

Beautifying the Farm Home

By

E. E. ISAAC

Extension Horticulturist



Montana Extension Service in Agriculture and Home Economics, J. C. Taylor director.
Montana State College and United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.
Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914.

Outline for Beautifying the Farmstead

1. Select the site for the house and other buildings.
2. Decide on arrangement and location of the individual buildings.
3. Locate and prepare planting site for shelter belt.
4. Keep elevation of house low by using a low foundation.
5. In grading the yard and farm lot avoid terraces, banks, and unnatural slopes. Drainage should be away from the house.
6. Clean up the yard and farm lot.
7. Decide on location and size of lawn and prepare the soil.
8. Locate walks and drives, keeping in mind the location of the wood-pile or windows through which fuel is to be put into the basement.
9. Keep in mind desirable views when selecting locations for buildings and when setting trees and tall-growing shrubs.
10. Choose locations for trees. Select long-lived trees.
11. Decide on location of shrub groups in reference to foundation planting, screen planting, and boundary planting.
12. Select vines for porches, arbors, and trellises.
13. Select location of flower beds in front of shrubbery and along fences.
14. Plan location of arbors, trellises, seats, bird baths, etc.
15. Make a list of native trees, shrubs, vines, etc. that you plan to use and another list that needs to be purchased from the nursery.
16. Make a complete planting plan. Give each species of tree, shrub, vine, etc. a number, and use that number on the sketch to mark the particular location of a certain species.
17. If the available water supply is suitable for plant growth, plan a system that will supply the needs of the house and provide for irrigating the lawn and garden.
18. Plan for the future. A definite plan to follow will permit doing a little each year until the plan is completed.

Beautifying the Farm Home

By

E. E. Isaac, Extension Horticulturist

The security of a nation is dependent upon its homes. Clean, attractive homes are factors in character building of the youth and anything that will make the home better will improve citizenship. The attachments that are formed for the childhood home are associated with the surroundings of the home. Nothing so holds the affection of children to the old homestead as the trees, shrubs, and flowers they had the privilege to enjoy in their childhood days. The impressions that children obtain from interesting and attractive home surroundings remain not only as a pleasant memory, but serve as a standard of comparison and a stabilizing influence throughout life.

The immediate surroundings of the home, when properly developed and cared for, represent the greatest asset of the farm. However, in planning the farmstead all the buildings with their immediate surroundings must be considered. The roads and walks; the fruit, vegetable, and flower gardens; the lawn; and the trees and shrubs, all are important in the building of a home.

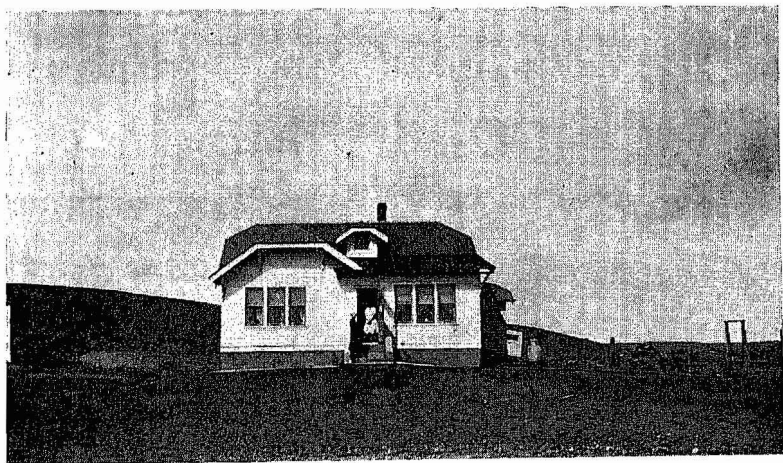


Figure 1—A fine new house that needs trees and shrubs to give it the appearance of being a home.

The main objective in all efforts to beautify homes by means of plantings is to create a beautiful picture. But merely planting trees and shrubs here and there around the farm will not give the desired results. To produce this picture, plan for perfect harmony, not only between the buildings themselves, but between buildings, trees, shrubs, and flowers. This work requires a knowledge of the plant materials, a working plan, and a wholesome imagination to see the completed planting as it will appear a decade or two in the future.

