

HOME AND



GARDEN

Outdoor Living Room of A. R. Dole, Oak Park



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Timely Garden Comments

By J. R. Foote

KEEPING EVERGREEN GROUPS IN REPAIR

What is true of shrub groups is doubly true of the arrangement and spacing of evergreen trees, as to readjustments each year. This extra importance is due to the fact that trees do not develop so uniformly, eventually grow much larger, and are less readily adjusted by trimming, as compared in each case to bushes. Evergreen trees are much more costly and so must be more carefully preserved.

The handling of costly evergreens should never be done by amateurs. It is difficult enough for experts to plant or transplant these choice trees without having losses.

It becomes apparent then that every care should be taken in the original planning of an evergreen tree planting, knowing as near as possible the speed and extent of growth of each tree, as it is to stand in the combination, and having figured as closely as possible, what changes and adjustments will have to be made as the growth demands. Few folks who own these choice ornamentals have any adequate knowledge as to their comparative growth, how the combination will appear in ten years, or to what height any one tree would grow in a lifetime if given a chance in open space.

An evergreen tree which has been crowded by its neighbors for a year or two, can hardly if at all, be reclaimed or developed back into symmetry or beauty.

Do not use lime in the evergreen areas.

ADJUSTING OLD SHRUB PLANTINGS

It is absolutely impossible to so arrange the shrub borders and groups that they will continue to be properly

spaced throughout their life of usefulness.

If in the original spacing, room is left for full development, the areas will be entirely too open for several years. If, on the other hand, the usual procedure is followed, planting so that they will look well at the start and so that they will fulfill the purposes intended, then in a few years the plants will be crowding each other, crippling some, forcing bushes to abandon their natural shape and grace and throwing the various variety groupings out of balance. Bushes which spread from suckers, laterals or runners, will soon become thickets. More often than not, our existing shrub groups need some housecleaning.

By attending to these adjustments each year, the changes will not be so radical and the borders will be in fairly good repair at all times. If the general tendency is to spread out the plantings so as to give each plant more room as it develops, your cultivated, planted areas will be gradually encroaching on the lawns and other portions. You may avoid this expansion by discarding such groups from time to time, as seem less worthy or less to your liking.

As the years go by, some groups will show lack of thrift for reasons which were not discerned or which could not have been anticipated.

These groups can be thrown out and will make room for some usable shrubs which have been crowded out elsewhere.

Of course one must always keep in mind when making adjustments, proper heights, color harmonies, harmony of leaf texture and a distribution of bloom, and all other features which are considered when first arranging the groupings.

SAND FOR THE LAWN SOIL

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