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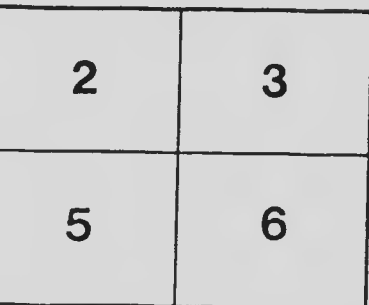
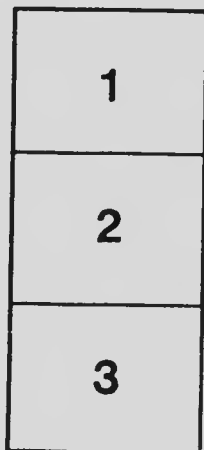
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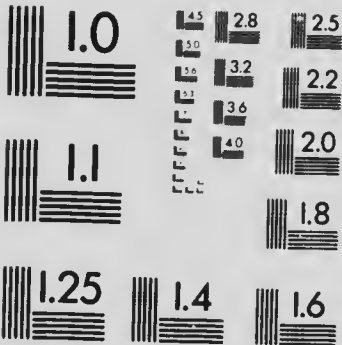
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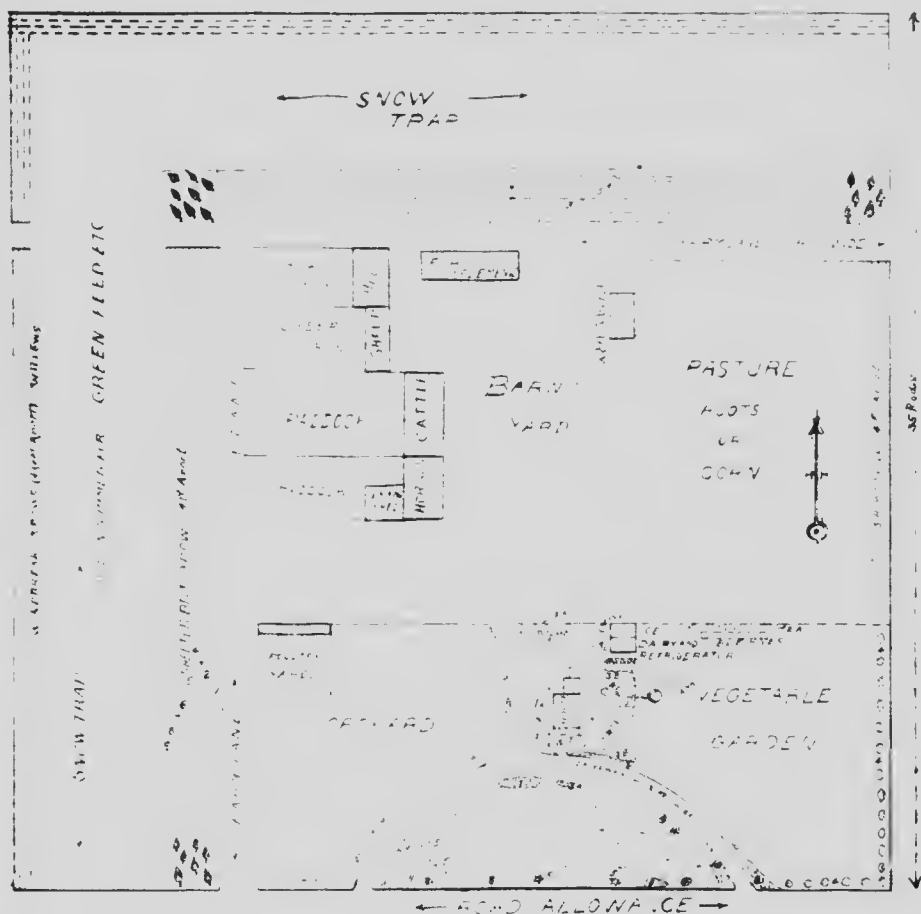
PLANNING THE WESTERN FARMSTEAD

BY

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FARMSTEAD PLAN 'A'



DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARMS

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EXHIBITION CIRCULAR No. 79.