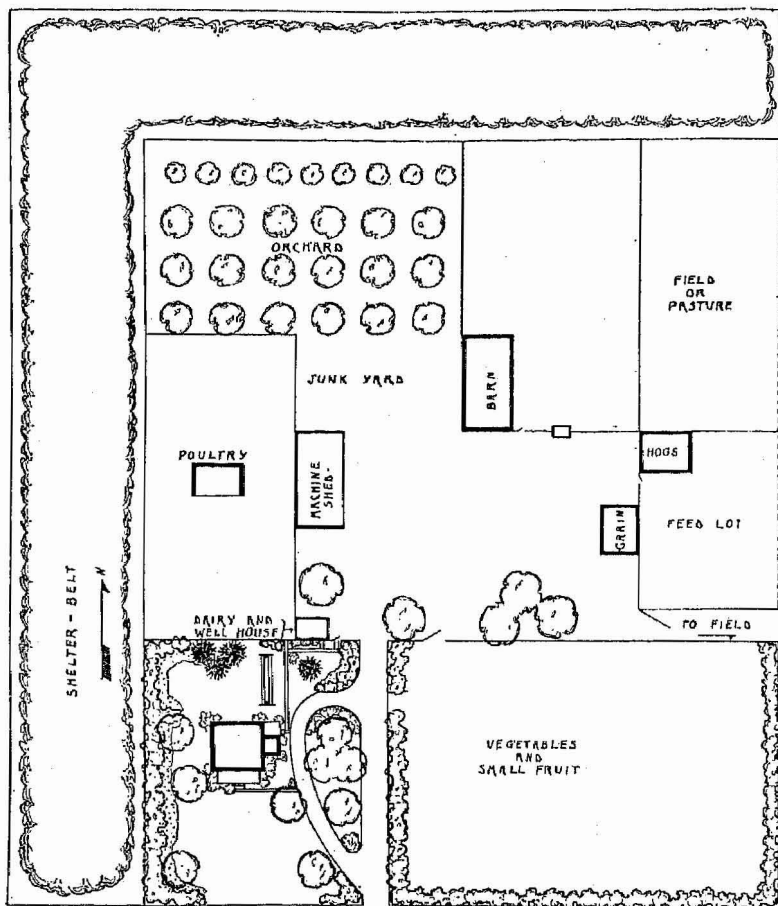


Figure 2—A plan to be complete should include the location of all buildings, trees, shrubs, and flower borders.

Every home, whether a humble cottage or a pretentious mansion, can be made attractive by proper planting of trees, shrubs, vines, flowers, and lawns. There are many rural homes without a tree, shrub, vine, or flower about the house. This neglect is due to two principal reasons: first, the supposed cost of landscaping the home; and second, the erroneous idea that trees and shrubs will not grow. The cost need not be prohibitive if such native material as can be found in coulees, along creek banks and river bottoms is used. Such plant material may be supplemented from time to time with the hardy cultivated ornamentals that can be purchased from nurseries operating under comparable climatic conditions.

There is ample proof that ornamentals can be successfully grown in all parts of the state if a reasonable amount of care is given them. It is surprising what wonderful effects can be obtained from a relatively small expenditure of labor and money, provided the methods outlined are followed and the planning and labor is done by members of the family. Simplicity should be the keynote in all planning. Just as many of the greatest works of art are simple and uncomplicated, just so should complex and overdone planting be avoided.

A working plan is essential. A rough sketch of a working plan can be plotted on a large sheet of plain wrapping paper. Such a sketch should include the location of all buildings, whether existing or to be built in the future, walks and drives, and the location of each tree, shrub, hedge, vine, and flower borders and beds.

Neatness and Orderliness

Putting the grounds in order is the first step in beautifying the home of an established place. Things that do not belong in the yards, such as farm machinery, discarded auto casings, wrecked autos, rolls of wire, rocks, boards, piles of posts, old stumps, discarded kitchen utensils and other rubbish should be removed.

Poles for telephones and aersials are necessary, but unattractive, and should be placed in the backyard or in some inconspicuous place in the side yard.

The backyard is the place for the service area. The clothesline should be taken down from the front lawn and placed in the back. This will save steps for the housewife and insure her a gerater degree of privacy.

Flower beds enclosed with borders of cobblestones, auto casings, brick, and similar material should be removed and the flower beds established at the edges of the lawn. Clumps of shrubbery and perennials scattered about the lawn will be more attractive if dug up and reset at the edges of the lawn. Repairing the fence should be included in the general clean-up.

The next step is painting the buildings. It is surprising what a difference a coat of paint will make in the appearance of a home. The longer the painting is delayed, the more expensive it becomes, and the more difficult to apply. A gallon of paint will cover from 400 to 800 square feet of surface, depending upon the condition of the surface to be painted. The outbuildings should be painted the same color as the house. A white house, a red barn, and some other color on the garage and wash house, and the rest of the buildings unpainted, does not present an attractive appearance.

Location of Building Site

In developing a new farm it will be time well spent if the planning and spacing of each building is carefully considered from the standpoint of producing the most pleasing landscape effect and greatest convenience.

In choosing the location for the house, it should be kept in mind that the house is to be made the main feature of the picture. The arrangement of other buildings and all plantings should be made with the viewpoint of the dwelling being the central attraction. Farm buildings conveniently grouped back of the house; reserving the best site for the dwelling in respect to views, soil, and drainage, results in a more attractive appearance of the farmstead. Accessibility to all parts of the farm is another point to take into consideration when selecting the site for the buildings. Locating buildings in one corner of the farm to conserve space or because it is the closest point to town may be a handicap to future development and certainly does make it more difficult in providing lanes for livestock to all parts of the farm.

