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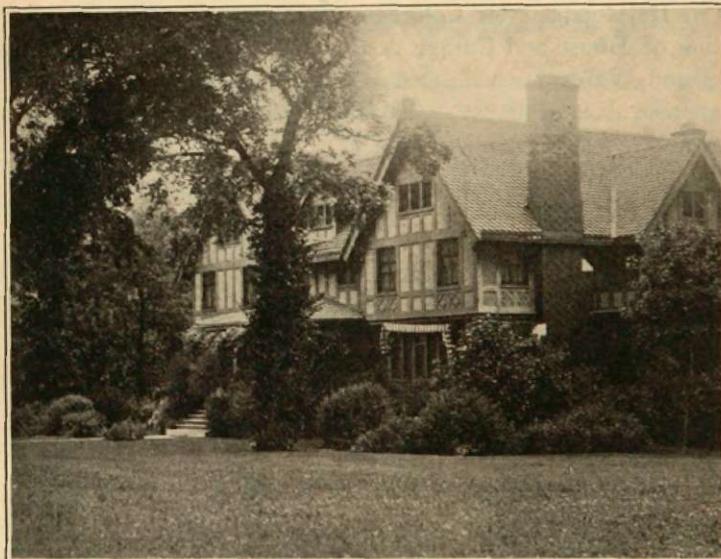
The Colorado Experiment Station

AGRICULTURAL DIVISION

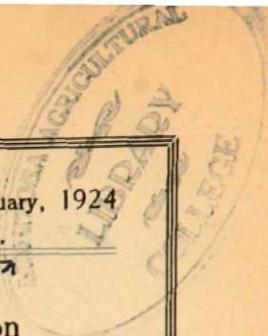
BEAUTIFYING THE HOME GROUNDS

FOR THE SMALLER TYPE

BY E. MONROE LOWRY



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BEAUTIFYING THE HOME GROUNDS FOR THE SMALLER TYPE

BY E. MONROE LOWRY

For years and even centuries of the past the attention of the landscape architects and gardeners has been directed toward the private estate developments and civic-improvement needs of the larger cities. The countless number of small-home owners, both urban and rural, have been left to solve their problems alone and without careful instruction. Those who have made the attempt should be commended for their efforts. They have done well, considering the fact that very little has been written or spoken to which they might refer or be guided in applying style to the development. With this condition in mind, it is the purpose of the writer to give helpful suggestions to the small-home owner of moderate means who may be desirous of beautifying his or her home along the most up-to-date and economical arrangements possible.

The time has come when style in home beautifying is a noticeable and essential factor. There are right and wrong ways of developing the home grounds and it is in most instances just as easy and cheap to do the job right to begin with and far more attractive to all concerned. We recognize the fact that each home presents a different problem and on account of existing circumstances it may not be possible to follow all the instructions given here. However, they will serve as a guide and should be approached as nearly as conditions will permit. The important principles involved are after all very few, but they are of so much importance that care should be exercised in making the proper use of each. When this is done the home will have that charm and attractiveness that continues to grow dearer to the home-owner and wins admiration from all who come in contact with it.

TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT FOR COLORADO

Here in Colorado with all our natural mountain scenery we believe it best to design our home grounds with as much of that touch of naturalness as can well be developed. It is well where possible to avoid straight and architecturally laid out rows of trees or shrubs, and plant them in irregular groups or masses with open lawn areas intervening. Where there is room, the walks and drives may enter on slight curves instead of straight lines. This is hardly practicable on a small city lot such as is shown in Plate I. Where such straight lines as this occur, and around the base of the house, groupings of shrubs or trees may be placed in such a way as to break up the appearance of formality. Where it is desired to have flowers we advise setting aside a certain, definite, secluded area for them such as is more fully described

under the discussion of the flower garden. This is much to be preferred over the original custom of making an architecturally designed bed in a conspicuous place in the front yard.

The more closely one approaches the natural type of home beautifying the less will be the expense involved in developing it and maintaining the landscape after it is developed. Of course, any attempt however simple must receive continued care and up-keep in order to present the most pleasing appearance. By carefully studying the different illustrations shown in this bulletin one can gain a fair knowledge of the principles involved in the lay-out of the informal developments such as are recommended for Colorado homes.

LOCATION OF HOUSE AND GARAGE

The first principle of home beautifying concerns itself with the location of the house and garage. In order to carry out a satisfactory planting plan, the house on a small city lot should have a set-back line (distance between the inside edge of the sidewalk and the foremost building line of the house) of not less than twenty-five feet. In the case of large suburban and country homes the set-back line should increase proportionately to the area to be developed. Let us hope that the time is not far distant when our cities and villages will prohibit the subdividing of residential tracts into the customary small lots of the past, and that ordinances will be enforced compelling all residences to have a set-back line of twenty feet or more. The width of the house should not exceed more than three-fifths of the width of the lot it occupies and more sideyard space than that is much to be desired. This statement should not lead one to form the impression that the house should be located in the center of the lot. As a matter of fact, it is generally advisable to locate the house slightly to one side of center.

In locating the garage, do not place it in front of the house in the set-back line area such as is often done in some of the larger cities. Its place is in the rear of the house and it is best to have it located to one side of the driveway so that it may be entered at an angle, rather than be a direct terminus for a straight drive. It is then best wholly or partially screened from the street by plantings of trees and shrubs or vine covered arbors or pergolas. This arrangement is not always permissible but quite desirable.