(January 1917)

PLANNING THE WESTERN FARMSTEAD

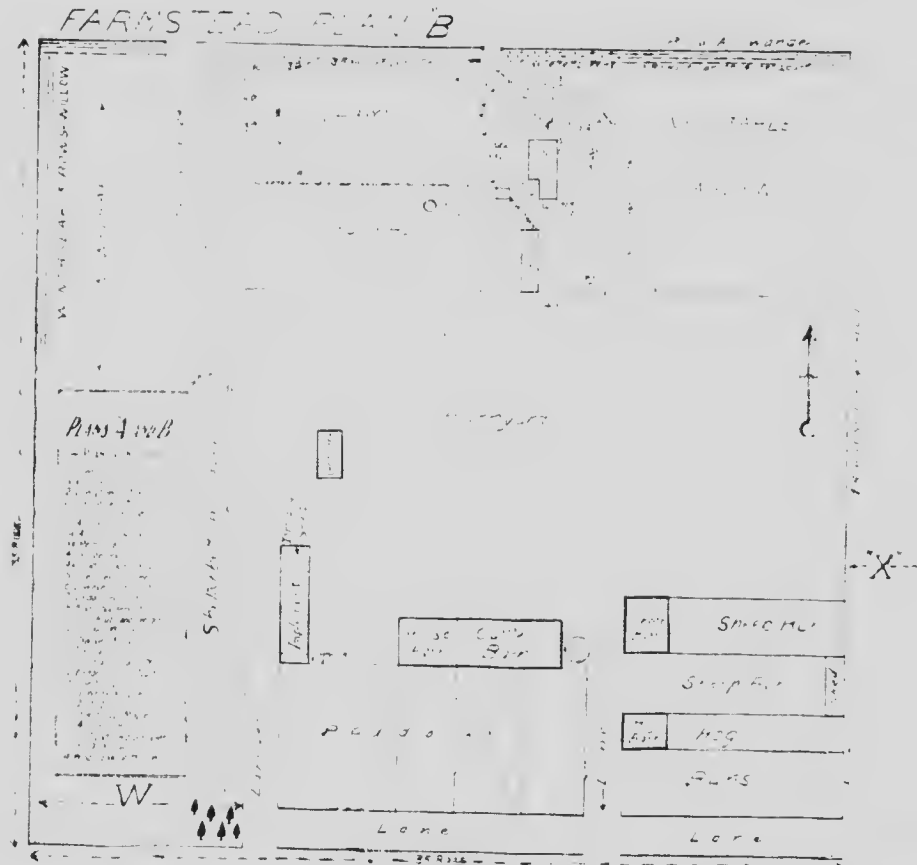
Lay out your home-grounds with a view to (1) Simplicity, (2) Convenience, (3) Utility, (4) Comfort, (5) Beauty.

WHY?

- Because, you save miles of useless travel every month, when doing the chores, round the farmstead, by making the lay-out convenient. You cannot afford to pay the hired man for the time taken up in "lost motion" when he is about his work.
- Because, your live stock will be in better condition, and will consume less feed if you provide good shelter belts for the barns and the corrals. Besides, although shovelling snow is good exercise, you are not likely to relish it on cold mornings when the stock is waiting for you to reach the stable door and do the morning feeding.
- Because, your farm is worth more in dollars and cents to the intending purchaser, should you desire to sell it.
- Because, your farm includes a **home**, one of the all-important units constituting a civilized community. You should make it a beauty spot by planting shade trees, shrubs and fragrant flowers around the house. You need rest and comfort after a hard day's work and on holidays in summer. Where are you going to find these, if not in your own home?
- Because, the boys and girls on the farm are entitled to a playground at home. They should be provided with the luxuries, comforts and beauty that country life at its best is able to give them. Make the farmstead "home-like" for them. So many boys and girls leave the farm on account of the "homeliness" of their surroundings.

PLANNING

The accompanying plans embody the features enumerated above. There is nothing complicated or pretentious about them; at the same time they combine convenience, utility and beauty to an extent which is quite in keeping with the varied requirements of the Western farmer. Each plan has a few distinct features of its own. A farmer might find that by combining some of the points in both, he is able to evolve a lay-out suitable to his location. It is always well to bear in mind physical features such as bush, rising ground, running water, etc., and make the farmstead plan so as to include these natural advantages in the best possible manner. Plans such as those submitted in this circular, are intended to help the farmer in making a useful, artistic lay-out for his farmstead in whatever location he may find himself.



CHIEF FEATURES OF THESE PLANS

(1) Note the nearness to the public road, and easy access thereto, from the house and from the barnyard. Note the direct lines leading out into the farm.

(2) Provision is made for shelter belts on the North and West. The windbreak on the East consists of a spruce hedge, the trees being planted four feet apart.

(3) In connection with the windbreaks, etc., special note should be made of the **snow trap**, which catches all the drifts that penetrate the first line of defence, i. e., the windbreak of willows.

(4) In the shelter belts, row 1, (the Spruce) is planted 8 feet from the nearest row, the trees being 4 feet apart. In a few years this will form an impenetrable hedge of great beauty and usefulness. Rows 3, 5 and 7 should be cut out after a few years to allow the better class of trees more room for development. Cottonwood, Maple and Poplars are valuable for a start, because they are very quick-growing.

(5) The home grounds are screened well from the stables and other outbuildings, while provision is made for views to the front and sides by leaving gaps or planting low shrubs, etc. The lawn with the shade trees is important as a spot for recreation and play.