Dry gravelly knolls unsuitable for farming purposes are too often selected for the building site. Such locations present a discouraging problem in trying to get trees and shrubs to grow. A slight rise that provides good

drainage and a good view is desirable, but good soil is necessary for plant growth. A sufficient supply of good water is another factor to consider in selecting the building site. Where natural protection against objectionable winds does not exist, a wide belt of trees should be planted. When it is necessary to plant a belt of trees for protection, space should be provided when locating the buildings. Ten rows of trees spaced 8 to 10 feet apart under irrigation and 12 to 16 feet on dry sites are none too many.

The size of the home grounds is dependent on the size of the house and the farmstead as a whole. The more pretentious the buildings, the more space required to give the proper setting. Too small an area gives the place a cramped appearance. On the other hand, too much ground in the area about the dwelling is undesirable from the standpoint of labor required for upkeep. One of the common mistakes made in planning a lawn on the farm is in making it too narrow. A minimum frontage of 100 feet should be allowed; a greater width is desirable for most farm homes. There should also be sufficient space back of the house for the laundry and for screen planting.

Another common mistake made in the location of the house is in distance from the highway. The farm house should be placed at least 100 feet back from the public road. A greater distance is desirable along much used highways to avoid noise and dust. It also is a mistake to set the house back too far unless the distance is great enough to permit using the excess space not needed for lawn for some other purpose such as a calf pasture. The house need not be located in the center of the lawn. Generally, more interesting designs can be worked out if the house sets somewhat to one side.

The above discussion has dwelt upon the new location. Where the buildings already exist, it is obviously necessary to accept the situation and do the best possible. Moving larger buildings to bring about a more suitable arrangement is generally too costly to be attempted. The smaller buildings, however, may be shifted to give greater convenience and a more artistic appearance.

Where the house is too close to the road it is necessary to accept the situation and do the best possible with the front lawn. Usually, however, it is possible to widen the lawn and increase the depth in the back to provide sufficient space for trees and other ornamentals.

Walks and Drives

The main entrance to the farmstead should never be directly in front of the house. By placing it well to one side, direct access to both house and barnyard can be had and the approach made to seem natural and easy. A slight curve from a good broad entrance on the main road will make the drive more interesting and just as efficient as a straight one. The entrance from the highway should suggest the character of the farmstead. The less formality there is in the farmstead the less there should be at the entrance. Entrance posts, when used, should be in keeping with the buildings, and be simple in design, sturdy and attractive. The main drive leading in may be divided as it approaches the buildings, one branch going past the house and the other leading direct to the barnyard. The branch leading past the house can in most cases be made to rejoin the other in such a way as to provide a turn-around for cars. The plot of ground in the center of the turn-around may be used for trees and shrubs to screen the barnyard. Surfacing the drive with gravel or some other material will add to the attractiveness, as well as convenience, if properly done. The driveway should be excavated to a depth of six to eight inches and filled in flush with the surfacing material. It should be so planned that it can be made to serve as a service drive to the coal window or wood shed unless the fuel supply sheds are so located that they may be reached from outside the lawn.

Walks should be provided only where they are needed. On the average farm there is comparatively little need for a walk leading from the front porch to the highway. An exception would be where the house sets close to the highway and a parking area has been provided between the lawn and road. Most visitors will usually drive into the farmyard, so the main walk should lead from the drive to the house rather than from the public road. The front entrance should be emphasized to lead people to the front door rather than the kitchen door. Walks with a slight curve are more interesting than straight ones, but excessive curves and angles should be avoided. Concrete walks are preferable where they are used a great deal. Where travel is light and walks are needed only occasionally they may be made of stepping stones. Either native flat stones or poured concrete may be used for this purpose. Stepping stones should be spaced eight or ten inches apart. All walks should be placed level with the turf and not project above it.



Figure 3—An interesting farm home, with its open lawn and trees and shrubs so arranged as to partly screen other buildings from the house.

Lawns

The area immediately around the dwelling, referred to as the lawn, is the background or foundation against which all the details are viewed. It is on this area that the main feature of the farmstead picture is produced. In developing the picture the landscape gardener works with colors in the form of plant life. The final result of his efforts is dependent upon how the different types of plants are used. Grass, trees, shrubs, vines and the herbaceous flowering plants all have a definite place in the landscape scheme.

The lawn should lead unbroken up to the house. All plantings, with the exception of shade trees, are far more interesting when located around the edges of the lawn. The practice of locating individual shrubs and flower beds all through the lawn gives it a gaudy appearance and adds considerably to the task of keeping the lawn cover looking neat.

Careful preparation of the soil previous to seeding is essential to a beautiful turf. Excavated soil from cellars or basements is not suitable for leveling purposes. It may be used for deep fills but should then be covered

to a depth of 4 to 5 inches with good top soil. A liberal application of well-rotted manure, pulverized and worked into the surface soil is beneficial to plant growth.

