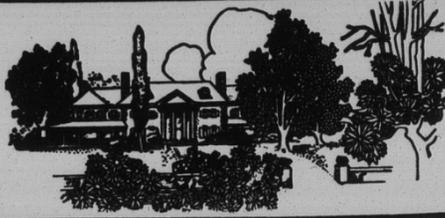


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Timely Garden Topics

By J. R. Foote

GROUND COVERS

Properties which include steep hillsides, rugged outcroppings, winding creeks or any sort of unruly or barren areas, present the problem of covering these areas with plantings which will be attractive, which will stand up against the eroding or washing of soil and against the dryness of such areas. It is also desirable that such tracks require a minimum of care.

For very steep areas which are so abrupt that you will not care to climb around over them, whether in shade or full sun, there are several shrubs which will thrive and will spread about and form a dense thicket, such bushes as the white snowberry, Indian currants, forsythia, the shrubby type of matrimony vine and the barberry.

If there is a need for lower growing viny types, there are the honey-suckle vines of varying sorts, the

American ivy, the vinca minor, the English ivy, the dewberry, and many other varieties which are not quite so desirable or more expensive.

For the smaller areas which require a dense ground cover and on which grass cannot be grown, there we may use again the vinca minor, or the many sorts of creeping sedums, the creeping Jenny, the pachysandra terminalis, the hepatica, and in some cases the lily-of-the-valley. There are situations where it is well to use the mosses, of which there are many and very interesting and beautiful sorts.

PLANT NOMENCLATURE

All of the plants, the bushes, the annuals and bulb flowers which we now enjoy, have been developed from forms which at one time grew wild, grew without restraint or the help of any man.

Now as these plants were discovered or as their value was noticed

and as men begun to cultivate and use them, began to buy and sell them, then it became necessary for them to have names by which to identify them.

The classifying and naming of plants is a comparatively recent development and until quite recently it has not been standardized. Less than two hundred years ago, botanists would classify and name plants without full knowledge as to what had already been done by other authorities, due to the fact that various countries were not so closely connected as they are now. By the same token it was not at that time so vital that names used in France should agree with those used in America or China. So we find the same plant having many different names and even to-day, in the species and varieties, we find some confusion unless we stick pretty close to local precedent.

As plants were being named, they were given names of the places where found native, names of their discoverers, and sometimes were named according to their characteristics of growth.

In order that there might be uniformity in the names used, the Latin language was adopted by botanists, as the standard. Therefore, when a Chicago dealer orders bulbs from Holland, he indicates the kind which he wants sent, by the Latin name.

An English nurseryman ordering plants from Japan will order them by the Latin names.

At the Illinois Nurserymen's convention a few years ago, one of the speakers who was telling us how to sell goods, advised that we use the common names instead of the Latin names in talking to a customer. While it is true that plants have names which are rather common locally, yet these names vary greatly within the limits of any one state.

Now in your catalogue you will find a group of trees listed under the name of Ulmus, the Latin name for Elm. This group of trees is but a part of the larger group, or family known as Urticaceae or Nettles.

The name Ulmus is the name for the secondary division or Genera.

We have the Genera divided in Species, one of which is the American Elm. The Species is divided into many varieties, one of which is the Moline Elm, which is of rather recent popularity.

Every tree has as much individuality as a person has. If you have in mind what you would consider as an ideal specimen of any one sort of tree, go to a large nursery and see how difficult it is to find just that particular tree among hundreds or thousands, from which you may pick. This is an illustration or demonstration of the great variation in individual trees.

LAWN GRASS SEEDS

Many lawns require something different from the standard mixtures of grass seed.

An excessively sour soil calls for a special combination of seed. Shade that is caused by building is a different proposition from the shade which is cast by trees. An abruptly sloping lawn may need a different

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