ready for planting.

by means of a low planting next the street. The relative extent of open sward and border planting cannot be determined by rule; every place is a law unto itself in this regard (as a fact, in all regards), but it is well to say that less than one-fourth of the area should be devoted to mass planting. Usually the proportion of planting should be much smaller than this, particularly on relatively large places. This does not mean that the lawn should be bare of all planting, but the general effect should be to avoid scattered and choppy effects.

As for walks, make only enough to serve the purposes of the place. Avoid ready-made plants. The kind of planting that shall characterize every establishment cannot be determined from any mere description of the place. "Paper plans" are at best only a suggestion. The only really satisfactory plan and advice, as a rule, are those that are the result of a careful study of the place—the immediate surroundings, the outlook, the personal desires of the owner, the climate, the soil, the size of the area, all determine what would be best to be done; but it is always safe to do too little rather than too much.

Grading a Costly Business

As for grades, let them be such that water runs away from the house. It is better that walks ascend toward the house, rather than descend. Make all grades gentle and flowing as far as possible. If it is necessary to have a sharp bank, let it be on the outer boundary—unless the architecture is such that an esplanade terrace can be made next the building and become a part of it. It is very rare that a sharp bank or good effect in grade can be made with good effect in the middle of any place of ordinary size. It is well to let the grade rise gently toward stone walls, boulders and trees. By all means do not cover the bases of the trees. The irregular little mound of earth that stands naturally about a tree, and the spreading, bracing base of the tree itself, are characteristic elements in the beauty of trees. Neither must you have a tree on a high knoll or terrace—nearly always you can grade up to it or away from it in such a way as to leave a natural look.

The Great Importance of Drainage

Look well to all drainage before the grading is completed. If the land is wet or "cold" in places an underdrain of tile should be laid through the wet places. If it is very hard clay, an underdrain will tend to aerate and loosen the soil. All house drains should be carefully and permanently laid, and their position should be charted or marked so that they may be readily found on occasion. If these drains are laid in filled soil, great care should be taken to pound the earth underneath them to prevent settling. When willow-elms, or other drain-loving trees grow in the neighborhood, the drain joints should be thoroughly cemented to prevent the roots from entering. If the yard is filled or the land has been deeply spaded or plowed, allow for some settling of the surface. Usually the fresh grading should be one to four-inches higher than is desired for the permanent surface.

It is always well for the beginner to make a sketch or ground plan of his place, drawing it to a scale and indicating the position of the plantings and other objects. On no account should this plan be a theoretical one, however; it should be the result of a careful study of the place—the place should not be the result of the plan. But the drawing of the plan focuses, and crystallizes one's ideas, and gives definiteness to the work. It is well to study out the planting schemes with much care, making lists of the trees and shrubs and perennial herbs for each part of the area. These lists will be invaluable for reference and guidance; and gradually you will be compiling experience about your plants that will be of

value to others also. Finally, do not fear to take advice at every doubtful point.—L. H. Bailey.

THE PRUNING KNIFE

Before undertaking to prune anything, the amateur needs to know a few axioms of plant growth. He should be able to give a reason for every cut he makes.

1. Early-blooming shrubs and trees are best pruned in summer time just after the blossoms fade. To prune in the spring is next best, though there is a great waste in the plant's summer work in the sacrifice of blossom buds.

2. Late-blooming shrubs and trees form flower buds in the spring shoots. They are best pruned in early spring.

3. The great advantage of spring pruning is the rapid healing of wounds. For the great majority of our hardy ornamentals, and for shade and fruit trees, early spring pruning is best.

4. Winter pruning is undesirable because the healing of wounds must wait until spring. Tender things are injured by cold, and hardy things by drying of the exposed tissues. The only justification for pruning in fall and mid-winter is that there is leisure to do it at no other season. Winter pruning is better than no pruning at all. Dead or unfeebled wood should be cut out when discovered, no matter what time of year.

5. Yearly pruning keeps the specimen well in hand, and makes heavy sawing and chopping unnecessary. It leaves the smallest wounds to be healed. It is a good habit for the amateur to get into, for it insures his combined interest in individual specimens upon which the character and beauty of his garden depends.

How to Prune Shade Trees

An ideal shade tree should be symmetrical, free from dead or diseased parts, vigorous, bearing on a strong framework of trunk and limbs an ample but not crowded canopy of leaves. It has, moreover, the distinctive character of its race, as the fan top of an elm, with its outer branches pendant; or the upright oval of a hard maple.

It is customary to let shade trees alone until their condition becomes critically bad. Then some hired man is delegated to trim them, and he is instructed to "make a thorough job of it." The result is generally deplorable. Well-meaning, conscientious ignorance can do far more harm with axe and saw than the same ignorance with chronic disposition to shirk.

If a tree is worth pruning at all, the owner should get some ideas as to how it ought to be pruned, and then at least stand by to see that these are carried out.

What Limbs to Remove

All dead and broken limbs are worse than useless; they menace the tree's life. Long limbs, as of silver maple, become so heavy that they are in danger of breaking in wind storms and damaging neighboring windows. Such limbs must be cut back. Thinning of branches is next to be attended to. Interference chafes the bark, and the nutrition of the limbs thus involved is disturbed. Which ones show sickly foliage and enfeebled growth? Those should be taken out, giving the advantage of more sun and air to the strongest limbs. These trimmings need not destroy the character of the tree. They put new life into it. A season's growth will take away the stubby appearance.