The addition of a pound of treble super acid phosphate to 100 square feet of surface is advisable in those areas where soils have been found to be deficient in phosphate. The phosphate should be worked into the upper two inches of soil. One of the common mistakes made in building lawns is in not allowing the soil to settle before seeding. An unsettled soil may be responsible for an uneven surface. Settling can be hastened by two or three heavy applications of water after leveling and prior to seeding.

New lawns may be seeded any time during the spring months or in late summer and early fall. Kentucky blue grass makes the most satisfactory turf for irrigated lawns in Montana. Some folks like a mixture of Kentucky blue grass and white Dutch clover. When such mixtures are used, one pound of clover seed to seven or eight pounds of grass seed is sufficient. One pound of seed, either straight grass seed or of the mixture, is sufficient for 250 to 300 square feet of surface. Cheap mixtures and low grades of seed in general should be avoided.

Kentucky blue grass is unable to survive in most sections of Montana without irrigation. Crested wheat grass is recommended for the non-irrigated lawn. Although a bunch grass, if seeded quite heavily it soon

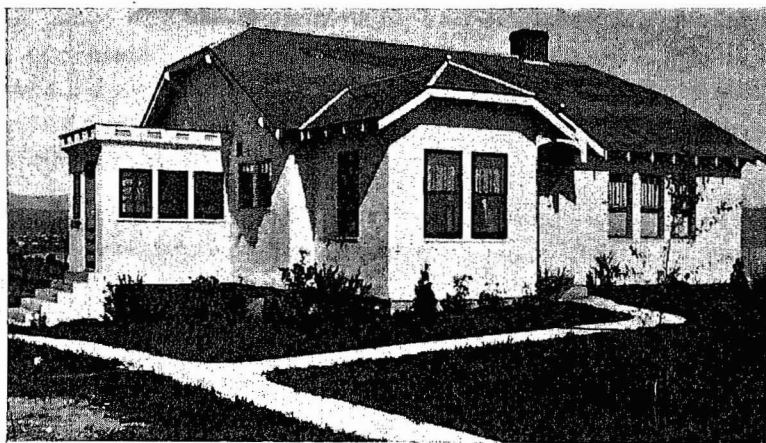


Figure 4—A new home showing lawn three months after seeding.

assumes the appearance of a solid turf. Unfortunately crested wheat grass turns brown during the hot dry period of summer if it is not irrigated. It resumes growth again when the fall rains start. Seeding should be at the rate of one pound to about 500 square feet of surface. Early spring or late fall seeding is recommended for the non-irrigated lawn. A firm seed bed is necessary.

Constant attention to watering, fertilizing and clipping is necessary to maintain a satisfactory turf. If these three items are given proper attention, the weed problem will not be serious.

The lawn should be watered infrequently but thoroughly, especially during hot dry weather. This tends to encourage a deeper and stronger root growth, while the usual practice of sprinkling lightly each day favors shallow root development. Frequent light watering coupled with close mowing during hot dry weather often results in a thinning of grass stands.

Mowing is necessary in order to keep the lawn attractive and to maintain a dense turf. Cutting too close, however, during hot dry weather is extremely injurious. It is well to remember that the food which supplies the energy for growth and certain vital processes in the roots is manufactured in the leaves. Constant close clipping of the top reduces the supply of this energy and lowers the vitality of the plants. Clipping the grass at a height of two or three inches during the summer months is advisable.

Application of a nitrogen fertilizer to maintain a vigorous growth of grass is helpful in preventing young weed seedlings from becoming established. Ammonium sulphate, a commercial fertilizer containing about 20 percent nitrogen, is an excellent source for this plant food element. It may be applied at the rate of four pounds to 1,000 square feet of lawn. Old bluegrass lawns may require two applications a year to maintain a vigorous growth and dense sod. In applying ammonium sulphate care should be taken to distribute evenly, otherwise an uneven growth and color of grass will result. It should be applied when the grass is dry and immediately washed down by sprinkling, or it may be applied just before a shower. Severe burning of the grass may follow if the washing down process is delayed too long. The first application should be made in April about the time the grass is starting to grow. A second application may be made in early June if crab grass is not present.

Trees for Shelter

Trees are of great importance to the farm home in improving its appearance as well as making it a more comfortable place in which to live. In most districts of Montana a belt of trees is needed to protect the home from winter winds. The location of the protective belt of trees will vary with the locality but in most sections protection is needed from the north and west. In the shelter planting on the irrigated farm, trees may be spaced rather close together to form a dense growth in a few years' time. Spacing on the dryland farm should conform with cultural requirements. Quick growing species such as the willows and poplars are suitable for the irrigated farm. However, it is well to keep in mind that a dense growing shrub is needed in combination with tall growing species to help break the ground winds. Conifers, or evergreens, although rather slow in growth, will in time provide better protection than the deciduous kinds. Two or three rows of conifers should be included in the main planting.