DRIVES AND WALKS

In the case of the small city lot it is quite difficult to do otherwise than enter the premises with straight walks and garage entrances. If convenient to do so, it would be advantageous from the landscape point of view to enter the garage from the alley in the rear. This would leave more of the front yard to be devoted to lawn and thus make it more attractive. Where this is not feasible, it is sometimes possible for a partnership drive to be erected on the line between two lots, which will answer the need of two families, instead of one. Then again, in

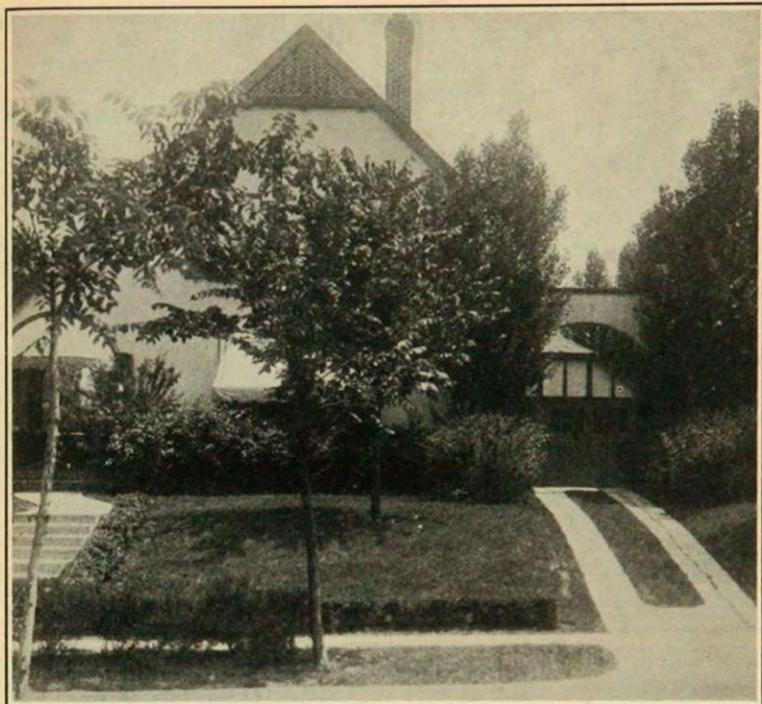


Plate No. 1.—STRAIGHT ENTRANCE DRIVE

This method is much to be preferred over the solid cement entrance.

the case of the shorter straight drive, it is advisable to have a two-tread entrance such as is illustrated in Plate No. 1. The intervening grass helps to break up the monotony of an otherwise solid driveway.

„ Where drive and walk both enter the small lot from the front they should not enter near each other on parallel lines. A better solution of the problem is shown in Plates 1 and 8 where one tread of the drive is used for the public entrance or service walk.

In entering the larger suburban or rural residence grounds, there is much more chance for variety in locating the entrances. The following precautions and suggestions should be considered:

Try to avoid bisecting the open lawn in front of the house. Better enter near one side.

Introduce a curve if convenient, but where a bend is made make an apparent reason for it by planting trees or shrubs or both.

Enter the property and end the drive or walk at right angles. The curve comes between. This is illustrated in Plate No. 2.

The corner entrance is objectionable. Leave a few feet between the corner and the entrance.

Other material such as cinders, gravel, crushed rock and brick

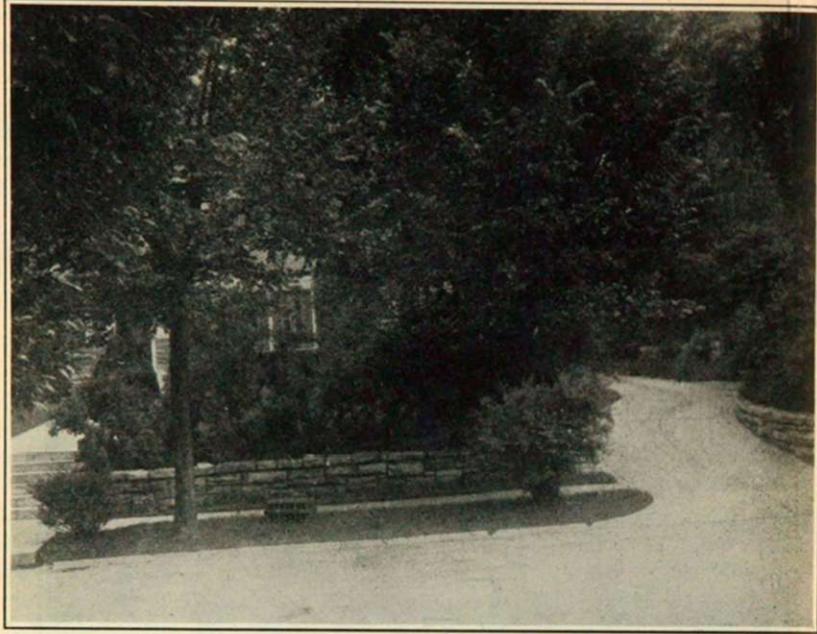


Plate No. 2.—CURVED ENTRANCE DRIVE

Where it can be done, this is much to be preferred over the straight entrance. Notice it enters at right angles to the street, curves inside the property line and disappears from view.

often make a more desirable driveway than cement. Any dull color the driveway or walk may have will harmonize better with the lawn which it traverses.

Where a rear walk is seldom used it is often advisable to use stepping stones laid level with the surface of the lawn. They answer the purpose and are not as conspicuous as a solid walk.

Use no more walks or drives than are absolutely necessary.

AREAS

The well-designed lot will be more or less divided into three fairly well-defined areas: the public, private and service.

The public area is that portion of the yard lying between the house and street. As the term implies, it is developed for the passing public to enjoy. The lawn directly in front of the residence is best left open. Shrubs planted on each side of the walk or driveway entrances, along the property line on each side and against the foundation and porch of the house are to be encouraged. The public area should be separated from the rear of the property by some carefully arranged placing of lattice work or shrubs, or both. Plates 3 and 4 show a good arrangement of the public area.

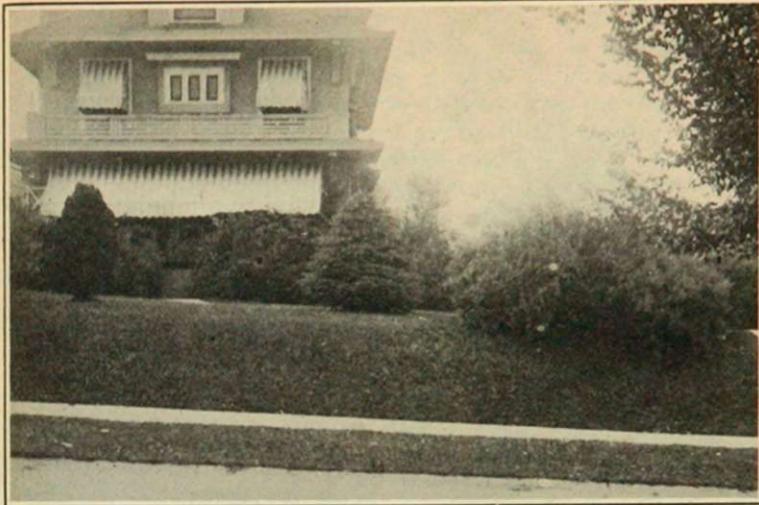


Plate No. 3.—THE PUBLIC AREA

The walk enters at the side and does not bisect the open front lawn.

