FOUNDATION PLANTINGS SHRUBS HIDE THE UGLY CORNERS

BY ADOLPH KAMIS.

Any landscape architect will tell us that the way to plant home grounds is to keep the lawn as open as possible and to confine our plantings to the house foundation, the corners, fences, boundaries and the like. The most important of these and the one that should receive the most attention in planning the picture is the foundation planting. It is the most important because it has to do with the setting of the home proper.

There are two main reasons for a foundation planting. We may wish to accent some features about the home, and we may wish to conceal or subdue others. The entrance to the home is naturally the place where the greatest activity is going on, and hence it would be advisable to accent this particular feature so as to bring it out from among the rest of the things. We may do this by planting a specimen tree or shrub on each side of the entrance—something that is different from the rest of the planting. It may be a shrub with different-colored foliage or blossoms. Or it may be a group of shrubs which, though of the same variety as the rest of the planting, will create an accent by their mass effect. The doorway may also be brought out by using larger plants for framing it so as to make it appear a little bit different from the rest. Vines trailing over the porch make a splendid accent, which can be used successfully in many cases.

There are some things about the home, however, that are not so attractive and which either must be concealed or partially subdued. The foundation proper is generally not very beautiful and it will be best if this is hidden from view. Small portions showing here and there from among the foliage are enough to suggest that a foundation exists. This arrangement will make the house appear as if it had grown up from among the shrubs; in other words, the house will be tied to the landscape. Some things which must not be concealed altogether are the basement windows, water faucets and the coal chute. Plants must not be set directly in front of the windows, as this would interfere with anything that may want to be taken in and out of the basement. Occasional branches drooping over the openings are not objectionable. Outside water faucets for the attachment of the hose may be concealed, but they should be easily accessible.

The plants to use for the foundation will depend largely upon the likes and dislikes of the individual. The height of the window-sills generally governs the kind of shrubs to use. Do not use shrubs that grow beyond your windows or that are out of proportion to the architectural features of the house. Place your shrubs about 18 inches or two feet away from the foundation. This will give them some chance to develop all around. As the plants grow more bushy it will be noticed that they tend to lean away from the house, due to the excessive growth of branches on one side. To avoid this, tilt the plants toward the house slightly when planting. By placing all the taller-growing shrubs next to the house and the smaller-growing varieties alternately in front of these, a gradual incline will be created that will merge into the wall proper. The stems of the taller-growing specimens will be concealed by the smaller shrubs and will "face down" the planting. By this arrangement all the shrubs will be in plain view.

Be careful to consider the natural growth of the specimens. If a particular shrub has a natural spread of three feet when mature, plant it about that far from its neighbor. While it is useless to put in more stock than necessity calls for, yet it is unwise to make the planting too scanty. By zig-zagging the plants in various ways a more interesting design wil be produced and a better mass effect will be the result.

Needless to say, good soil should be used throughout the planting-beds—a rich, black, sandy loam with enough humus and fertility in it to insure good growth. Well-rotted stable manure can be mixed in to insure the latter. If the soil is naturally poor around the foundation, it must be taken out entirely to a depth of some 18 inches or two feet and refilled with good soil. This is absolutely essential for good plant growth. You cannot plant a shrub in gravel, cinders or hard clay and expect it to perform. It simply can't be done.

Finally, when you have finished off the planting, mark off your bed into a pleasing informal design. Keep the soil stirred and free from weeds throughout the growing season. The graceful curves around the beds will not make the plants thrive better, but will give the planting the appearance of neatness which oftentimes goes a long way.

SHRUBS FOR FOUNDATION PLANTING.

Name	Height, Feet	Color of Bloom	Month of Bloom
Japanese barberry	3-4	Yellow; red fruit	June
Weigelia Eva Rathke	4-5	Red	June
Hydrangea P.G.	5-8	White	Aug.-Sept.
Hydrangea, Hills of Snow	5-6	White	June-July
Tartarian honeysuckle	6-8	Pink; red fruit	May-June
Mock orange	8	White	June
Cut-leaved elder	5-9	White	May-June
Spirea Anthony Waterer	2-3	Crimson	June-Sept.
Spirea Arguta	3-4	White	May-June
Spirea Bumalda	2-3	Pink	July-Aug.
Spirea Billardi	4-5	Pink	July-Aug.
Spirea Van Houttei	5-6	White	May-June
Snowberry	3-4	Pink; white fruit	June-July
Lilac	6-8	Purple or white	May-June
Tamarisk	8-10	Pink	July
Snowball	6-8	White	May-June

Chosen Varieties of Vegetables.