Trees on the Lawn

Trees should seldom be planted in straight rows on the lawn. They can be made to serve their purpose better when grouped in a naturalistic fashion about the lawn. They should be located so as to make a setting for the house and to provide shade at desirable points. Trees will give shade wherever they are planted but will make a good setting for the building only when properly placed. A pleasing effect can be secured by planting a group so it will provide shade from the south and west sun, and another tree or group of trees on the other side for framing the house. A third group then is needed back of the house to complete the setting. It also is desirable to have groups of trees planted in the barnyard, as shown in Figure 2, to provide shade and screen other buildings from the house and highway.

It is well to keep favorite views in mind when planting trees on the lawn. Over planting, and planting too close to the house is a common fault. This perhaps is due to the fact that the average individual does not visualize the space required by plants, whether trees or shrubs, when grown. They should be planted not closer than 18 to 20 feet from the house.

The selection of the right species is as important as the location. The cottonwoods and poplars in general are not desirable for the small lawn.

They are very shallow rooted and heavy feeders, making it difficult to keep a good lawn cover or to grow other forms of plant life near them. They are better suited for the large park and the farm woodlot. There may even be a place for them in the barnyard where tall trees are needed and where they will not interfere with the growth of other plant life.

The American elm, a native of eastern Montana, develops into a beautiful shade tree. Unfortunately, however, it is infested with aphids that spoil its beauty. The aphids can be controlled by an oil spray in early spring. The white and green ash, the birches, hackberry and American linden, are all suitable for the small lawn. The ash is not so satisfactory in the southeastern part of the state due to the ravages of the ash borer. The White oak and Black walnut are surviving in the lower altitudes of western Montana and in the Yellowstone valley. They are rather slow growing but offer possibilities. There are several dwarf species such as the Russian Olive, Mountain ash, Red haw and Flowering crabs that make satisfactory lawn trees.

Fruit trees have no place on a lawn. They should be planted in an area by themselves where proper cultural methods can be applied.



Figure 5—An interesting group of trees growing on prairie soil that was covered by sage brush a few years ago.

One of the discouraging things about planting the slower growing trees is the number of years it takes them to reach a size where they will give shade. This can be partly remedied by planting one or two fast growing trees, such as the Golden willow, by themselves. They perhaps will need to be replaced in 10 or 15 years, but by then the slower growing species should be large enough to supply the shade needed.

Interplanting temporary fast growing species with the slower growing permanent trees for quick effect is impractical. The temporary trees are usually left until they have ruined the shapes of the slower growing species.

The evergreens, particularly the spruce, have a place in the lawn. They provide color for winter months and when planted in groups in the larger lawns they furnish considerable wind protection. They present the most pleasing effect when planted to the side or back of the lawn. Spruce and other large evergreens are entirely out of place when planted directly in front of the house. There are, however, pyramidal and columnar types suitable for foundation planting. The growth of such types does not interfere with views.

Shrubs

A farmstead with trees will still look bare without the addition of shrubs, vines and flowers. They are needed to give the lawn a finished appearance. Shrubs should not be planted promiscuously over the lawn as such arrangement tends to give the place a gaudy appearance and requires additional labor in upkeep. Their use should be limited to border planting, for planting next to the foundation of buildings, to make natural appearing divisions in the lawn, and for screening unsightly views.

The lines of buildings are mostly straight and formal, and they need to be broken and softened to make them appear more a part of an informal landscape scene. For this reason it is desirable to use shrub plantings of different heights and widths as shown in Figure 3 at various points around the foundation so as to modify the straight lines instead of drawing attention to them.



Figure 6—Over-planting or using the wrong type of shrubs should be avoided, especially at the entrance.

The height of the building and its elevation should be considered in selecting the variety of shrubs for foundation planting. A house with a high foundation requires a different combination than a building with a low foundation. Large shrubs that look well at the corner of a large house would appear to smother a cottage. The corners of the house and angles formed by porches and ells and long, unbroken spans between windows are places for medium height shrubs. Lower growing shrubs may be planted in front of these in order to have a continuous foliage from the tops of the taller kind down to the ground. The lower growing shrubs are more suitable for planting under windows and around porches. The different groups should vary in height, breadth, and composition to avoid the appearance of straight line planting.