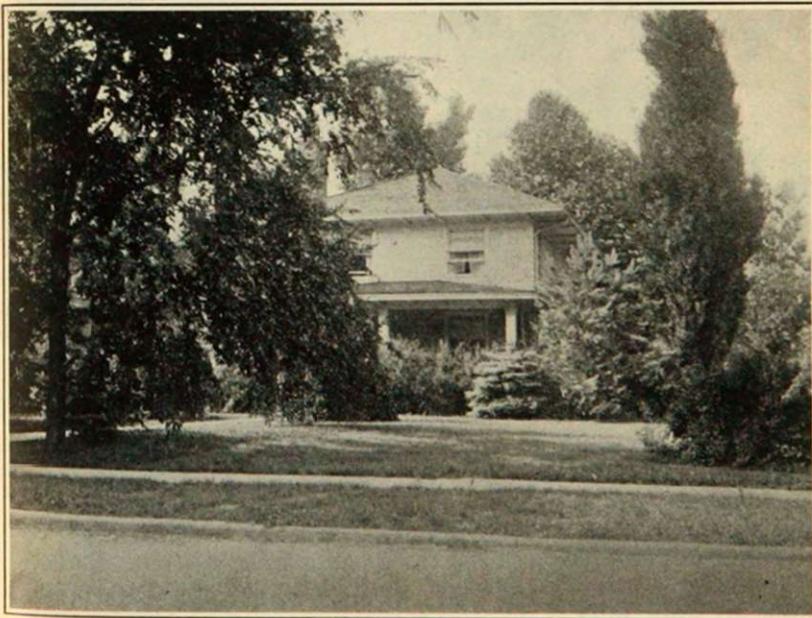


Plate No. 4.—THE PUBLIC AREA

Showing a splendid grouping of trees and shrubs about the residence.

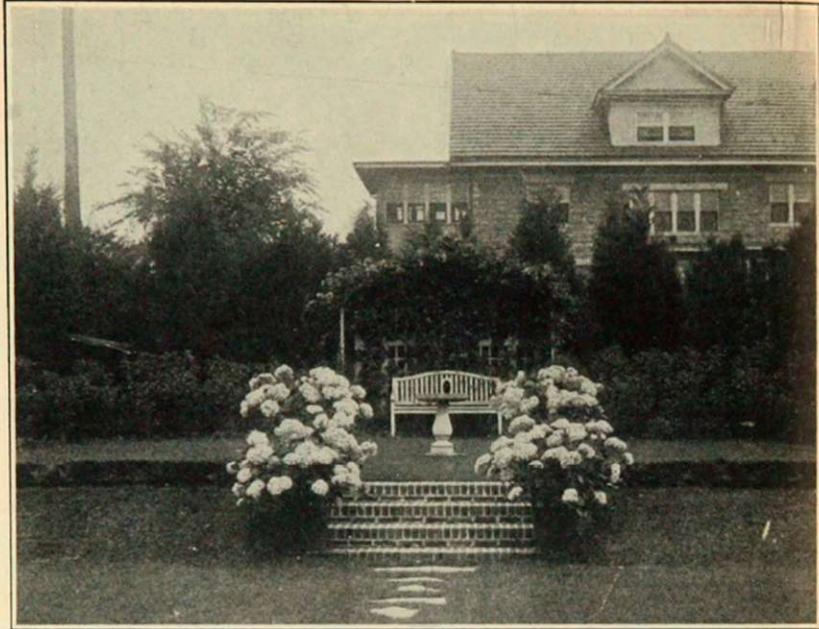


Plate No. 5.—PRIVATE AREA TREATED FORMALLY

Enclosed with a hedge, having balance and symmetry and architectural garden features. The vine-covered arbor makes a good terminus for the central walk or axis. An area of this kind affords splendid opportunities for any desired flower beds.

The private area should always be provided for. It is located at the side and to the rear of the house. It is here that the family and friends can enjoy privacy out of doors. It is generally surrounded by a boundary of shrubs and trees of sufficient height to shut out the views of the neighborhood. It is made of any desirable size, according to the needs and area available for its use. Where there is room this area may be subdivided into the private area for family use and outdoor evening parties, the children's playground and the formal flower garden. These are more or less distinct areas and yet all connected in a unit of composition. Shrubs properly arranged and grouped as illustrated in Plates 5 and 6 will give this effect. These units may and should be provided with garden accessories and comforts appropriate to the needs of each.

The informal family and evening-party area can be provided with such features as a tea house, arbors, arched seats, lawn swings, lily and fish pools, rockery work, sun dials, bird baths, gazing globes and many forms of rustic work.

The children's playground should be equipped with such features as sand boxes, wading pools, shoot the chutes, swings, teeters, play

houses, bars, rings, or others of like character according to the needs and ability to provide them.

So far we have been speaking of the informal arrangement of the landscape, and no mention has been made of flowers. We now undertake a discussion of the formal flower garden as the third subdivision of the private area. Nearly every family desires to have flower beds and, as mentioned before, the tendency has always been to scatter them promiscuously over the yard, in the center of wide open lawns or as borders around the house and along the walks and drives. It is now considered much better form to provide a regular area for them and confine all flowers to this area. Because of their very conspicuous, bright colors, they belong in beds of architectural design and do not go well with the more sombre hues of an informal development of natural lawn, trees and shrubs. It is extremely hard to do this without breaking up the naturalness.

