

THE ADORNMENT OF RURAL HOMES.

By Prof. H. L. Hutt, O. A. C., Guelph.

TREE-PLANTING.

Every farm home should be a picture in itself, and may easily be made one. Any person who has the artistic taste harmoniously to arrange trees, shrubs and plants, so as to make a beautiful landscape, a picture in reality, may be truly called an artist, and our country needs more of such artists. In making the farm home a picture, the lawn and greensward may be looked upon as the canvas on which the picture is placed. The dwelling and buildings naturally form the central feature, and about these the trees, shrubs, vines and plants may be artistically grouped and arranged so as to blend with each other in making the whole scene.

It is advisable, in beginning work of this kind, to make a plan on paper of the whole place, marking the principal objects, such as buildings, trees, etc., as they already stand. The proposed improvements and additions may then be indicated, and the whole thing carefully worked out on paper before the actual work of planting begins. In the preparation of such a plan, all members of the family should be consulted, and they naturally will become interested in the working out of its details. This may be done during the winter months, when there is plenty of time to consider it carefully. The more thoroughly the planning is done, the more readily the planting will be accomplished, and the better will be the general effect secured.

After grading and seeding the lawn and grounds, the selection of trees and shrubs, and their disposition and arrangement, is the next consideration. In the selection of trees, it is wise to choose, as a rule, those which naturally grow in the section, and in this particular the list will vary considerably with the different parts of the Province. As a guide in the selection of trees, we cannot do better than refer our readers to the list of forest trees indigenous to Ontario, as given in the O. A. C. Bulletin on "Farm Forestry," by Mr. E. J. Zavitz, recently published by the Ontario Department of Agriculture. There should be a due proportion of both the evergreens, which are particularly valuable for their shelter, and give a cosy appearance to the place in winter, and the deciduous trees, which give a cool and restful shade in summer. Among the evergreens generally planted are the spruces, pines and cedars, and there are numerous varieties of each of these. The Norway is the most commonly-planted spruce, although our native White Spruce is a handsomer tree than its imported relative. For shelter-belts and wind-breaks about the farm, the spruce is one of the most desirable trees, although pines or cedars may also be used for this purpose, and all may be used with pleasing effect in grouping and planting about the buildings. The establishment of a suitable wind-break or shelter-belt on the most exposed sides of the farm, should be a first consideration in the planting of evergreens. The trees for this purpose should be set at least eight or ten feet apart to allow for good development, and even at this distance it may be advisable in time to cut out alternate tree. Where the place is much exposed, a double row of trees, eight or ten feet apart, those in the first row alternating with those in the second, makes a stronger break.

About the buildings, evergreens should be used as additional protection from the prevailing winds, but in this case they need not be arranged in straight lines, as they should be around the boundaries of the farm. In proximity to the buildings, it is better to adopt nature's method of planting, and group them as if they had grown up naturally, to shelter both dwelling and stables from the north and west winds. The most common mistake made in planting evergreens about the home is to plant them in straight lines on each side of the front yard, so as to shut it off from the rest of the place. If the natural grouping of trees is adopted near the buildings, and the straight-line planting left to the boundaries about the place, the general effect will be far more pleasing.

In the selection of deciduous trees, there is room for much greater variety than among the evergreens. A few of the best of the large trees for planting about the home are elms, maples, lindens, birches and oaks, and, where the climate will admit of it, some of the nut trees, such as walnut, hickory-nut and the sweet chestnut, should be planted, for the sake of the younger members of the family. For roadside planting, the white elm and hard maple can hardly be surpassed, and it goes without saying there should be an unbroken line of one or the other of such trees along the whole front of the farm. In planting trees along the roadside, it is best to select trees of one kind and make the row as uniform as possible. Uniformity and variety may be attained, however, by planting maples and elms alternately, although

nothing could be finer than an avenue arched with tall specimens of the American White Elm.