It is not necessary to have the foundation covered completely. With most houses it is better to have some of the foundation exposed at several points. Corner plantings sometimes are extended out into the yard for a considerable distance in an irregular fashion. This is done to make divisions in the lawn and to partially screen the back. Most shrubs suitable for foundation planting require spacing of three to five feet between plants. The distance they should be set out will be determined by the size of the shrubs when full grown. The small shrubs normally need a distance of

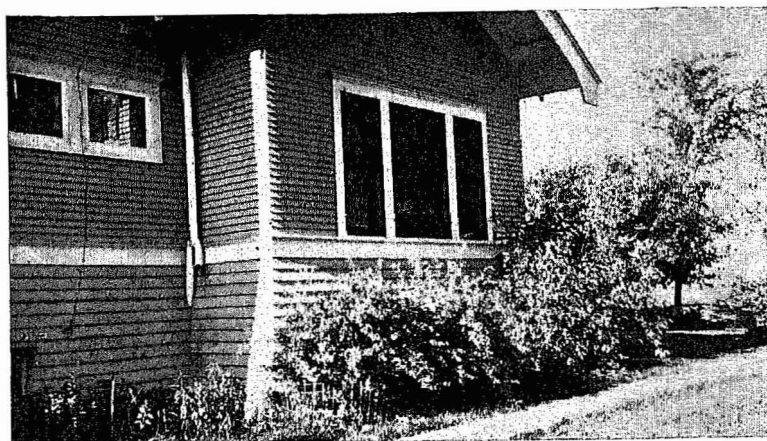


Figure 7—Low growing shrubs are best suited for planting under windows and around porches.

about 18 inches from the foundation. The larger shrubs should be set out a distance of 24 to 30 inches. When set too close to the foundation, root and branch development are restricted and when set too far away they have a detached appearance.

Shrubs also are used for mass planting at the outer edges of the lawn where they serve as a means of enclosing the lawn and providing some degree of privacy. Such a border also serves as a barrier against strong winds, thereby improving growth conditions for the more delicate plants in the flower border. Fences are necessary on the farm, but at the best do not add to the attractiveness of the lawn. They may be partially or entirely screened by shrubbery.

Tall shrubs are especially suitable for planting in corners and for screening unsightly views. The lower shrubs may be used when it is desirable to screen the fence and still not obscure the view beyond. Broad views often may be made more interesting by dividing them through location of tall shrubs or trees in the border. Pleasing views seen in any direction from porches or windows should be framed and not obscured.

The border shrubbery becomes more interesting when arranged to form an irregular succession of curves or bays along the lawn side in order to harmonize with an informal plan. A shrub planting may also extend, from

the border, for a considerable distance into the lawn in irregular lines to screen off a private area or to aid in the development of the outdoor living room.

If the area around the yard is relatively small, planting of large masses of any one shrub should be avoided. The shrub planting as a whole will be more interesting and enjoyed to a greater extent if a selection is made to provide a succession of color throughout the year. It is possible to have some shrubs in bloom throughout the summer months. Some, like the honeysuckle, the Highbush cranberry, Buffalo berry and Snowberry are particularly attractive when heavily laden with fruit following the bloom period. The Golden elder, Rubra rose and Japanese barberry, are useful plants for variation in foliage color. Some shrubs should be chosen for fall coloring. The native Red dogwood and the Golden dogwood are excellent for colored twig effect in winter.

There is much native material growing along streams and in coulees that can be used in landscaping. Such shrubs as the flowering currant, red dogwood, native syringa, Buffalo berry, silver berry, and June berry, make interesting material for the border planting. The dwarf juniper or bush cedar is fine for planting next to the foundation of buildings and to some extent in rock gardens. The large type juniper or western red cedar makes excellent material for the shelter planting as well as being desirable for ornamental purposes in the lawn.

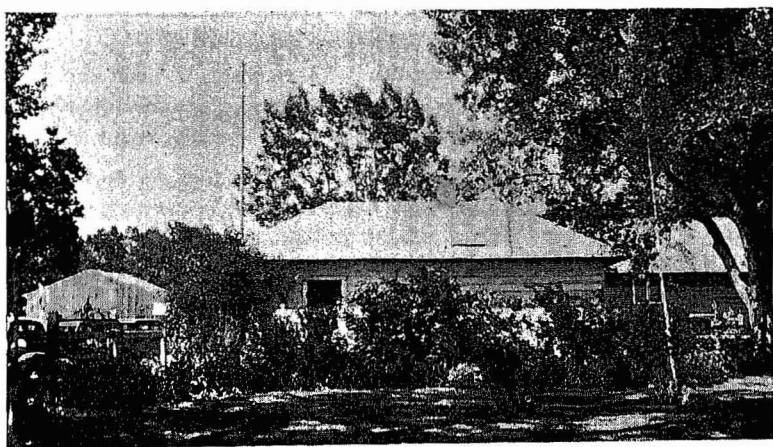


Figure 8—A kitchen view improved by partly screening other farm buildings with tall shrubs. This also provided a good setting for a flower border.

When selecting shrubs for transplanting it is well to remember that small thrifty plants have a better chance of surviving than the older and larger specimens. A good time to lift and transplant native shrubs is late winter or early spring soon after the frost has left the ground and before the buds have started to swell. The more of the root system that can be saved with the plant the better its chance of surviving in the new location. Some thinning out of stems and heading back tops of others is advisable with deciduous shrubs immediately after planting to establish balance between roots and top.