We now believe the formal garden should be made a part of every development where flowers are to be introduced at all. This garden is best enclosed by a trimmed hedge or a vine-covered fence of some description with a square or rectangular shape. Inside of this all flower

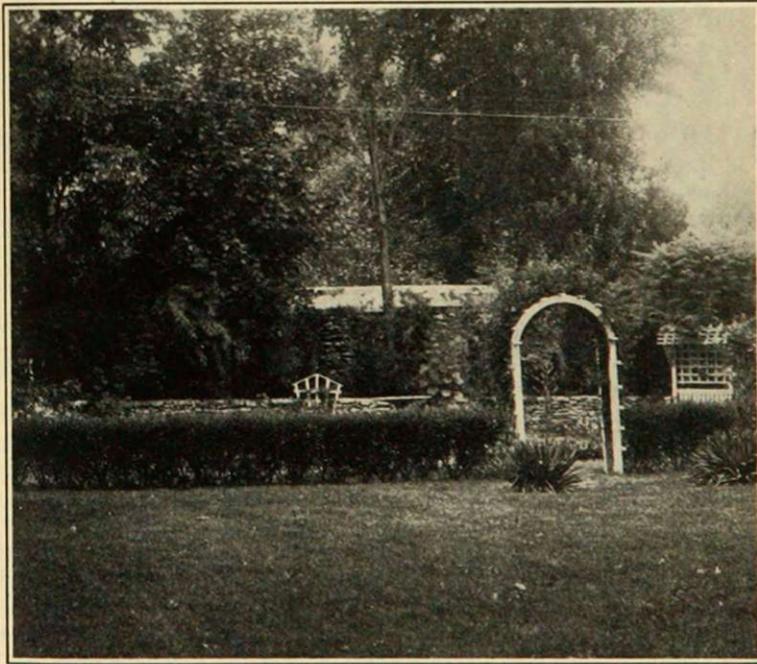


Plate No. 6.—THE PRIVATE AREA TREATED INFORMALLY

Passing through the rose-covered arch, the visitor is led into another area of a more informal type. The planting in the background adds a touch of naturalness and a feeling of privacy.

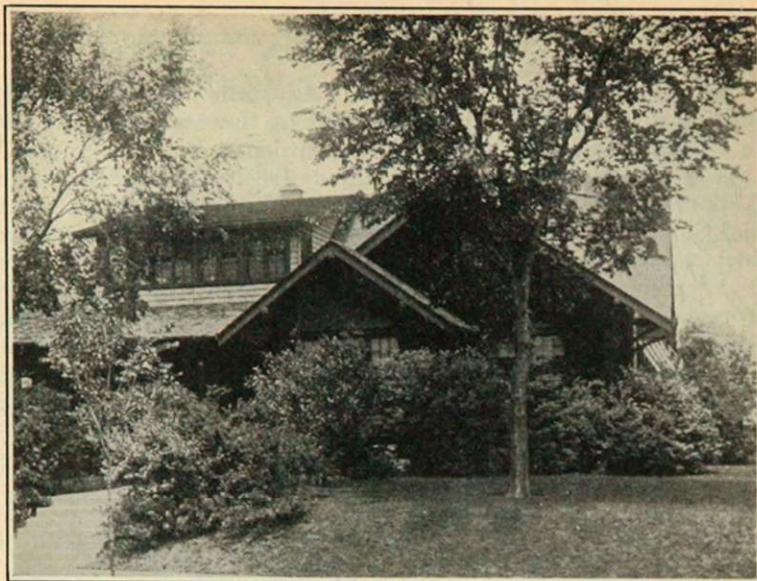


Plate No. 7.—FOUNDATION PLANTING FOR THE LOW RESIDENCE

A good combination of planting materials which ties the building into the lawn in a pleasing manner. Slightly over-planted.

beds are laid out in definite designs and figures, with walks of grass, brick or gravel as one may desire. The walks are probably best introduced as a definite axis and cross axis of the garden, with some terminating feature to balance in the center and at the ends. Pergolas, fountains, gazing globes, pools, sun dials, seats, arches, odd-trimmed trees, or statuary work may be added to the formal garden. From the inside it should present a strictly architectural arrangement, with the hedge or fence enclosing it. The height of the hedge should correspond to the size of the area it encloses, else it will be lacking in proportion. Irregular masses of shrubs or trees are massed on the outside of the formal garden in such a way as to break up somewhat all straight lines when viewed from the informal areas surrounding. When walking through the surrounding yard one should not be led to realize that the formal garden was present until an entrance was actually made into it.

Such features as the vegetable and fruit garden, garage, ash can, laundry line, or other useful and necessary additions to the landscape should, where possible, be grouped near each other in a more or less separate portion of the development and adjacent to the kitchen. This, as a unit, we call the service area. Sometimes the vegetable garden is made a thing of esthetic attractiveness as well as of usefulness, by the introduction of grass walks, with vine-covered lattice or wire fences surrounding it. Again, this area may be developed in connection with the formal flower garden, in such a way as to make both an attraction during the entire season.

**STEPS INVOLVED
IN
THE UNDERTAKING**

First, make up your mind that you are going to do the job right, even tho it has to be done in piecemeals, or a little each year. You should have a definite plan worked out on paper showing every proposed detail. Know where every shrub, vine and tree is to be located and the kind and number needed of each. Show the proposed location of all lawn areas, the formal flower garden and all garden features. Where one can afford to do so, it is best to have a trained landscape architect draw up the plan and furnish a planting plan showing the kind and location of all plant materials. However, this is not always possible and the amateur can have a chance to develop his or her own ideas which are often very good. This plan should be completed far in advance of the planting season and from it one can determine the number of plant materials needed.

