

GARDENING

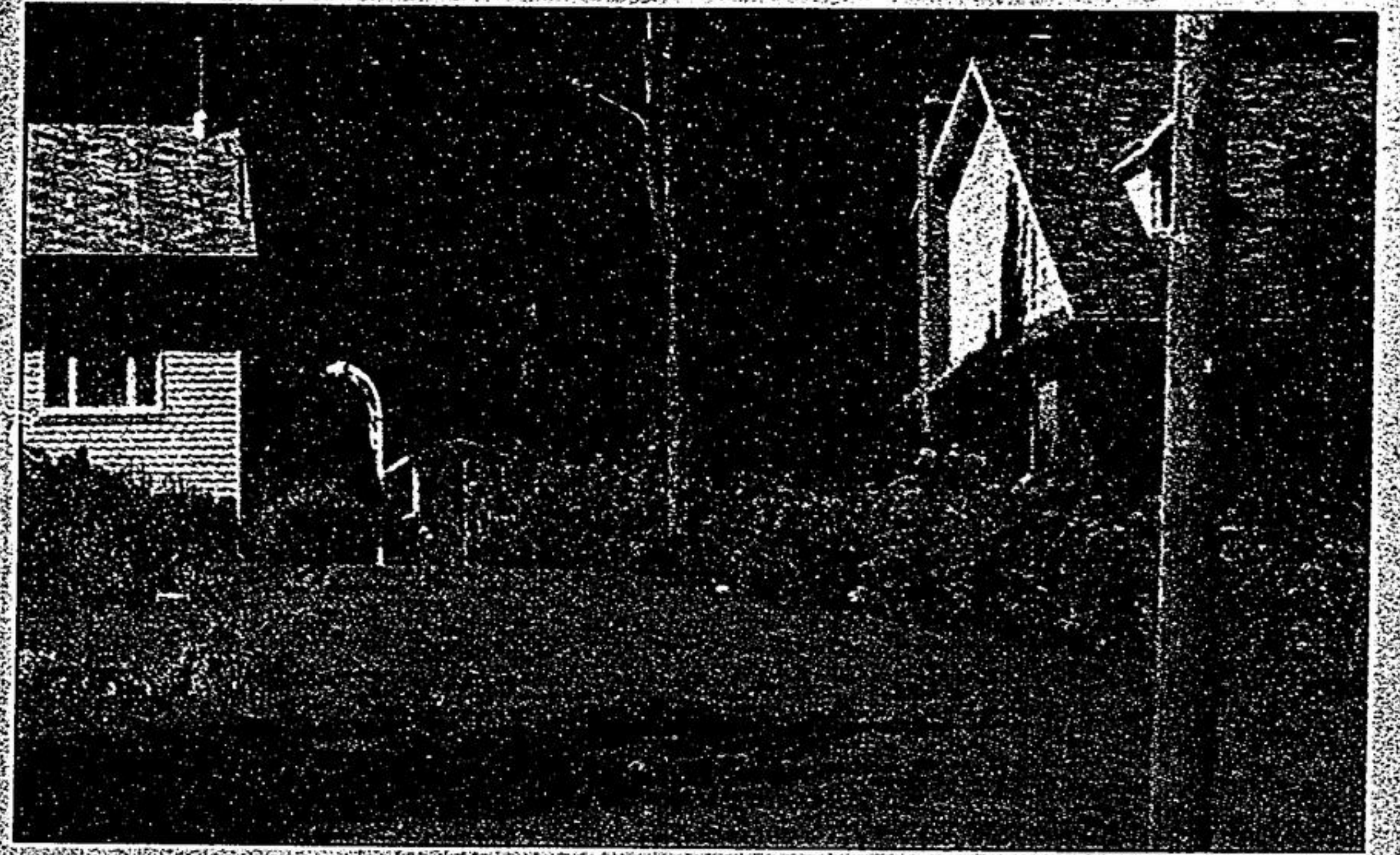
What type of hedge to choose?

Quite aesthetic, a hedge can separate two areas like a living fence, or it can border the property by bringing a natural element that is particularly pleasant to look at. It can integrate architectural elements such as arbors, arches, and even an entrance gate leading to a section of your yard. If you decide to install a hedge on your property, you must first calculate the surface that you want to cover. Then determine the height and the width of your hedge. Next, you must choose the type of plants which will best respond to your needs.

There are plants that grow rapidly and vigorously, and other plants that grow more slowly. There are also plants that grow to be quite large while others remain small. Thus, these are the parameters that you must keep in mind when selecting plants for your hedge. In addition, their characteristics will allow you to calculate

the distance required for planting the shrubs. For example, larger growing plants, like cedar, dogwood, or rose bushes, must be planted a meter apart to provide their root system with the space it will need to grow, whereas smaller growing bushes usually need a distance of 45 cm from the center of one plant to the other.

Selecting evergreens instead of leafy trees will often depend on your need for privacy, but will also provide protection against the wind. Some plants, like the black cedar, are particularly interesting to use for a hedge. For an original result, you can install an exotic hedge or a fruit tree hedge. A rustic rose hedge forms an efficient barrier that is quite splendid. To respond to different needs or to vary its visual effect, you can also plant a mixed hedge.



A rustic rose hedge aesthetically separates two land parcels.

The importance of walkways



The rise that serves as a ramp leading to the main entrance blends in beautifully with the superb landscape around it.