Experienced growers of garden crops have learned that there are great differences in varieties of vegetables as well as corn, melons, pumpkins, peas, tomatoes and other crops that are grown either for home use or for the market. The names of varieties as published in seed catalogues have not always been a safe guide to the grower. An analysis of Canadian seed catalogues made by the Seed Branch of the Department of Agriculture, and the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, revealed no less than 2,245 variety names advertized from year to year. Many of these were found on test to be duplicates of the same variety, and in other cases they were so inferior as to be unworthy of a place in the garden. For the guidance of the growers of these crops the best varieties, as proven by tests of various kinds, have been selected out and reduced to 266 in number.

The selected list has been published as a supplement to the regulations under the Seeds Act, issued as Acts, Orders and Regulation No. 11 of the Departent of Agriculture at Ottawa. The list is arranged alphabetically, commencing with the artichoke, of which two varieties are named, followed by asparagus, with three varieties, covering in all forty-four kinds of garden crops. The varieties given are arranged accroding to earliness of maturity, and those of outstanding merit are indicated by the letter "X". This supplement, just off the press, is being distributed by the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. To the extent that it is followed will gardeners reap satisfaction in realizing that they are growing the best available sorts of the different crops.

Tools are half the garden. Are your cultivators, forks and hoes in shape? If not, buy new ones.

Cleaning Dairy Utensils.

A plentiful supply of boiling water or steam is a necessity for the cleaning and sterilizing of pails and other utensils if a bacteriologically clean milk is to be obtained. Detailed instructions for cleansing dairy utensils is contained in a new pamphlet on Producing Clean Milk issued by the Dominion Department of Agriculture. The utensils should be rinsed in cold or luke-warm water immediately after using, and then they should be washed well in warm water to which soda or a dairy cleansing powder has been added. After washing, the utensils should be rinsed in clean hot water to remove traces of the cleaning solution.

But even this is not altogether sufficient. Utensils that appear to be perfectly clean may contain many thousands of germs. Where steam treatment is available the sterilizing is best done by placing the utensils in a closed container and blowing steam into it for 15 minutes. Inverting the cans or pails over a steam jet for a couple of minutes is also a good method. When live steam is not available the utensils should be immersed in scalding water for at least two minutes.

Clean utensils, however, are only one item in the production of clean milk. Equal care must be taken at every stage from the time the milk leaves the cow until it is consumed or used in manufacture. What the necessary precautions are is told in the new pamphlet, which may be obtained from the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

If a drop in temperature threatens your early tomatoes that are set out, and you have no frost protectors, turn some quart fruit-jars or flower-pots over the plants. If you have many plants, you may run out of jars and pots. Be prepared next time—have some frost protectors. Cheap and quickly put on.

Nurse Crops for Alfalfa.

There is considerable advantage in using a nurse-crop when seeding down alfalfa. It greatly reduces the initial cost of production, and, except where the land is comparatively clean, helps to prevent the weeds from retarding the development o the young alfalfa plants. The stubble of the nurse-crop tends to hold the snow and thus reduce the possibility of winter killing.

Tests were made, during the last three years with wheat, oats, barley and flax as nurse crops, at the Brandon, Manitoba, Experimental Farm In all three years, flax, on account of its shallow root-system and the small amount of shade it caused proved the least detrimental to the young alfalfa plants. Wheat, on the average, was better than oats or barley, as it stands up better and its smaller leaf development allows more sunlight to reach the alfalfa.

In the experiments the alfalfa was seeded at the rate of 10 pounds per acre, while the nurse crops, with the exception of the flax, was sown at a slightly smaller rate than when normally used. In seeding, the alfalfa seed was mixed with the grain in the grain-box.

The owner of a vibrating-type battery-charger had trouble keeping his battery fully charged because his charger did not seem to charge at as high a rate as it should. In trying to locate the trouble he noticed that the connecting wires from his charger to the battery were exceptionally long, and got very hot when the charging was going on. He concluded, therefore, that there was too much resistance in the wires, so he made them as short as possible, and used heavier wire that had less resistance. This had the desired effect, for it increased the charging rate and there was no further trouble.—G. S.

Ashmead Bartlett

War correspondent of the London press at Joffre's headquarters in the Great War, in the Japanese war with Russia, with the French in Morocco and now in China.

If you live where fence posts don't grow, you ought to talk your neighbors into buying posts in carload lots. Your dealer will make you a nice price on a carload. Each one could haul right from the car and save the dealer the cost of unloading. Another way out—make cement posts during slack sesaon. Do the work in the barn, or in a sheltered location, if there is danger of freezing.

I would much rather take a new and progressive ideal to the street corner than to the House of Lords.—Viscount Astor.