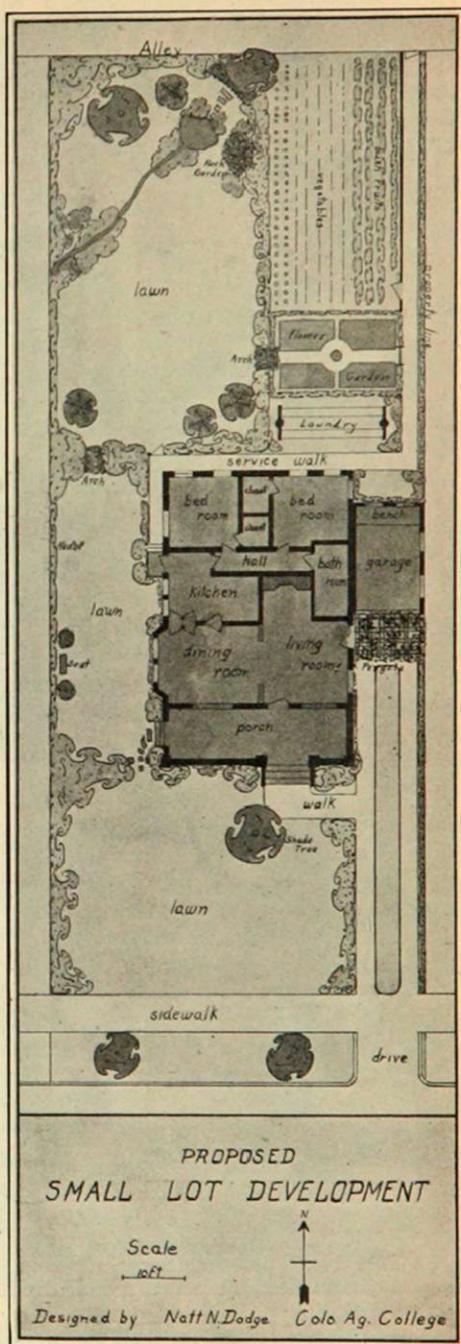


Plate No. 8.—THE SMALL CITY LOT

This plan shows only one of many possible developments for a lot 60x150 feet. The public area in front is open and unbroken. The private area is subdivided into two parts to the left and back of the house, aside from the flower garden. The service area is unified to the right and back of the house. A plan similar to this should be drawn upon paper during the winter months.

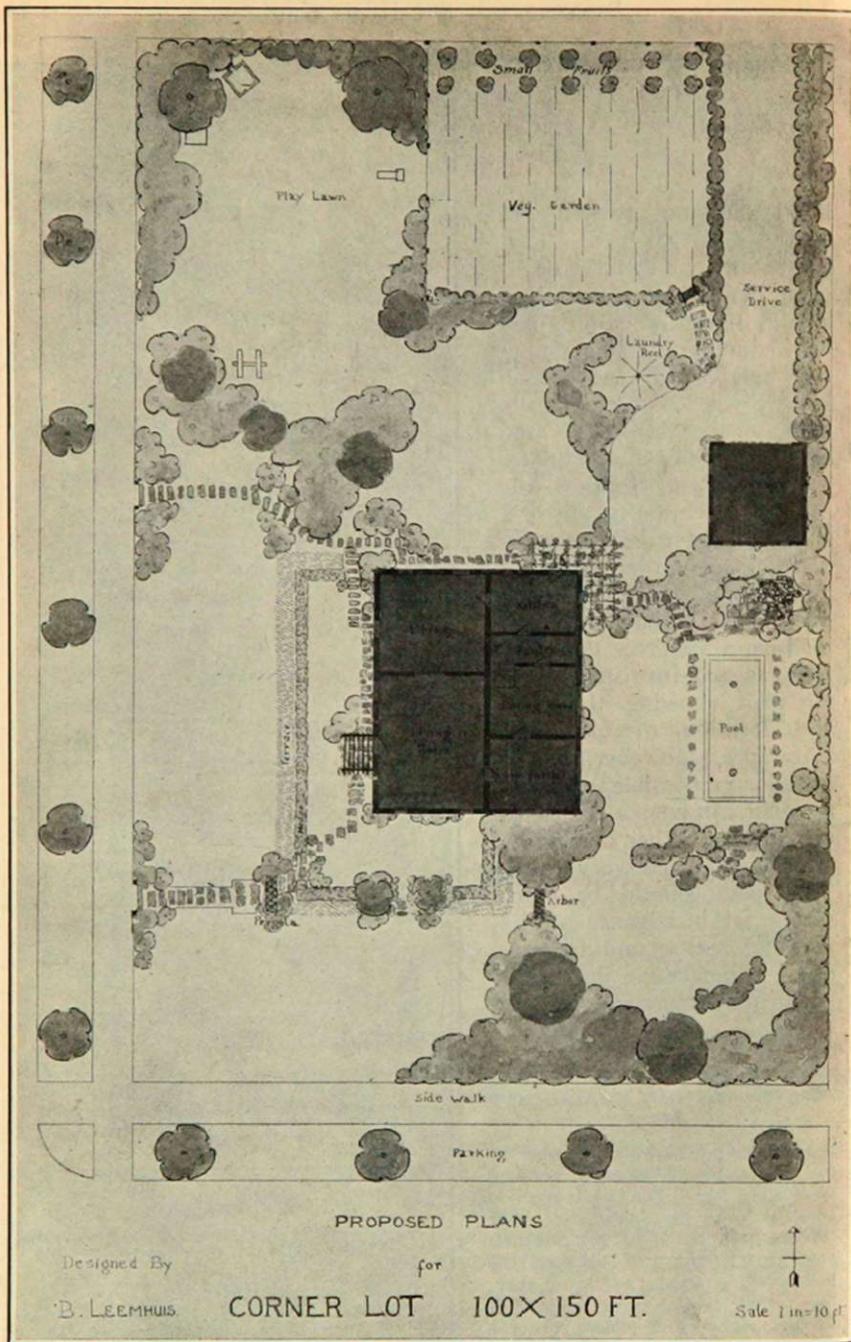


Plate No. 9—THE DOUBLE LOT OR SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT
 The larger the yard the more opportunities for variety and privacy. Here the three areas are also well treated. A one-and-one-half or two-story house would harmonize well to this size of lot. Note the privacy that would result from an arrangement of this kind.

MAKING THE LAWN

A good lawn is the most important and attractive feature of the landscape. It takes a first-class soil, careful attention and two or more years to get a good turf. Some people have the erroneous idea that a good lawn will grow anywhere. Often the subsoil from a basement is dragged out into the yard and later sown to lawn grass without any top dressing. Later the grass becomes stunted, is hard to keep sufficiently watered and never gives a luxuriant growth or a good turf. The soil for a good lawn should be just as rich, and just as deep as if planted to vegetables. It is best to have a gentle slope leading away from the house rather than have it level. Pulverize all clods, roll with a heavy lawn roller, rake and then roll and rake a second time. If the ground is of a desirable character for a good lawn, it will not hurt to have it firmed down quite compactly. The best time to sow the lawn is early in spring. However, if given strict attention, a lawn may be secured at any time during the summer or early fall. If sown in the heat of the summer, the soil should be sprinkled once or twice each day in order to keep it from drying out during the germination period. Often it is advisable to scatter a light coat of well-rotted and pulverized compost or manure over the soil after the seed has been sown. This helps to hold the moisture and adds more fertility for the grass roots to feed upon.