(6) It will be noticed that the grounds, although well provided with trees, shrubs, hedges and flowers require little upkeep once the plantation is established. A few beds of annual flowers constitute practically everything that needs special care. The shrubs, trees and perennials need the same care as the ordinary vegetable garden, i. e., cultivating and keeping out the weeds.

(7) Plan "A" is equally applicable to an Eastern exposure. The house and grounds, the orchard and vegetable garden are then transferred to the east side of the farmstead, replacing the ground for "Pasture, etc." which is transferred to the south side on the site of the orchard. The spruce hedge is then left out. The barns, paddocks and farm lanes remain unchanged.

(8) Plan "B" illustrates a difficult exposure, viz: North. The evergreens on the North side, planted 4 feet apart each way, furnish an impervious windbreak and are also of a pleasing appearance. This plan is suitable for a Western exposure. Turn the plan to the left through an angle of 90 degrees, so that the front faces West. Transfer the shelter belt area (marked "W") to the opposite side (marked "N") which is now the North side. The spruce hedge on side "N" may be transferred to the line behind the paddocks (now on the East side). The relative position of the buildings, shrubs, trees, lanes, etc., remains entirely unchanged.

THE LAWN

This is an indispensable feature on a farmstead. For playing games, for resting on a warm day, for socials on holidays, etc., the farmstead lawns are to the farm community what the public parks are to the people of the city.

The preparation of the ground for making lawns is similar to that required for any cultivated crop. The soil should be in a loose friable condition, properly enriched with manure or other fertilizer. Sowing may be done with wheelbarrow seeder, or broadcast by hand. The ground should then be rolled and raked over very lightly. Watering, while not necessary in most seasons, is always an advantage and promotes luxuriant growth on the lawn.

Lawn grass mixtures: Kentucky Blue Grass makes an excellent lawn, but it is somewhat slow-growing. A five per cent mixture of White Clover improves the appearance of the lawn. A good mixture may also be made up of the following: Kentucky Blue, fifty per cent; Canadian Blue, twenty-five per cent; Red Top, fifteen per cent; and English Blue grass (Meadow Fescue) and White Clover, five per cent each. For the winter it is well to give the lawn a covering of strawy manure, both for holding snow and for adding fertility to the soil.

A FEW HARDY TREES AND SHRUBS

The lists of trees and shrubs given below are by no means exhaustive. Only those that have been thoroughly tested for hardiness are given. While there are very many other species of plants which are desirable, it is always better to make a start with the best known kinds and branch out a little later. Homegrown material is always to be preferred. Stock ordered from the East or the South is much more tender and liable to failure.

Planting. The ground for shelter belts should be well prepared for at least a year previously. Hoed crops leave the ground in good condition for tree planting; breaking or stubble and should be avoided. Planting should be done in rows, placing the seedlings 4 feet apart each way. This permits cultivation with a horse. Cultivation should be thorough until the trees themselves are large enough to afford a shade, and keep down grass and weeds. The quick-growing varieties should be cut out after a few years, leaving the slower growing durable kinds in possession of the ground. The "Planting key" on plan "B" shows a sample arrangement of materials with this end in view. For shrubs and lawn trees the ground should be dug around the plant each year, and kept free from weeds and suckers.

Trees for Shelter belts: Those of rapid growth are Willows (many varieties), Poplars (many native and Russian varieties), Ash-leaved Maple and Cottonwoods. Slower-growing, but more durable, are American Elm, Green Ash, White Birch and Oak, Conifers (fairly slow-growing), White Spruce and Scotch Pine.

Ornamental and Shade Trees, for planting on lawns and along drives: Elm, Basswood, Birch (especially the cut-leaved Weeping Birch), Siberian Crab, Mountain Ash, Guadalupe Maple and Oak. Laurel Willow will also make an attractive, serviceable tree for this purpose.

Conifers for Shade trees and Ornamental Planting: White Spruce, Balsam Fir, Scotch and Riga Pine, Tamarack, White Cedar, Blue Spruce and Norway Spruce (perhaps not as hardy as some of the others).

Dwarf Evergreens: Mountain Pine, Sabine Juniper, Creeping Euclabes procumbens, Low Pine (pinus pungitula), White Cedar (small specimens), slow-growing.

Ornamental Shrubs: (in order of desirability): (1) Honeysuckle, Viburnum, Common and Woody Caragana, Highbush Cranberry (native), Canadian Maple, Sheepberry (native), Snow-bell or Guilder Rose, Missouri Crinoid, Cotoneaster and Chokecherry. (2) Barberry (several varieties), Spiraea (several varieties, very pretty but not extra hardy), Ninebark, Poincherry (native), Wolfwillow (native), Stachelberry (native), Potentilla fruticosa, Hawthorn (native), Saskatoon (native), Dogwood (Siberian and Native), Buffalobery (native).

