100

FARM AND DAIRY





Which Method of Planting Shrubs is Most Effective?

In setting out shrubs and evergreens on the lawn, care should be taken to group them about the outside and in corners, leaving clear vistas as in the illustration on the right. Note the messy effect of planting a perimens indiscriminately as shown on the left.

## Let Us Beautify Our Farm Homes

A Few Flowers and Shrubs Will Return Big Dividends in Health and Pleasure for the Time and Trouble Spent

THEORETICALLY it is great to be raised on a farm. We hear often of the advantages enjoyed by the boy or girl who spends his or her youthful hours "mong the birds and flowers in God's great out-of-doors." But in too many cases, the farm home is more nearly a desert than a flower garden. We imagine that we are too busy to bother with flowers—likewise fruits, or we haven't room on ur 159-acre farm to allow a few hundred feet for shrubbery, flower beds or a bit of lawn about the house. And so we find the house standing out bleak nouse. And so we find the nouse standing out bleak and bare and probably unpainted at that—the only ugly spot among the cultivated fields. By a little effort we might make the house and its surround-ings look like a little oasis.

Most farm homes have a good natural setting What is wanted is a few shrubs to make the house blend with the landscape. A few clumps of flowers in the garden to delight the eye with their varied tints, and plenty of blooms for cutting to brighter up the rooms and make the house more I've a home up the rooms and make the house more rise a nome. Instead of the upkeep of a flower garden being an onerous undertaking it will be found that the work necessary will be a break in other tasks. There the housewife may get away from the cares of sweeping and dusting, baking and the other monoto-

weeping and dusting, baking and the other monoto-nous duties of housekeeping.

Have a Lawn.

Wherever possible a lawn should be laid out.

Unlike city folks the farmers cannot plead lack of Unlike city folks the farmers cannot plead lack of grounds. The only thing is to have the lawn moderate enough in size so that the work of keeping it in shape will not be discouraging. Wherever possible the lawns should be laid out along generous lines, to give a broadening effect to the front. A little lawn of the same or lesser width than the house laid out in severely straight lines is better than nothing, but not best where land is plentiful. The beauty of any lawn is enhanced by keeping it mow

A well-trimmed hedge, whether of one of the evergreens or of leafing shrubs, adds much to the appearance of the grounds. Circumstances may differ, but in most cases a hedge presents the best appearance and allows a better view of the grounds, if it is not allowed to grow more than three and onehalf feet high. In some cases two feet high is better than higher.

Shrubs Help a Lot. Shrubs flowering at different seasons add much to Shrubs flowering at different seasons and muon to the beauty of grounds, after they once get a root-hold little attention need be given them. They should not be in the lawn nor in straight lines, but rather grouped in the corners or near the border. Spireas, honeysuckles, Siberian peas, syringa

weigelas variegated, are all good hardy shrubs. Group the taller growing shrubs behind the smaller ones, and if flower beds are to be planted, these may be in front of the smaller shrubs. The rising back-ground gives a pleasing appearance from the lawn.

ground gives a pleasing appearance from the lawn. The planting of hardy flowering shrubs, whether it be in large grounds or small gardens, involves a certain amount of artistic skill in the selection and arrangement of plants suitable for the purpose. In arrangement of plants suitable for the purpose. In the case of shrubs, foliage as a rule plays a more important part than the bloom which lasts but a short time at most. Good effects in grouping shrubs generally depend, therefore, upon harmony or pleas-ing contrast in foliage, and, to a. smaller degree,

on the flowers or fruits. Again, the grouping of certain shrubs which in one instance would produce an artistic effect, would in another look quite duce an artistic effect, would in another look quite out of place; so, therefore, it is necessary to select and arrange the shrubs according to the general layout of the house and surroundings. The outlay of money in this connection should not be considered in any way as an expense, but rather as an investment, for, by the judicious planting of trees and shrubs, the property is beautified and made more attractive.

Preparation of the Soil.

The soil where shrubs are to be set should be thoroughly spaded and enriched with we'l rotted barnyard manure. The holes should be made of ample dimensions and deep enough so that the roots can spread out and so that the plant will stand in the same position as when growing in the nursery. More trees and shrubs are lost by deep planting than by shallow.

Now take the tree and place in position and

sprinkle fine soil among the roots, shaking the tree a little from time to time so that the soil is worked a little from the to time so that the soil is worked well in. It is important to pack the soil firmly around the plant so that all the roots will come in contact with the fresh soil. When the roots are well covered, the earth should be tramped firmly. well covered, the earth should be tramped firmly. Put in more earth and tramp again. The last two or three inches of earth should not be tramped-leaving it loose for the rain to be taken in. Do not round up the earth about the tree lest the water run off. Failures are often prevented by mulching the new planting with decayed leaves or well rotted manure so as to preserve the moisture in the soil during the dry, hot days and to prevent the alternative forms. nate freezing and thawing in the winter.