The evergreens, which include the junipers referred to above, should not be thinned or headed back. It is necessary, therefore, in transplanting evergreens, whether shrubs or trees, to disturb their roots as little as possible so that water absorption may go on practically unchecked. Nurserymen prepare evergreens for transplanting by root pruning one or two times previous to transplanting. This causes a compact and fibrous root system. Then when the plants are dug for transplanting, a ball of earth is lifted with the root system. The ball of earth is wrapped in burlap to keep it from falling apart.

Pruning Shrubs

Vigorous healthy shrubs keep sending up new shoots from the base and if left alone, year after year, they become so thick as to interfere with best flower production. Shrubs, in general, are more graceful in appearance when the number of stems is limited. The new stems allowed to develop each year should be limited to the number needed to replace old stems that are to be removed.

A general rule in pruning shrubs is to remove all dead and diseased wood and all stems, which have become too weak for satisfactory flower production, as well as all other stems not needed for replacement.

The tops of shrubs should not be sheared off, except for formal effects. If a shrub has become so high that heading back is necessary, it should be taken out and replaced with a smaller growing kind. There are, however, a few shrubs like the Buddleia and Hills-of-snow hydrangea that produce their bloom on shoots of current season's growth. Such shrubs need to be headed back severely each spring before new growth starts.

The space occupied by shrubs, whether around the foundation of the house or along the borders of the lawn, should be kept free from weeds and grass by repeated cultivations. Where only a small piece of sod is removed for each shrub, its chances of succeeding are doubtful. A liberal supply of well-rotted manure worked into the soil around the shrubs each spring will stimulate growth.

CLASSIFIED LIST OF SHRUBS

Low Growing Shrubs, 2-4 Feet

Anthony Waterer Spirea	Hybrid Rugosa Roses
Froebels Spirea	Alpine Currant
Siberian Dwarf Flowering Almond	Dwarf Ninebark
Buddleia	Native Dwarf Juniper (bush form)
Dwarf Caragana (C Pygmaea)	Pfitzer Juniper
Japanese Barberry	Koster Juniper
Snowberry	Savin Juniper
Coralberry	Canadian Yew

Shrubs Growing 5-7 Feet

Spirea Alba	Syringa, native
Spirea Arguta	Syringa, Virginalis
Spirea Billardi	Cut-leaf Elder
Spirea Van Houttii	Golden Elder
Spirea Sarbifolia	Red Berry Elder
Ninebark	June Berry
Cotoneaster (var. Acutifolia)	Harrison Yellow Rose
Russian Artemisia	Rubrifolia Rose
Caragana Frutex	Morrowi Honeysuckle
Silverberry	Red Dogwood, native

Tall Shrubs Growing 7-12 Feet

Caragana Arborescens	Tamarix
Buffalo Berry	Tartarian Honeysuckle
Common Lilacs	Highbush Cranberry
French Hybrid Lilacs	Choke Cherry
Persian Lilacs	Buckthorn
Chinese Lilac	Sumac

Shrubs for Shade

Flowering Currant	Snowberry
Alpine Currant	Coralberry
Sorbifolia Spirea	Red Dogwood
Ninebark	Canadian Yew

Vines

Vines are used to screen unsightly objects and to help secure privacy. When growing over porches they add interest to the picture and make the porch a more comfortable place in summer by providing shade. Another use for vines is to cover or screen bad architectural features. Unsightly objects may be effectively screened in some cases where it is not possible to use shrubs. Fences often are covered with vines and developed into an artistic background. Trellises and arbors, however artistic in appearance, never seem complete until covered with vines. The bareness of wide spaces on the sides of buildings can be subdued by use of vines.

Vines, like shrubs, should be chosen for the purpose for which they are intended. A rank vigorous vine used where a light covering is needed cannot be expected to give the desired effect.

The native clematis is the hardiest vine for Montana. It, however, needs a trellis on which to grow. Engelman's creeper is a hardy vigorous grower and clings quite well to stone and brick buildings. Of late years it has become infested with leaf hoppers, which limit its usage to places where it can be easily sprayed. The silver lace vine is another vigorous grower and makes an excellent cover for arbors.

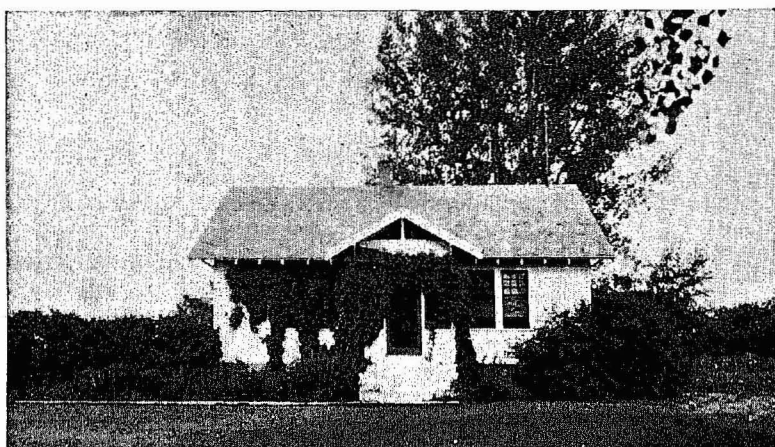


Figure 9—Vines provide privacy and shade.