STUDY THE SPRAY CALENDAR

SUGGESTIONS FOR 1927 SPRAYING

By L. CAESAR, Provincial Entomologist

1. Do not spray at all unless you are going to try to do it well. It will not pay.

2. You cannot make a success of apple growing without good spraying.

3. You cannot spray well without a good outfit which will give you plenty of pressure. So overhaul the old spray machine at once, or if it is not satisfactory buy a new one with plenty of power.

4. Get a spray calendar from your Agricultural Representative, or from Mr. P. W. Hodgetts, Director of Fruit Branch, Toronto, or Professor L. Caesar, O.A.C., Guelph. Tack it up in the spray shed where it will always be available.

5. Use only the spray materials recommended in the spray calendar.

6. Do not spray when it happens to be convenient, but spray at the times the spray calendar says. The time of spraying is of vast importance and the times given in the spray calendar are based on years of study.

7. Omit none of the first three regular sprays, some years the first is the most important, some the second and some the third. Each spray helps to make the next more effective and each must be given to insure clean fruit.

8. McIntosh and Snow trees should always receive a fourth application. Read what the spray calendar recommends under "Special Sprays and Remarks," and be guided by it.

9. You will not control San Jose scale on large trees, twenty-five years old or more, unless you first prune them heavily and scrape the loose bark off with a hoe. Then see that every particle of the bark is wet with the liquid; a mere mist or a light spray will not kill the insects. Use lime sulphur 1 to 7 of water, prefrably just as the buds are bursting, or a 3 per cent. lubricating oil emulsive slightly earlier—when buds are nearly ready to burst.

10. For scab and codling moth cover every leaf. Scab attacks the leaves, too, and is often washed from them to the fruit. It will require from 6 to 10 gallons for each tree twenty-five years old or upwards, not just 2 or 3 gallons.

11. Be sure the spray reaches right through the trees. To insure this go in, if necessary, underneath the tree and spray the part beyond the trunk first, then step back to the outside and spray the remaining part. Do this from both sides. Remember that it is the centre or shaded part of the tree where scab naturally is worst, and poor sprayers nearly always miss this side, though they often cover the sunny or outer side all right.

12. A tower, even with a spray gun, is a great help. Often it will suffice to stand on the tank. A sawhorse type of support along the centre of the tank is a safeguard against falling off.

13. Do not use large openings in the discs of either nozzles or spray guns unless you have 225 pounds pressure or more. They are wasteful, make it difficult to maintain high pressure and give too coarse a spray.

14. In many cases better work will be done with a rod and two angle disc nozzles than with a gun. In any case use some system in spraying, so that you will make sure everything is being covered in a methodical way.

THE ONTARIO GARDEN

CONSERVING MOISTURE.

In the cities where every gardener has a hose and an endless supply of water at his command the conservation of moisture is not so important, but in the village and on the farm one cannot afford to waste water, hence gardening becomes a real job. As a matter of fact where there is a hose, watering is often abused. Sometimes the hose is turned on both morning and evening, while daily watering is the rule rather than the exception. A sprinkling every evening does more harm than good. One or two real soakings every week is what the garden needs. Where there is no hose, however, one must save every drop of rain. To do this get out the hoe or the cultivator after every shower and loosen up the soil. This not only keeps down the weeds but it prevents the sun drawing up the moisture through the soil. When the plants get so big that close, shallow cultivation is impossible mulch around carefully with old straw, leaves or other refuse. Above all things avoid high hilling up of plants or raised beds. These will dry out in a few days.

GET VEGETABLES IN EARLY.

With the exception of those vegetable, such as beans, peas, corn and tomatoes, which raise the edible part on a separate stem, speed is the essential thing in getting tenderness. Spinach, radish, beets, carrots and a host of others must be produced in a hurry or they become tough and tasteless. This means early sowing, getting the first crop in just as soon as the soil is ready and fetrilizing with nitrate of soda, one scant tablespoonful to the square yard and watered down. Even where the garden is well manured, three or four applications of nitrate early in the season will be found a wonderful help to get growth started.

ANNUALS IN PERENNIAL BED.

One cannot go ahead nad have a perennial bed in full bloom in one season, or in the second either, for that matter, unless a few annuals are allowed inside the boundary. Moreover, without the addition of cheap annuals, the establishment of a perennial bed in a hurry is quite an expensive matter. The best way is to make haste slowly. Plant only those perennials that you know and like, in clumps with the taller sorts toward the rear, then as you gradually get acquainted with other perennials in your neighbors' gardens or elsewhere add to your collection. Study carefully the place where these must go, taking into account the color of the flower, height of plant and the blooming season. The whole bed must blend together both in height and color. In the meantime, before all the space is taken up, fill in with annuals, such as zinnias, marigolds, California poppies, petunias, cosmos and other pleasing flowers that have attractive foliage as well as bloom.

How to Make Cottage Cheese.

