

expected for about two years. Granting this fact, a finished effect should not be expected when using small shrubs. If such is done, it will result in crowding in future years, which will give the planting a top-heavy or overplanted effect. Often-times this over-planted effect is more objectionable than the under-planted one.

At the time of transplanting, it is usually advisable to cut the shrubs back or to prune them to make the transpiration surfaces about equal to the absorptive surfaces of the roots. Even with the greatest of care, some of the valuable roots will be lost in the operation and, therefore, the strain upon them should be reduced by decreasing the leaf surface. The branches of most transplanted shrubs should be cut back about one-fourth their length.

FEEDING SHRUBS

Some people have the notion that it is not necessary to feed shrubs or other nursery stock. Whether this belief is based on the fact that shrubs are supposed to be hardy or exceptionally able to forage for their required food is not apparent.

Results of experimental work have indicated for a long time that shrubs were greatly benefited by applications of nitrogenous plant food. Recent experimental work has shown that more than just nitrogen can be used to advantage. One of our leading authorities on floricultural practices states that a complete scientifically balanced plantfood is the best for such plant feedings.

A plant food to be the most efficient and to meet any soil situation should include all of the elements necessary for plant growth. Only small amounts of each element are available in the soil at any one time and any of them may be used up and then limit the growth of the plant. It is now possible to buy a complete scientifically balanced plant food which has proven much more efficient than the haphazard by-product materials formerly used. By choosing the brand of a reputable manufacturer you are not liable to go wrong.

HOW TO FEED SHRUBS

Shrubs should receive plant food in the spring and during the early part of the growing season. When transplanting is done in the spring, plant food thoroughly mixed with soil should be placed in the holes

as the plants are being set. This can best be done by mixing about a three-inch potful of plant food with a bushel of top soil which is to be placed around the roots. If this is thoroughly mixed in and plenty of water applied, the plants should make excellent growth the first year.

The plant food can be applied around the plant on the surface of the soil. In making a surface application, four pounds of plant food should be sprinkled evenly over an area of 100 square feet and worked into the top few inches of soil. If the shrubs form a hedge, the plant food should be sprinkled in a strip about one foot wide on either side of the hedge. When applied in this way four pounds of plant food is sufficient for fifty feet of hedge.

Applications of additional plant food should be made at intervals of two months during the growing season. These should be at the rate of two pounds per 100 square feet or per 50 feet of row. It is well not to make an application after the last of August as the plants will soon be approaching the period of dormancy, and should not be forced at such a time. Care should be used at all times in applying commercial plant foods to keep the material off the leaves and stems of the plants. It is not necessary to get the plant food closer than three or four inches from the stem of the plant.

In recent years there has developed greater and greater appreciation among home owners for beautiful shrubs. Simultaneous with this development has been the acceptance of all improved methods for obtaining beautiful shrubs. Whether it be in purchasing, transplanting, or care of the shrubs only, the newest and most efficient practices should find a place in the home owner's program.

Don't Remove Covering Too Soon, Warning

By Charles Fiore

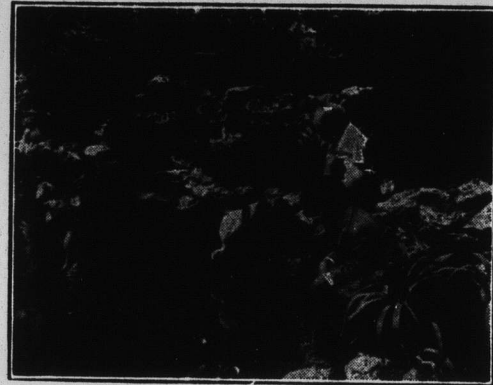
The removal of the protective coverings at the proper time in the spring is of great importance. Removing the coverings from the plants before the danger of spring frosts is past is liable to result in disaster. The first warm sun and wind will encourage an early and premature

growth that is quite apt to be frozen off some chilly night.

Until this dangerous period is over it is best to leave the protective coverings on, then open it up to allow a fairly free circulation of air before removing it entirely. It is better to leave the coverings on too long than

to remove them too soon. However, it is detrimental to the plants to allow them to remain covered late in the season.

If the mulch is of such material that it can be worked into the soil as a fertilizer by all means use it unless there are bulbs planted.



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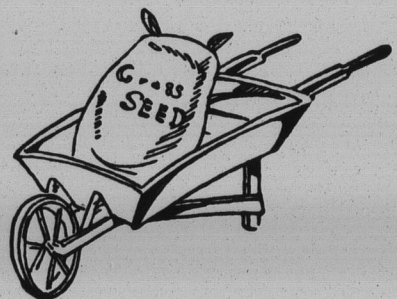


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