The Flower Garden. There is no investment that will bring higher dithat will bring higher dividends of satisfaction than the time and money spent in getting a fow flowers started about the farm slome—a very little money spent in seeds will give a very big return in

Pansy seed may be sown in March or April indoors. These plants will give a quantity of bloom during late summer, even as late as November. If some loose garden rubbish and dry leaves are thrown over the plants late in the au-tumn before severe frosts, they will also give some flowers early the following spring.

Pansies like a rich, light soll, and some shade in the middle of the day. A north

border near to a fence or building—not under trees—suits them well. Black soil from the woods, and a liberal application of either cov or sheep manure dug into the soil before planting, together with plenty of water in hot weather, will produce fine large blooms and much better flowers late in the season than plants that were raised and kept in cold frames over winter.

Annuals

A few varieties of annuals such as asters, Chinese pinks, phlox drummondii, zinnias, balsams, marigoid, corcopsis, scabiosa, schizanthus (butterfly flower), and other varieties if needed may be sown indoors early in April. A great many annuals, such as popearly in April. A great many annuals, such as pop-ples, nasturtiums, mignonette, ten week stock, silence (catchiy), gypsophila elegans, nigella (love in a mist), annual larkspurs, and other similar annuals do not transplant or succeed as well when sown indoors. It is best to sow these last named out of doors in the border where they are to grow.

A good annual, especially for a hot, sunny posi-tion is portulacca. The seed is best sown broadcast on fine soil and raked in lightly. Thin the plants later on from four to six inches apart. If you have a dry, hot, sunny position where very few plants will grow, try some portulacca. A small patch of edging of portulacca will transform a barren, dry spot in the garden into a real beauty spot, during the hot-test days of summer, when many other plants are suffering badly from heat and drought.

If a few early nasturtium plants, or any climbing annuals, are wanted for window or verandah boxes, put two or three seeds in soil in a three-inch pot in April

A little time and attention given to the flower garden and the beautifying of our farm homes pays garden and the beautitying of our farm homes pays bigger dividends than those that are reckoned in mere dollars and cents. It is the place in which the poet tells us we get nearer to God's heart than in any other, and certain it is that flowers go a long way towards making home what it should be, "a thing of beauty and a joy for ever."

## Fresh Strawberries for the Farmer's Table

Start a Plantation this Spring Anyone who can Grow Potatoes Successfully can Grow Strawberries

HE strawberry, unlike our tree fruits, is not He strawberry, unlike our tree fruits, is not limited to any narrow range of territory, but is found both growing wild and in the gardens pretty generally throughout Canada. The comparative ease with which the plant is cultivated, and the high quality of the fruit, both for canning and desert, make it a general favorite. No kitchen garden is complete without its few rows. It is the first fruit to ripen in the apring, and just at a time when freeh fruit is most relished. The season opens about the middle of June, with the earliest varieties and con-tinues from four to six weeks, depending on the

tinues from four to six weeks, depending on the weather and especially the rainfall.

In growing berries, no especial farming knowledge is required. Anyone who can have a garden or can grow good crops of turnips or potatoes will experience no trouble rating strawberries. They will grow on any good tillable land. Land not naturally well drained, or with a clay subsoil which has not been tille-drained should be avoided. Such land is not to have hadly in winter and cause writers. is apt to heave badly in winter and cause winter. killing of the plants.

Do not plant on ground that has been in sod so two or three years previously. The common May beetle or June bug lays its eggs in grass land, especially in old pastures or hay land that has been

down some time. The larva, or the white grub as it is commonly called, lives on the grass roots for some three years before coming forth as the grab and is fond of strawberry roots. This grub is seldom bothersome where a short rotation is practised on the farm, nor is it found in light loams as

often as on heavier land If the land has been in hoed crops such as turnips, corn or potatoes for two or three years, it is in admirable condition for planting strawberries. It is taken for granted that barn yard manure has been used liberally on these preceding crops and become well incorporated with the soil. It is not advisable to use strawy manure the same year plants are set to use strawy manner the same year phants are set if one is looking for best results. Prepare the land in the spring either by plowing or, if it was plowed the fall before, by deep disking. If the plants for cetting out are obtained from a distance, they should be ordered to arrive as early

distance, they should be ordered to arrive as early in the spring as possible after the soil can be worked, and planted soon after their arrival. It is often, however, not convenient to plant at once; but in any case, the parcel containing the plants should be opened up when it arrives, otherwise they are liable to heat or dry out, either one of which con-

Crow

T is as nues taken vetter buy th ing the

Every den. I from e the larg and ne allowed with a the hie of fruit spralus cared fo to take

practica sized st difficulty cally all to start soil to good Ioa oughly. small fr than cor ever, wi

ly is thi

the older cases the harnvard venrold secured Downing be set in A may hav do for go terests of

back slig deeper th spread or ooseberr plications