

combination of soil, sand and water. Place in the bottom of the vessel to be used, an inch or so of good rich loam or soil from the compost heap. The soil cannot be too rich, the only requirement being that the fertilizing element is thoroughly decomposed and ready to be taken up and converted into plant and bloom as soon as roots and soil come together. Over this, place clean sand to the desired depth upon which place the bulb, holding in position with pebbles. Allow the water to come up just high enough to be seen above the sand.

Paper white narcissus may be forced into bloom within four weeks from the time of planting. By starting to plant in September and planting at intervals during October and November, blooming plants may be had throughout the winter; or the last planting may be made in October and the blooming period regulated by the temperature of the room in which they grow. Heat will hasten the blooming period and, if the plants are coming



Paper White Narcissus

on too quickly they may be retarded by placing in a cooler room.

About Peony Varieties

Rev. Andrew B. Baird, Winnipeg

There are half a dozen distinct varieties of peonies from which the hundreds of varieties now offered for sale are descended. These species differ in the shape of the leaf, in the smoothness or hairiness of the stem and in the color and shape of the flower.

The most distinct of these is the old-fashioned "piney" familiar to our childhood (*Pæonia officinalis*) with its foliage dark green above, light green beneath and with dark crimson flowers. This is a native of Switzerland. The others come from Siberia, Southern Europe, the Himalayas and the tree peony from China.

One of the features in which improvement has been most noticeable is fragrance. The old "officinalis" had a pungent and rather disagreeable odor. Now

new varieties possess the greatest diversity of perfume—Marcelle Dessert and Madame Boulanger have the fragrance of the rose, Humei is cinnamon-scented, the Nymph has the fragrance of the pond lily, and others recall the heliotrope or the violet.

It is to be hoped that some local dealer will make a specialty of peonies and will carry a good stock of, say, at least a dozen of the best varieties. While the number of the advertised varieties runs up into the hundreds, it must be admitted that most of the differences are in the names rather than in the flowers. The range of colors is not great; it runs through white, pink, the various shades of red and purple, with two or three varieties more or less yellow. My own collection numbers some thirty plants of twenty varieties. The kinds that I would specially recommend will be given in a later issue of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

Hedges for Western Homes

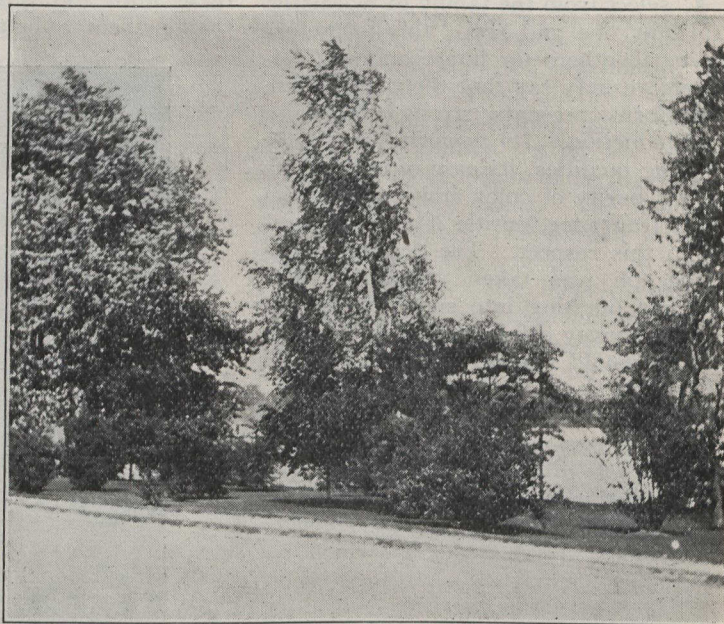
S. A. Bedford, Manitoba Agricultural College

For the city or town, a hedge can with advantage be planted on each side of a walk or driveway leading to the residence. For this purpose a low-growing fine-sprayed plant should be used, as a coarse hedge would obstruct the view and look out of place.

The native snowberry, with its tiny blossom in summer and pretty white fruit in fall is excellent for the smallest sized hedges. It takes kindly to pruning and can be kept down to one or two feet in height. The native spirea, found all over the prairie, is another excellent plant for this purpose. It makes a hedge a little taller than the former and is covered with showy flowers in early summer. It stands pruning well and there is no difficulty in getting it to thicken out at the base. It is suitable for a hedge from three to four feet high and is well adapted for planting beside wide walks or narrow roads, leading to a residence.

In the city a hedge is often required for the purpose of a dividing line between two neighboring houses, where a fence would look unsightly. For this purpose it should be somewhat taller than the other two hedges I have mentioned, but still neat and compact. Nothing is better for this than the purple lilac. It

stands pruning well, if a somewhat low hedge is required, and blooms freely if left unpruned. The foliage is a bright green right up to severe frosts, but prun-



Isolated Overgrown Shrubs Spoiling Fine Trees and Clogging Vistas of American Falls
In Queen Victoria Park at Niagara Falls. See page 198.

ing must be frequent if a shapely hedge is required.

For the purpose of a screen between the front and rear of a house, nothing is better than the caragana, if properly pruned, but this shrub is difficult to train unless taken very young. It should be planted in the hedge row when one year old and cut back severely at once. It will then start to branch close to the ground, and make a handsome hedge. Owing to the soft silver foliage and bright yellow blossoms, this is a very attractive hedge plant.

To serve the purpose of a fence parallel with the sidewalk, caragana, lilac or wild rose can be used. The latter requires very frequent pruning, otherwise it quickly becomes unsightly. For foliage effect our native red willow (*Cornus*) is excellent. It grows readily from cuttings and is a bright red color even in winter. For a contrast, our native buffalo berry is excellent. The foliage of this plant is a bright silver color and its small fruit nearly covers the branches in the autumn.

Dwarf Apples

Can dwarf apples be grown successfully in the Grimsby district?—A. R., Grimsby, Ont.

Dwarf apples can be grown as successfully about Grimsby as anywhere else in the province of Ontario. Dwarf pears are grown there quite extensively. The large nursery firms in the Niagara district offer dwarf apples and pears for sale.

Give trees in the nursery plenty of room if you want them to be stocky.