About the buildings, one or two of the largest-growing shade trees should be planted, so as to afford shade to the dwelling from the heat of the midday sun. If they are placed on the south and west of the house, far enough away that their branches will not overhang the roof, and yet that their shade may fall upon it, they may be effective in keeping the temperature of the living-rooms ten to fifteen degrees cooler than it would be if the building were exposed to the boiling rays of the sun. When locating trees and shrubs upon

on an adjoining farm, or, it may be, some of the unsightly billboards which are now disfiguring so much of the beautiful landscape throughout the country. The more carefully such things are studied from the most advantageous viewpoints, the more pleasing will be the outlook from the dwelling and the general view from the roadway looking in upon it.

The matter of procuring trees and the method of planting them, are points upon which we need say but little. In many places good trees suitable for planting may be obtained from an adjoining wood-lot, but unless they are first-class, it

is no economy to put time upon them, for straight, thrifty trees, with good root development, may be procured so cheaply from wholesale nurserymen that it pays to get good trees, rather than waste time upon poor ones. It is a good plan, particularly with evergreens, to purchase quite young trees, not more than ten or twelve inches in height, and grow them for a year or two in a home nursery row, and then transplant them to the wind-break or other permanent position when they have begun to make good growth and are a foot and a half or two feet in height. Even the deciduous trees may be advantageously grown for a year or so in the same way. Where this plan is adopted, there need be little loss in the final planting, as the transplanting can be done at the most convenient time, when the weather is suitable.

The best time for transplanting in our northern climate is early in spring, although there is no doubt the work may be done in the fall if

weather is suitable and planting is done carefully, but, as a rule, there are fewer failures with spring planting.

TRIMMING EVERGREENS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I planted a Norway-spruce hedge four years ago, and it has never been trimmed. The trees were planted two feet apart. Would you kindly give instructions how to trim it? J. D. P.

It is much better to allow evergreens to assume their natural shape without trimming than to compel them by means of hedge shears into some unnatural form. If, however, it is desirable to keep them as a trimmed hedge, the shape of the hedge should conform as nearly as possible to the natural habit of growth of the trees. With the Norway spruce, which grows in tall, pyramidal form, the tops should be cut off at a uniform height, and the side branches trimmed from the base upward in pyramidal form. It is a serious mistake to attempt to grow evergreen hedges of this kind with perpendicular sides and flat tops, as the trees cannot long be kept in this unnatural form and retain healthy growth.

The best time to trim evergreens is early in the spring, before growth starts; that is, in April or May, depending upon locality and season. Some insist on trimming throughout the greater part of the season, but in doing this they lose all the beautiful new growth, and if the pruning is done late in the season, the terminal buds, with their natural winter protection, are removed, and there is danger of the wood being winter-killed. In trimming evergreens, it must not be forgotten that they do not have dormant buds, as do the deciduous trees, so that wherever pruning back is done, at least an inch of the last season's growth should be left, for it is only upon this there are buds to continue the season's growth. Wherever the wood is cut back to old wood, and all of the leaves removed, there can be no further growth, and the branch soon dies. This is one main reason for the unsightly hedges seen in many places, with dead patches of wood.

O. A. C., Guelph.

H. L. HUTT.



Maplehurst.

The beautiful home of L. Woolverton, Grimsby, Ont., embellished by judicious use of shrubs and trees.

the grounds, it is best to preserve a more or less open lawn in front of the dwelling. This gives an air of breadth and expanse to the place, which, on the other hand, should not be lost by planting the trees in straight lines along the edge of the grounds. If trees are grouped together, or arranged as naturally as possible around the buildings and at the sides of the lawn, the naturalness so gained is most pleasing. Care should be taken in disposing trees and shrubs about the place, to avoid obstructing the best views from the principal windows of the house. In fact, the best arrangement of the trees may be made by viewing the place from the veranda or living-rooms



View from Front Veranda.

Note the open lawn in front of the house and grouping of the trees and shrubs at the sides. These locusts are stately and picturesque.

of the house, and keeping in mind what the effect will be when the trees are full-grown. It will often be desirable to leave openings in the planting, so that through the vistas a glimpse may be caught of some beautiful scene beyond the confines of the front yard. In one direction it may be possible to get a view of some stately tree in an adjoining pasture, in another a glimpse of a distant wooded hillside, or perhaps a stretch of river or lake expanse; or, in another, even a neighbor's friendly light at night. In like manner, it may be desirable to hide from view some unsightly object, such as a dilapidated building

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