One should procure the best seed possible, in order to avoid obnoxious grasses that often result from the sowing of poor seed procured at the local stores. The seed should be ordered in advance from the most reliable seed houses in the country. The lawn grass mixtures ready for planting are to be advised unless one only desires a simple lawn of blue grass and white clover. In such a case, 8 parts of the former to one of the latter is generally satisfactory.

In using the ready-mixed seed, one should allow one pound for each 200 square feet. Before sowing, divide the required amount into two equal parts. Sow one half one way of the lawn and the other half the reverse way. It should be sown when there is no wind, preferably early in the morning or late in the afternoon. The width of the swathe may be regulated by setting stakes, stretching strings or marking off the rows. After the seed is sown the soil should be lightly raked and if it has not been thoroly worked and rolled beforehand, it should be rolled afterward. Sprinkle with a fine spray of water from the nozzle, being careful to keep the water from running long enough in one place to cause any washing away of the soil. If a terrace is to be grassed, it is much better to secure sod to use for the purpose on account of it being so difficult to water without washing the seed away. Do not neglect the watering at any time during the period of germination.

Never be in a hurry to mow the grass the first time, and then adjust the machine so it will cut the grass longer than usual.

Most lawns need to be fertilized every two or three years. Barnyard manure applied evenly over the lawn early in the winter and allowed to remain on the grass as long as possible in the spring is the



Plate No. 10.—FOUNDATION PLANTING FOR THE TALL RESIDENCE

This type of building requires a much taller grouping of shrubs and trees. Note how well the straight lines of the building are broken up.

general method used. Only rake off the coarsest of the mulch at that time. As a rule, commercial fertilizers should not be used as long as the animal manures are available.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Having previously prepared a plan of the proposed development, one should be able to determine the number and kind of trees and shrubs desired to plant the landscape. The order for these should be placed early in the season with instructions to ship as soon in the spring as it is usually possible to work the ground. Generally speaking, the earlier the plant materials can be set the less loss will be encountered. It is usually best to get the shrubs and trees set before sowing the lawn although there are times when this cannot be done. Several of the native trees and shrubs do very well when set in the lawn and often the expense of planting materials can be greatly reduced by their use.

In mass planting, do not set plants at regular distances apart. On the whole it is better to have them set too close rather than too far part. Set them slightly deeper than they stood in the nursery. Tramp the dirt firmly about the roots and water thoroughly at the time of setting.

First of all, abandon the idea of planting trees or shrubs in straight lines, excepting where a hedge is desired, or in the case of trees along

the street or highway where they must be planted in rows. In the yard try to imitate nature and plant them in groups of irregular outline. In attempting to do this there are a few important factors to be considered.

First we need variety. In any group of three or more specimen plants, it is generally advisable to have two or more varieties or species introduced. The number of different kinds used would depend upon the size of the group planted. Care should be exercised, however, in not having too many kinds mixed together in a single group.

Variety in size is also important. In selecting plants for a group it is necessary to know the approximate height the specimens will attain when full grown. Then by mixing species that grow at different heights we get an irregular contour effect that is much to be preferred over a flat surface. One should attempt to gain accent by planting the tallest varieties against a wall or fence with the shorter ones in front. Or in case of the group that is planted so that it can be approached from all sides, the tallest should be planted in the center with the shorter all around. By referring to the several photographic illustrations, one will understand what we mean by variety in size.

Then again, we should look for variety in color of the flowers, bark and leaves. Too many flowers of one color blooming at the same time appear monotonous. Know the blooming period and the color of blossoms and try to get variety and yet a pleasing contrast and satisfactory blending.

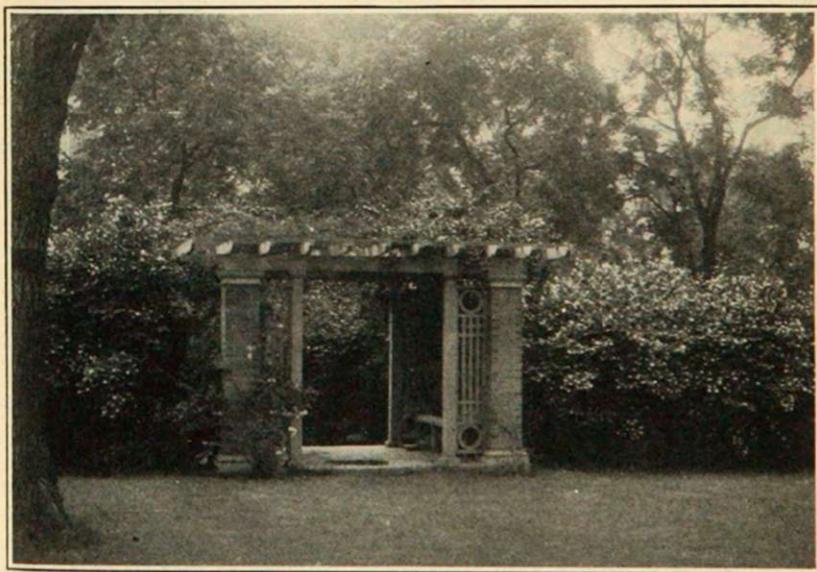


Plate No. 11.—PERGOLA

An architecturally designed garden feature, as shown here, rightly belongs in the formal garden. The more simple, rustic, vine-covered arbor goes better in the informal area. In either case, it should be backed up with trees or shrubs and not located out in the open lawn.