When planning your landscape, don't forget to take walkways into account. Most of the traffic occurs between the driveway and the main entrance to the house. A secondary walkway can lead visitors to the back door. In addition, other footpaths can provide access to the yard, the shed, the garden, the doghouse, etc.

The flow of circulation must be addressed according to practical and aesthetic criteria. For the main walkway leading to the front door, foresee a width of 1 to 1.25 meters, allowing two people to walk side-by-side comfortably. You must also foresee enough space for removing snow without risk of damage to the walkway or to any bordering plants. If you need to consider space to accommodate handicapped people, or you simply want to plan for an uncertain future, you can replace traditional

steps with an access ramp which can be a basic rise leading to the front door.

The other walkways can be more or less discrete, depending on the effect you want. You can choose a uniform material, paving stones or flat stones being the most commonly used. You can also mix different materials for a more varied visual effect: for example, a large uniform walkway leading to the front door, concrete tiles surrounding the pool and patio areas, and rustic stones or Japanese steps leading to the garden or the shed. It's a matter of planning for walkways according to your taste and your needs. When planning for walkways, pay special attention to the path leading to your front door. This one being the entrance to your home, it should be highlighted with the addition of a few well-chosen plants.

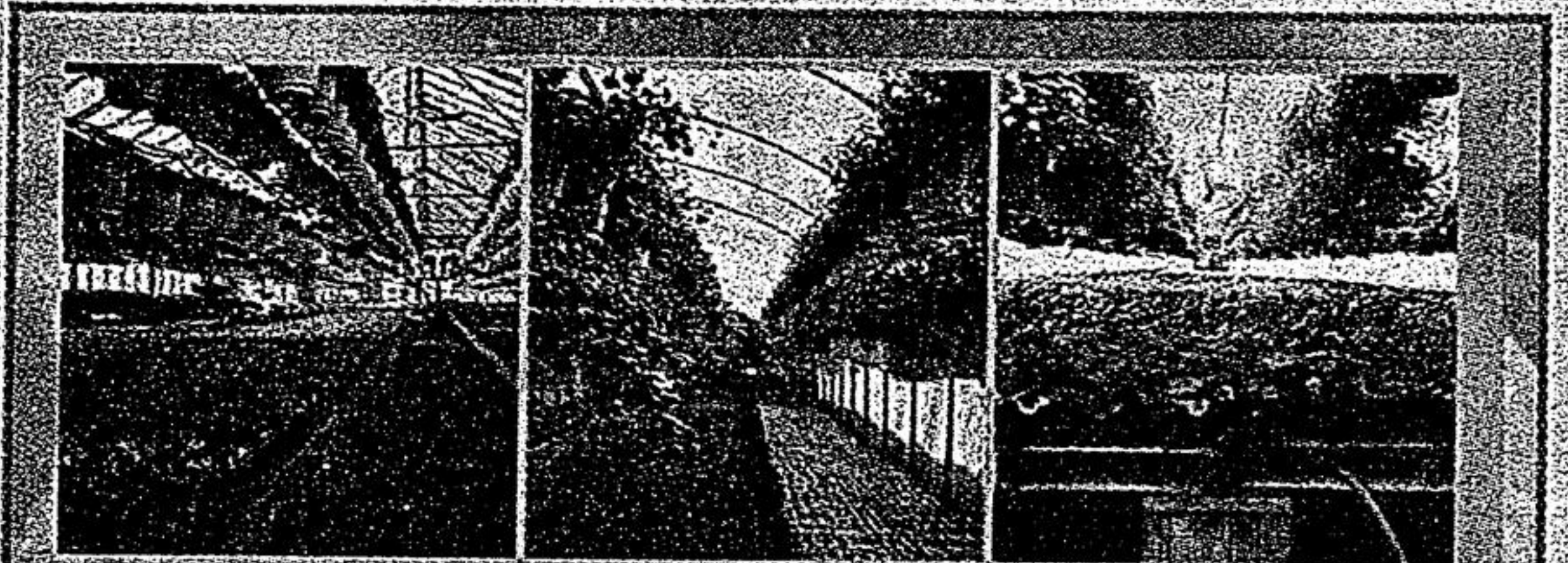
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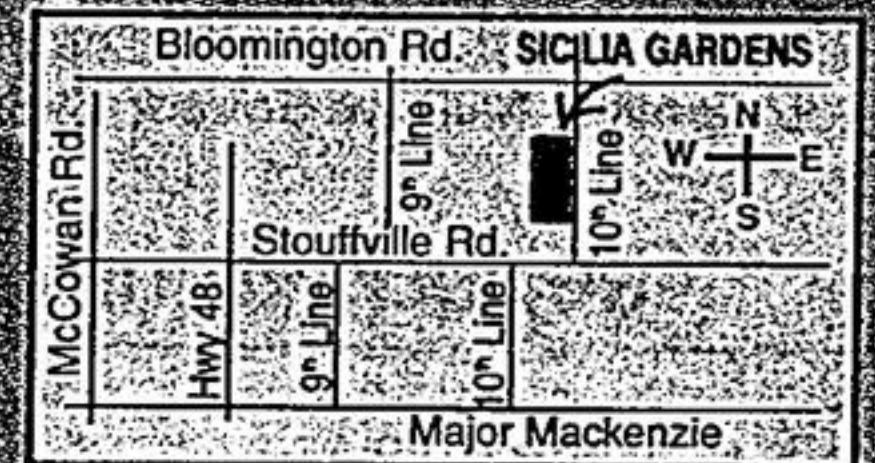
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