Cottage cheese is one of the kinds which can be made satisfactorily in small quantities. The process of making it is very simple and is fully described in a pamphlet of the Dominion Department of Agriculture entitled "Why and How to Use Cheese." It is made from soured skim-milk. The soured milk is put in a pan and set over hot water until it separates into curds and whey. It is then strained through a double cheese cloth over a dish and the curd put in a bowl, well-mixed, seasoned with salt and pepper, and a little cream or butter added. After chilling it is ready to serve. Stale soured milk should not be used, and the milk should not be allowed to heat above lukewarm temperature, otherwise the curd will be tough. The whey which drains from the curd may be used as a beverage if sweetened with sugar and flavored with lemon juice. It should be strained and chilled before serving.

Partial Summer-Fallowing.

For the eradication of weeds a partial summer-fallow is sometimes useful. The land is handled as a summer-fallow up to the time it is necessary to sow some late seeded crop such as buckwheat. The process is fully described in a bulletin of the Dominion Department of Agriculture on Crop Rotations and Soil Management in Eastern Canada, in a section on methods of controlling weeds. It is stated there that buckwheat is a fairly good crop with which to smother out some weeds and, since it is not seeded in some districts until about June 21, time is available to give the land very thorough cultivation before seeding. Another good crop to use is rape, which also may be seeded late. When this system of partial summer-fallow with a smother crop is used it is advisable to plow the land in the preceding fall, cultivate thoroughly during the spring and again plow and cultivate before seeding.

BASKETBALL IS LOTS OF FUN

Basket ball is probably the most popular indoor sport of the girl. It is played by her in the colleges, in the high schools, in clubs—wherever groups of girls athletically inclined may gather.

As a game it has all the fascination of hard and interesting competition. As an exercise it has been endorsed, when properly regulated, by many physicians and directors of physical education. Although devised as an indoor sport, it may be played in the open air when weather permits.

The object of the players is to pass the ball from one to another until it is tossed into one of the baskets which hang one at each end of the court. A successful attempt at the basket is called a goal and may count either one or two points, depending upon the condition under which it is made. The team scoring the greatest number of points, of course, is the winner.

The rules are too numerous to describe in detail, but, in a general way, they resemble those of the familiar professional or school game played by men and boys. The essential differences are that the girls' rules do more to eliminate roughness, hold the players within certain marked divisions of the field—to guard against over-exertion — and shorten the periods of play.

A marked effect of the girls' rules is to emphasize team play rather than individual starring, thus encouraging that spirit of co-operation which is the essence of all true sportsmanship. As played to-day, the game encourages more girls to enter, with the result that almost every college and high school has its teams that participate in regular inter-school or interclass games. In that it has fulfilled the purpose for which basket ball was invented some thirty-five years ago—to develop a form of indoor exercise which should combine muscular effort with the fun of a game, and yet be available to all.

Any group of girls who want to play the game can enjoy it together, even if they do not seek outside contests. If no teacher is available, a book of rules and directions will quickly explain the underhand, overhand and chest "passes"; the fine points of "guarding" and "blocking" an opponent; the skilful "dodging" and "pivoting"; the intricacies of signals and team play. Girls find themselves becoming adept in a winter sport which is both fascinating and healthful, and which can be played in the open when spring calls them out-of-doors.—Jean Merrill.

The High Cost of Smashing.

Why do boys break windows anyway? Because of the fun of it, the smash of breaking glass that follows a good shot or a careless swipe. Why, then, don't boys break windows all the time? Why do they get over it? And the answer to that is right here: because boys learn that glass costs money, and what money means, and how much work it takes to earn a dollar, and what property rights are, and why civilized people have agreed to respect the other fellow's things. Grown-ups don't go around smashing windows. Neither do boys, after they've developed to a point when they've "learned better." It's merely a matter of how far along they are in their social development.

Let's do our bit for apple pie,
The toothsome dish supreme
That hits the very spot—oh my!—
And helps keep up the steam
There's lots of pie in prospect now,
And mother feels at ease
To konw our tummies can be filled,
'Cause father sprayed the trees

TORONTO WOMAN WINS $10,000 ATLANTIC MONTHLY NOVEL PRIZE

Above is the authoress of "Jalna" and the winner of the Atlantic Monthly's $10,000 prize novel competition. Miss Mazo de la Roche. Her inspiration has been the rural life and landscape of Ontario, the great lakes and the sea. And one must not forget her Aberdeen terrier, "Bunty," who is shown above. Miss de la Roche is a great lover of horses and birds as well as dogs and her favorite hobby is gardening on her Clarkson estate. Her ambition in her own words is "to write a fine Canadian play and have a good asparagus bed." "Julna" is her fourth novel; and her chief satisfaction at its success is that it enables her with her mind at ease to start her fifth novel.