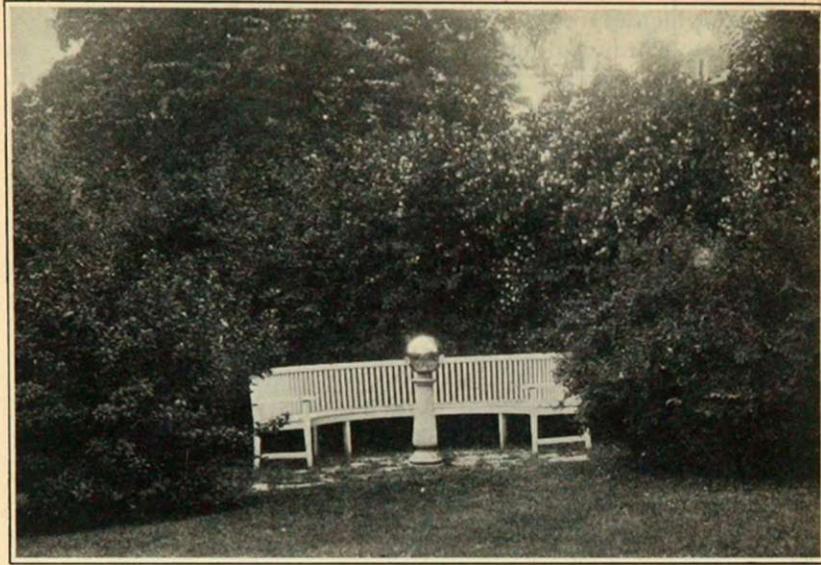


Plate No.12.—THE GAZING GLOBE

This interesting feature should be located where the best view of the surrounding landscape can be portrayed thereon. In connection with the seat it should be criticised as being of too conspicuous a color to harmonize with the natural surroundings.

Certain evergreens blend well with some of the deciduous shrubs and trees, giving variety in color and improved winter effects. Especially is this true when we use spruce and firs in the planting. Some shrubs like the dogwoods and willows have conspicuous colored bark and add a great deal of variety to the group.

Trees give the best results when planted mainly to the side and back of the residence. In this way they give the desired shade and also make a much better setting for the house.

Shrubs, as has already been stated, are used for separating one area from the other and are also used for breaking up any straight lines caused by fences, walks, drives and buildings. They also serve a useful purpose in screening unsightly objects from view.

Probably one of the most essential uses of shrubs is where they are used as a foundation planting around the house or other buildings. Here they serve the purpose of breaking up the straight lines caused by the building and tie the house into the lawn more satisfactorily. The height of the house will determine to a great extent the height of the shrubs that are to be used. A continuous planting should not be made, but rather set in groups with open spaces between so that an occasional glimpse of the foundation is observed. Plant specimens that will vary in height when grown and have some groups swell out farther from the house than others, so as to avoid the sense of regularity. Plates No. 7 and 10 show a good use of shrubs for foundation planting.

RECOMMENDED PLANT LIST FOR COLORADO CONDITIONS

Deciduous Street Trees

<i>Ulmus fulva</i>	Slippery or red elm
<i>Ulmus Americana</i>	American white elm
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple
<i>Fraxinus Americana</i>	American white ash
<i>Fraxinus lanceolata</i>	Green Ash
<i>Tilia Americana</i>	American linden or basswood

Deciduous Lawn Trees

All of the above street trees plus

<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	European mountain ash
<i>Betula populifolia</i>	American white birch
<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>	Western catalpa
<i>Larix decidua</i>	European larch.

Hardy Evergreen Trees

<i>Juniperus scopulorum</i>	Rocky Mountain red cedar
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scotch pine
<i>Picea pungens, var. glauca</i>	Colorado blue spruce
<i>Picea canadensis</i>	Black Hills spruce
<i>Abies concolor</i>	White fir
<i>Picea Englemanni</i>	Engleman spruce

Deciduous Hardy Shrubs

		Height
<i>Berberis Thunbergii</i>	Thunberg's Barberry	3-5 feet
<i>Shepherdia argentea</i>	Buffalo berry	5-8 feet
<i>Cornus alba siberica</i>	Red dogwood	8-15 feet
<i>Lonicera tartarica</i>	Tartarian honeysuckle	6-9 feet
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	High bush cranberry	6-8 feet
<i>Viburnum opulus sterile</i>	Common snowball	6-8 feet
<i>Ribes aureum</i>	Wild currant	4-6 feet
<i>Syringa</i>	Lilac-white, purple—Rouen	6-10 feet
<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>	Mock orange	5-8 feet
<i>Tamarix</i>	Tamarisk	5-8 feet
<i>Ligustrum armurensis</i>	Amoor river privet (for hedge)	3-6 feet
<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	Siberian pea tree	5-8 feet
<i>Spirea Van Houttei</i>	Bridal wreath	4-6 feet
<i>Spirea Billardi</i>	Billiards spirea	3-5 feet
<i>Spirea Anthony Waterer</i>		3-4 feet
<i>Symphoricarpos racemosus</i>	Snowberry	3-5 feet
<i>Symphoricarpos vulgaris</i>	Coral berry	3-5 feet
<i>Rhus copallina</i>	Black sumach	5-8 feet
<i>Eleagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian olive	10-15 feet
<i>Opulaster opulifolius</i>	Nine bark	4-7 feet

Hardy Vines

<i>Vitis riparia</i>	Wild grape	Arbors
<i>Clematis Jackmanii</i>		Trellises
<i>Lonicera Japonica</i>	Hall's Honeysuckle	Arbors and Trellises
<i>Halleana</i>		
<i>Ampelopsis Tricuspidata</i>	Boston or Japanese Ivy	Brick or stone walls
<i>Veitchii</i>		
<i>Ampelopsis Quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper	Trellises
<i>Ampelopsis Quinquefolia</i>	Engleman's Virginia Creeper	Brick or stone walls
<i>Engelmanni</i>		
<i>Aristolochia durior</i>	Dutchman's pipe	Arbors
(siphon)		

Hardy Perennials

Achillea	Tarrow
Alyssum saxatile compactum	Perennial alyssum
Althea	Hollyhock
Aquilegia	Columbine
Anchusa	
Asters—hardy	
Campanula	Canterbury bell
Centaurea	Corn flower
Delphinium	Larkspur
Dianthus barbatus	Sweet William
Dicentra	Bleeding heart
Digitalis	Foxglove
Gaillardia	
Gypsophila	Baby's Breath
Iberis	Hardy Candytuft
Iris	
Myosotis	Hardy Forget-me-not
Papaver orientale	Oriental poppy
Paeonia chinensis	Peony
Phlox	
Pyrethrum	
Rudbeckia	Golden glow
Saxifraga	
Solidago Canadensis	Goldenrod.