How to Cut Off Limbs

Use a saw—never an axe! Saw as close as possible to the main branch. Have no protruding stub to be swallowed by the healing tissue that rolls in and covers the wound. Leave no ragged edges. Do not tear the bark. Finish the job with a knife, rather, after the saw reaches the bark.

Any break in the bark admits the germs of tree diseases that float in the air. Every limb is rooted on the thick mass of a larger one. Its wood is a porous mass of fibers, with starchy contents that drink in the rain. This forms a soil in which wood-destroying fungi thrive. Every rotten tree in the neighborhood casts its spores on the air.

For this reason it is essential to cover wounds with extreme care. Some waterproof substance is demanded. White lead in linseed oil forms a paint that is efficacious. It must be carefully and conscientiously applied. One dressing rarely lasts as long as there is need. The larger the limb amputated, the larger the wound, and two or three years is not long for the healing process. The wound will need re-painting, else danger of inoculation will still threaten the heart of the tree.

Nature takes charge of the pruning of laurel and rhododendrons, as a rule. The evergreen leaves shade and discourage weak twigs. Occasionally a wayward branch must be cut back to keep the symmetry of the whole. Otener, buds and branch tips winter kill; these should be cut back to sound wood, which will send out new buds.

If you want to increase your black cap raspberries, the tops of the shoots should be fastened to the ground to root. The red raspberries are better grown from root cuttings made in the late fall and buried through the winter in boxes of sand to plant in spring. Root cuttings of these and blackberries are far better than suckers for that purpose.

IRISHMEN STRIKE AT FOES OF IRELAND

Movement Against the Usurpers Started from New York Designed to Free the Green Isle and Disintegrate Empire

"Headquarters Canadian Republican Army. The Boers like the English, and don't they know it. Bust the British Empire. Hurrah for Ireland. Col. Mike Sullivan, of the Fenian Army, 41 Boulevard, New York City." Like a bolt from the blue, destined to shake the empire to its very depths and threatening ruin and dissolution to all that stand in the way of the patriots, the Movement has commenced.

Despite the fancied security and safety into which the foes of Ireland have been lulled, despite the fact that the usurper drives along Irish lanes to the fastnesses of the British Islands, the Fenian Army has been roused from their lawful owners' reign of Henry II, with never a thought save some slight, misty, misty mistles were hurled from the an of an evicted tenant passes his ar, all is not lost. The Colonist is in position to state that active and aggressive measures are about to be taken, have commenced in fact.

The movement had its beginning on St. Patrick's Day last. For and widely mislaid were hurled from the headquarters of the propagandists in New York. Before the tyrants could pick, could take to hiding—this very moment some of the mistles are reaching them. One under a misapprehension was directed at the editor of the Colonist. It reached him yesterday in the form of a picture postcard, bearing the above sentences written in ink of darkest dye by a hand evidently trembling from emotion. The Kaiser and Germany are identically acting in collusion with the patriots for the card bears upon its verso side the fearful words, "made Germany."

WORKS BUILDING OF RAILWAY DEPOT

at Northern Falls to File With Government Plans of Construction Work at Terminal City

New Westminster during the past night appears to have wrought up very considerable excitement over the suspension of operations in connection with the building of the Great Northern depot at the end of the Fraser bridge, by order of the municipal public works engineer, F. C. Mable. The government, it may be truthfully explained, had leased the site in question from the city of New Westminster for ninety-nine years, at the nominal rental of \$1 per acre, the property being thus secured for the purpose of preparing a satisfactory approach to the bridge. In case of excavation, dilie, or other means to guarantee that Colum-street (the adjacent thoroughfare) all not be encroached upon.

When the Great Northern began excavations for their depot premises, they did not so much as communicate to the government, but calmly proceeded to excavate on the government's behalf and utilize the earth for building their spur line out to the Fraser river mill.

As soon as the condition of affairs is realized by the department officials, work was naturally stopped, the company being required to file plans showing its building intentions, and to enter into an undertaking by which any other railway company using the bridge may have access to the depot under certain reasonable conditions. Plans have not yet been filed, nor has the agreement referred to been executed, for which reason operations remain in statu quo.

There is no disposition on the part of the government to delay the progressive works of the railway company, but the case is one in which the duty demands that the rights of the province and of New Westminster city shall be fully secured.

Many Passengers

ALIFAX, March 24.—The Allan line liner Victorian arrived here at night from Liverpool with the Indian mails and 1,400 passengers.

Elevator Burned

LIBERT PLAINS, Man., March 24.—The Canadian Elevator Company's elevator here was burned to the ground at an early hour this morning. The elevator had a capacity of 30,000 bushels, and there was between five and fifteen thousand bushels of grain destroyed.

Open on Easter Monday

TORONTO, March 24.—For the first in its history, the Toronto Stock Exchange will be open for business on Easter Monday. Although it is a holiday, there is such a volume of business with New York now on the edge of brokers that the exchange, and consequently brokers' offices, will be that day.

Work has resumed at the great Eugene mine.