Hardy Roses: These may be grown quite successfully if good protection is afforded for the winter. Rugosa roses, Austrian Briar roses, Moss roses, Hybrid Perpetual and Hybrid Tea roses are a few types which give good satisfaction. The native (wild) Rose is entirely hardy.

Vines and Creepers: Virginia Creeper, Frost Grape (native), Climbing Bittersweet, Honeysuckle (native and others) and Wild Hop (native, herbaceous).

Trees and Shrubs for Hedges: (in order of desirability) Hedges are both useful and ornamental. The tall kinds furnish good windbreaks, giving the greatest degree of service for a minimum amount of space.

High Hedges: (1) Willows, Ash-leaved Maple, Common Caragana, White Spruce, Canadian Maple and some Liliae (e. g. Charles X).

Medium Hedges: (1) Most of the above if trimmed or cut back, Honeysuckle, Buckthorn, (2) Hawthorn, Buffalobery. (3) Native Elm, Green Ash, Southernwood.

Low Hedges: (1) Woody Caragana, Low Evergreens (e. g. white cedar closely planted), Southorn. (2) Wolfberry (native), Wild Rose (native).

HARDY PERENNIAL FLOWERS AND OUTDOOR BULBS

Bulbs should be planted in the fall before freeze-up, and covered with a mulch of straw over winter. They may be removed each spring or summer after flowering and stored away for future planting, or they may be left in the same bed for several years.

Many perennials can be grown from seed, on the home grounds, or the plants may be secured from local nurserymen. Western grown stock is the best. Perennials furnish bloom year after year with a minimum amount of outlay.

Spring Flowering: Anemone, Moss Pink (Phlox subulata), Globe Flower (Trollius), Bulbs (Tulips and Glory of the Snow), Iris (many varieties), Bleeding Heart, Columbine (many varieties), Clematis recta, Violets.

Summer Flowering: Paronies, Day Lilies, Larkspurs, Pinks, Foxgloves, Hollyhocks, Spiraea, Speedwell, Gaillardia, Echinus chalcidomus, Heliotrope, Coreopsis, Papaver (Poppy), Chinese Bell Flower (Platycodon), Sweet William, Snowball Daisy, Lilies (such as the Tiger Lilies, "Elegans Lilies, and Native Prairie Lilies). (These are treated similar to the other bulbs mentioned above).

Late Summer and Fall Flowering: Solidago, Golden Rod, Rudbeckia, Phlox, Sunflower, Giant Daisy, Perennial Asters.

A FEW HARDY ANNUAL FLOWERS

Annals are those flowers that grow from seed in one year. The best results are obtained by planting them in boxes or "flats" inside, late in March, transplanting once into hotbeds, and planting out later when spring frosts are over; this is about the beginning of June as a rule. Many annals do well when sown outside in the open garden late in May.

Flowering in Early Summer Pansies (low), Tagetes (low), Calendula (tall), Clarkia (tall), Cosmos (very tall), Dimorphotheca (medium to low), Petunia (medium), Phlox Drummondii (medium), Godetia (medium), Chrysanthemum (tall), Nemesis (low), Marigolds (tall), Mignonette (medium to low), Lobelia (low), Verbena (low to medium), Gaillardia (tall), Sweet Alyssum (low), Stocks (medium), Snapdragons (tall and dwarf), Centaurea cymosa or Bachelor Button (tall), Viscaria (medium).

Flowering in Midsummer and Fall: Most of the above named flowers retain their bloom all summer. The following flower at succeeding periods: Pinks (low), California Poppies (medium), Shirley Poppy (tall), Sweet Peas (climbers), Coreopsis (tall), Scabious (tall), Zinnia (medium), Candytuft (low), Everlasting Flowers (tall and medium), Larkspurs (tall), Sunflowers (5 to 8 feet), Nicotiana (climbing and dwarf), Morning Glories (tall, climbing), Asters (many varieties, low to medium), Gourds (tall climbers), Cinnamon Vine (tall, climbing), Scarlet Runner Bean (tall, climbing).

USEFUL BULLETINS AND CIRCULARS

Published by the Dominion Experimental Farms, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa

Bulletin No. 5, Second Series: "Herbaceous Perennials."

Bulletin No. 19, Second Series: "The planting and care of shade trees."

Bulletin No. 47, "Trees and shrubs tested in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta."

Bulletin No. 85, "Hardy roses."

Published by the Forestry Branch, Department of the Interior, Ottawa

Bulletin No. 1, "Tree planting on the prairies."

Bulletin No. 10, "The Farmer's plantation."

Published by Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario

Bulletin No. 209, "Farm Forestry."

Published by authority of Hon. MARTIN BURRELL, Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ont.

