



A Fine Lawn with Trees for Background.
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The Garden and the Home.

"A garden is a lovable place, God wot," sang a poet, and his little poem has lived simply because it is true. If you have never had any experience, and don't believe the statement, and think all such "gush" tommyrot and sentiment, just start a little garden and find out for yourself; then, don't be surprised if you find yourself sneaking around before breakfast to see how things are growing, and secretly exulting that you have the best beans that ever were grown, and the crispest lettuce, and such cucumbers!—to say nothing of the flowers.

Of course, if you just scratch the top of the soil a bit, throw in a few seeds and leave them there, you need not expect to wax enthusiastic. You must give your plants a fair deal. As Peter McArthur said, not long ago, you "can't cheat nature," but if you do the square thing by her, she is pretty likely to do the square thing by you—"barrin' accidents," of course.

Now, to two concrete examples, just to nail the point. One man in this city, a "traveller," with the week-ends on his hands, for long enough refused to start a garden. "It wasn't worth while. The family was small, and it didn't cost so very much to buy both flowers and vegetables for the table." Last year, however, he did put in a pansy bed, a few verbenas and nasturtiums, and a Japanese-hoop vine. "There never were such pansies! And were ever nasturtiums and verbenas known to bloom so long?" This year he has a fine back lawn, with a flower border all around it, and has essayed about sixteen feet square of vegetable garden.

Presto! There never were in this world radishes so crisp! Never such tomatoes! Never such cucumbers! Forgive him his rhapsodies. They are just of the species that you will experience yourself, if you try it—and no one minds a bit of braggadocio over a garden. . . . Example No. 2: Another citizen, two years ago, began a garden for the first time, chiefly vegetables. He went at it with a will, read up on the subject, made his back yard a demonstration plot of what scientific

certainly be to a "small" farm, for his faith in intensive culture of the land is becoming a passion.

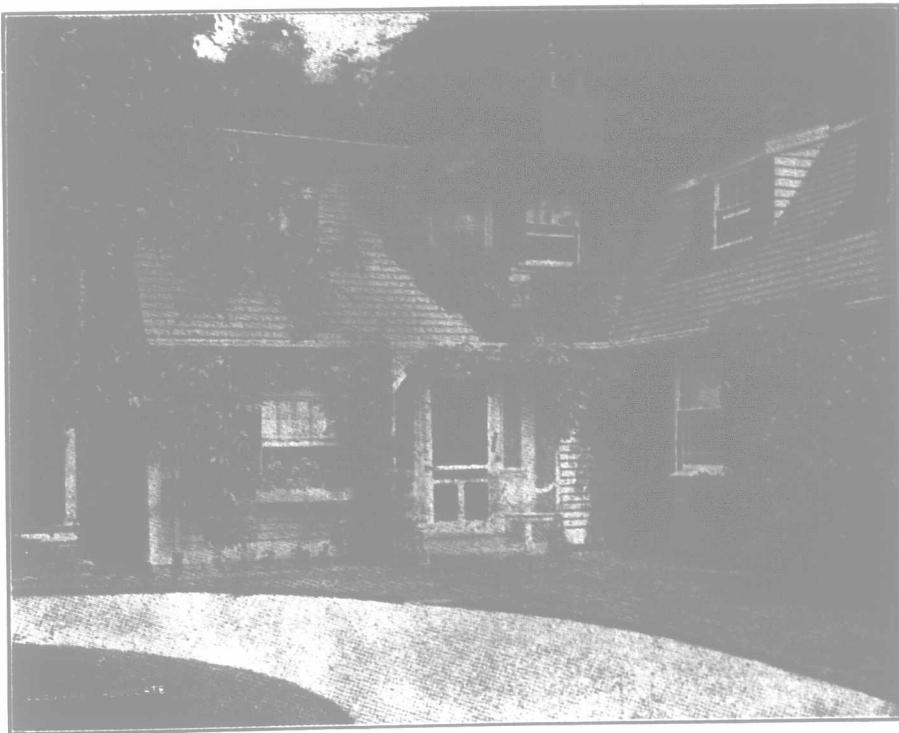
Both of these men have found out that a garden is worth while, and they are only two of hosts; then, why should not everyone make the experiment?—for there are still hosts who have never even tried, at least beyond an onion bed and potato patch. The advantages of a vegetable garden—at least, some of them—are patent even to the gourmand. The aesthete finds,

lawn and flower garden, ah, here is the finer pleasure—the sort of pleasure that tends to make a man sweeter of mind and gentler of manner, and a woman daintier and more womanly than she might otherwise be. Don't scoff at such statements. Even the "heathen Chinee" has said, "If you have two loaves, sell one and buy a lily to feed your soul." . . . Then, the children—bless them!—how happy are they if they have grown up amid beautiful surroundings!

What memories of the old home they will carry with them through life! How much more likely to be real gentlemen and ladies in manner and appearance, than if raised on an outlook of a burdock patch and pigpen!

And now, why all this talk in fall, when gardens are in the sere and the last blossoms on the stalk? Simply this, that fall is the time for beginning a garden. . . . True, in a cold climate, such as ours, spring is the best time for setting out a great majority of plants, trees and bushes, especially exotics, in order that they may have time to develop strength and hardihood before being called on to endure the wintry blasts. At the same time, it is necessary to remember that fall is the ideal time for preparing the root-bed. Work up the land in the fall and put in the manure, so that it may be rotting into fine black mould during the months before planting time, and see how your plants and bushes will enjoy it, especially if the bed has been made deep, deep into the ground.

Again, the fact must not be overlooked that there are many bushes, trees, vines and perennial flowers that are quite hardy enough for fall planting, and that most farmers have more time at this season than in



The Back Yard Should be Attractive.

gardening can do. As a result, he is easily realizing four times as much "stuff" as his neighbors on each side are raising of the same extent of ground. Naturally, he is enthusiastic. Indeed, it would excite but little surprise if, at any time, he took wings and migrated to a small farm. If he does so, it will

also, that feathery carrots and red-topped beets, and plummy celery, and cabbage, with its bluish bloom, may be very beautiful, and that there is a real delight in seeing things grow and develop under one's own care and direction—a sort of creative process that brings its own reward. . . . As for the