

# LANDSCAPE GARDENING

*A New Profession for Young Women.*

TO enjoy country life a girl should have her own garden, but to thoroughly enjoy and obtain the best results from that garden she must have a knowledge of the science of landscape gardening. The more digging and planting in the soil is a delightful pastime once she has become interested and eager to see the tiny seeds grow up and develop into wondrous, tender or gorgeous coloured flowers, but this pleasure is as nothing compared to the fascination in being able to make a carefully drawn plan of a garden or park blossom into a living thing of trees, shrubs and flowers, and it is this pleasure which comes many, many times each year to the professional landscape gardener.

Few girls may care to devote the necessary length of time to study to become expert landscape gardeners, but every girl who spends her summers on a large or small country place could not but be glad to know the rudiments of this science and have sufficient grasp of the subject to be able to plan and lay out a plot of land of her own, even though the larger gardens may not be entrusted to her care.

Yet even to be able to plan out a small flower garden requires a certain amount of knowledge. It must be known, for example, just what flowers will grow in what kind of soil or climate, or what may be added to the soil to improve its quality so that a new kind of seed may be planted with a certain amount of surety that it will spring up into life. Here, needless to state, a botanical familiarity with all sorts and kinds of flowers must be acquired, that it may be known what to select for the different beds and what coloured flowers to allow to grow side by side and as backgrounds for each other.

A naturally good artistic sense is essential also in the landscape gardener, for taste in colours can never be cultivated; it must be born in the soul of the artist. And, next, one must be able to draw with fair exactness to be able to make out a plan before the flowers are planted, setting out clearly just where each bulb or collection of seeds is to go.

Many American schoolgirls are now devoting several afternoons a week to courses in the preliminaries of landscape gardening, while others who have left school and are not to "come out" for another year are working hard all day and every day at this most interesting branch of study.

When it is taken into consideration that the professional landscape gardener must go through a two years' course at a horticultural college or school, where he must become thoroughly grounded in all such subjects as botany, geology, physics, chemistry, geometry and geometrical drawing, it can then be understood how a short course of study such as a school-girl can afford the time for will give her scarcely more than a mere outline of the subject and an intense desire to find out more for herself during the summer months through study and experiment.

It is maintained by many that landscape gardening is the coming profession for women, and already there are numberless applicants in this field. Surely there is no profession so peculiarly suited to the natural capabilities of a girl of refinement with a good education back of her, and mere man will soon have to take a secondary place in this art once woman, with her natural sense of the artistic, intuitive knowledge of colours and instinctive idea of space, com-

mences to really compete with him in this line.

One of the chief delights of living in the country is the familiarity that may be acquired with the garden, and it is interesting to note that landscape gardening is fast becoming a favourite profession in England among girls who, brought up amid surroundings of wealth and luxury, are for some reason forced to seek a means of livelihood, and that already they are competing on equal footing with the men in that line.

In this country, where a desire for parks, gardens and terraced lawns is of recent origin, there is tremendous scope for the landscape gardener.

For a girl who must of necessity seek some means of livelihood, and who is at heart a lover of nature and outdoor life, certainly no profession could be more congenial nor could she find any work so little fraught with the various disagreeable and unpleasant incidents of the average business career.

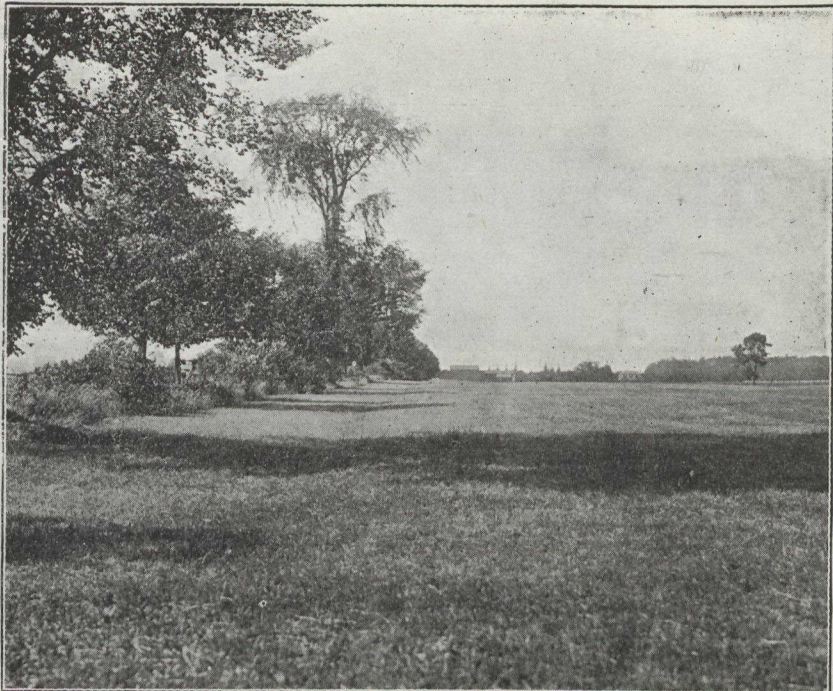
Between the crude simplicity of the old fashioned flower garden arrangement and the extreme scientific theories of the landscape architect there is a happy medium which is the goal of many a young woman to-day. Landscape gardening is a study that any girl can take up with pleasure and profit, for it not only includes a study of plants and flowers, but of many other branches which are more or less closely allied and which, even though not gone into deeply, must still prove of a distinctly educational value.

A girl could begin studying the botanical end of it. It would make a fascinating study for the summer months or for the long winter evenings at home. She could make a little study of architecture, sufficient to know the sort of garden to be used with a certain type of house. Let her learn all the best examples of formal gardens, studying all details, why certain things are done and why others should not be done.

A trip abroad should be the general wind up of a girl's study in landscape architecture. In England are seen the best type of the cottage garden, and one can trace the development from the old monastery gardens down to those of the present day.

Make a point of studying collections of pictures showing floral arrangements whenever possible and it will be amazing how discriminating one will become, so that possessing the taste and desire, it will be a simple matter to go on with the study from a scientific viewpoint later on. But even the superficial study will not only be found to be an absorbing occupation, but there is the joy of invention which can be experienced by transforming one's own dooryard from chaos to beauty and symmetry.

**PROFESSOR L. H. BAILEY**, of Cornell, one of the members of the Country Life Commission in the States, is not tremendously impressed with the benevolence of the city in sending its surplus population back to the farm. In his new volume on "The Country Life Movement," Professor Bailey, among many other interesting and thoughtful points, insists upon a clear distinction between the back-to-the-farm movement and the larger movement which gives his book its title. The former, he declares, is essentially a city movement, and affords no real solution for the larger problems—economic, scientific and social—which are being attacked on behalf of modern agriculture.



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