Annual Bedding Plants**Low Growing for the Border**

From Seed:	From Cuttings:
Sweet alyssum	Madam Salleroi geranium
Ageratum	Alternanthera
Candytuft	Achyranthus
Lobelia	Stevia
	Geranium

Medium to Tall Growing for Fillers

From Seed:	From Seed:
Aster	Ten weeks stock
California Poppy	Nasturtium
Marigold	Balsam
Petunia	Pinks
Phlox	Snapdragon
Verbena	Coreopsis
Zinnia	Feverfew
Salvia	Salpiglossis
Cosmos	Four o'clock
Sweet pea	

Bulbs

For Spring Planting:	For Fall Planting:
Gladioli	Tulip
Dahlia	Jonquil
Lilium Auratum	Narcissus poeticus
Tiger lily	Narcissus Von Sion
Red hot poker plant	Crocus
Canna	Iris
Caladum	Bleeding heart
	Peony
	Fritillaria

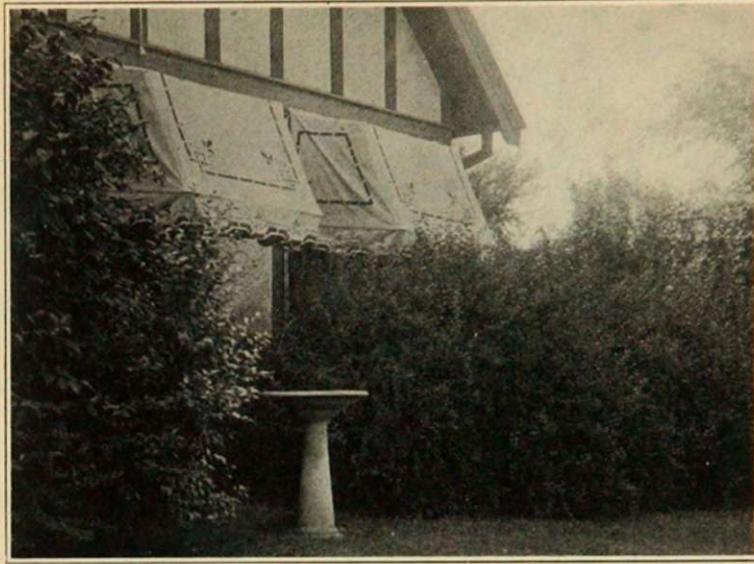


Plate No. 13.—THE BIRD BATH

It should always be located close in against a group of trees or shrubs. In this case the birds can be watched from the window.

PLANTING BULBS

Whether fall or spring-planted bulbs are being used, the soil requirements are much the same. It should consist of a rich, well-drained sandy loam, spaded deeply and put in first-class condition. The autumn-planted bulbs are best set about the time the leaves begin to fall. In setting any bulb, a safe rule is to set it so its top will be below the surface of the ground from three to five times its thickness. After the ground is frozen hard, it is advisable to mulch the bed with a light coat of stable bedding straw, leaves or other similar materials. This is removed when the ground thaws out in the spring. These bulbs may be left in the ground year after year, but the best results are obtained when they are taken up, divided and reset every three or four years.

The spring-planted bulbs are always taken up after frost kills them in the fall. They may be stored in a cool, dry cellar for the winter. The dahlia roots must be covered with slightly damp moss, dirt or other material to keep them from shriveling up.

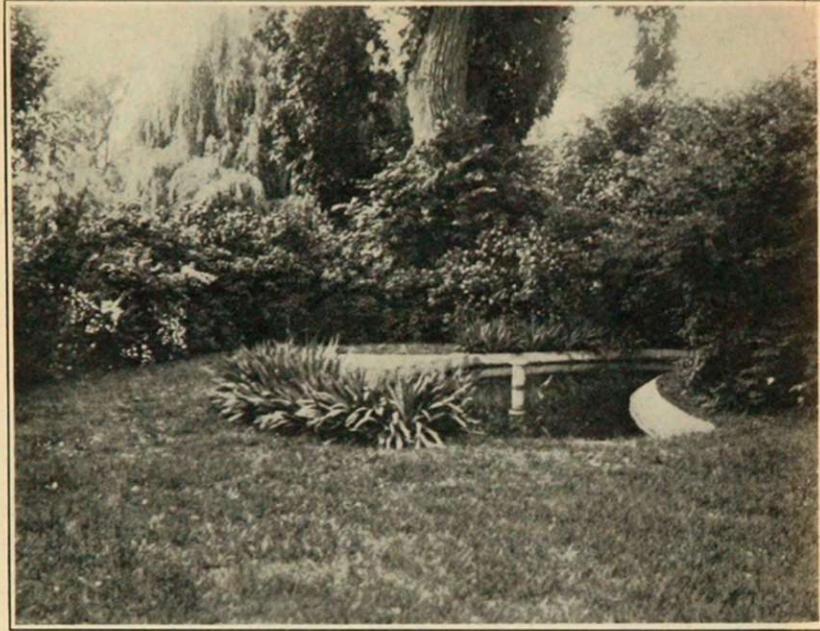


Plate No. 14.—INTRODUCING THE POOL

Where there is room in the private area, a small lily or fish pool will add materially to the attractiveness of the composition.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the writer wishes to state that in dealing with all the problems involved in the correct beautifying of the small, residential tract we have a subject far too intricate and varied to handle properly in a treatise of so short a nature as this. There are many matters of detail not mentioned here that will naturally arise in the development of each individual landscape, and the suggestions given are only to be taken as a general guide.

Likewise in recommending a list of planting materials it must be understood that no attempt has been made to name all the different kinds that will grow in the different regions, but rather to suggest only those that are most likely to give satisfaction when tried in general over the State.

Lastly, make up your mind you are going to attempt to have a place that you and your family will be proud to call home; one that has an additional financial value far in excess of the amount you have spent in beautifying it, and one which the community can point to with pride. With this determination, undertake to do the job well and for an indefinite future and you will never live long enough to regret it.