The wild grape and Beta grape deserve consideration when selecting vines for the arbor. The Jackman Clematis is a beautiful vine but not so hardy as the native species. The Clematis requires good rich soil and lots of water for best results. When planting them, the crowns should be set about three inches beneath the surface of the soil. There are a number of other less hardy vines that often may be used in protected places. The climbing roses are not winter hardy in Montana but can be carried through by laying them down and covering after the wood has matured. Often, a thin layer of soil is all that is necessary. Fir boughs make an excellent cover for roses and other plants that need covering. Any coarse material may be used but fine, chaffy material or material that will pack when wet should be avoided.

Flowers

Flowers are necessary to give a finished appearance to the landscape picture and the farm lawn is not complete without them. Care should be used in placing them so that the greatest enjoyment will accrue with the minimum expenditure of labor. Flowers are most attractive when grown either as border beds to the shrubbery or to the edges of the lawn. This keeps the lawn open and at the same time gives a background and setting for the flowers. The beauty of shrub plantings is greatly enhanced also by planting



Figure 10—A well arranged perennial border gives a finished appearance to the landscape picture.

hardy perennials in front of them. A continuous bloom may be had in the shrub border, throughout the spring and summer months, by making a wise choice of perennials.

Flowers should be planted so that they may be in full view of the main windows of the home. Then the flowers may be seen and enjoyed when sitting in the living room or dining room, or working in the kitchen. Full view of a well-planned flower bed from the windows of a room where a sick person is confined will do much to cheer the patient.

Some attention should be given to arrangement of plants so there will be a continuous bloom in all parts of the border throughout the season. The tall growing plants should be arranged to the back so that they will not obscure from view the lower types. Border beds are more interesting, in the informal lawn, when widened at various points so as to produce an easy curve to the front edge and edged only by the turf of the lawn. Avoid edging material such as painted cobblestones, brick, pop bottles and old auto tires.

While reference was made above to the use of perennials in the flower border, it often is advisable to use some annuals in order to extend the bloom period. Annuals are easily grown from seed and many of them are useful for cut-flower purposes. They deserve a place in the flower border. Where space is limited in the lawn, those intended for cut-flower purposes may be grown in the vegetable garden.

ROCK GARDENS

A well planned rock garden adds new interest to the garden. Rocks provide the setting and cultural conditions favorable for the establishment and growth of many kinds of plants that otherwise could not be grown. There is no standard rule of procedure in making a rock garden but the following general principles will be helpful.

Visualizing the Effect

The attainment of a beautiful rock garden is not an accident, but rather the result of thorough planning. Visualizing the effect is the foremost fundamental consideration in creating a beautiful garden. The beauty and effect of a rock garden depend largely upon the site to be used; its size, exposure and topography, the general relationship of the garden to the house and surrounding landscape, and the type and composition of plant material used.

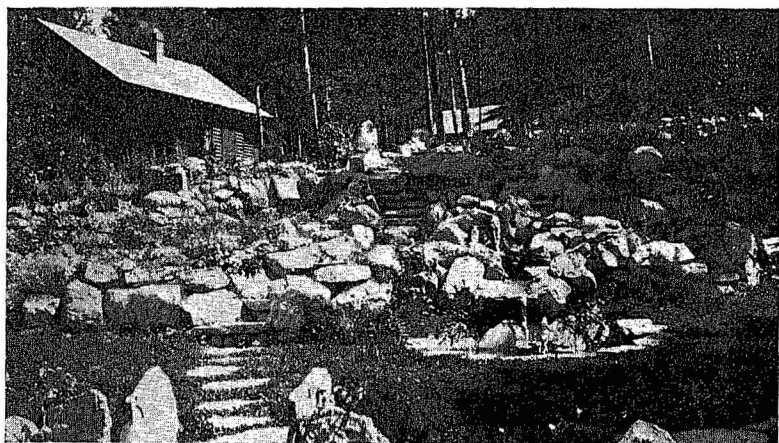


Figure 11—A natural slope provides a good setting for a rock garden. Flat rocks and boulders do not harmonize. Neither should they be placed in an unnatural position.

There are two general styles of design in rock gardening, the formal and the informal. In choosing the style the location and the surrounding landscape should be the guide. In general, the informal style blends best with western landscapes and has a greater adaptability than the formal style.

The first principle in making an informal rock garden is to make the scene appear as natural as possible. To follow this principle it is essential that rocks of similar shape, color, and character are used throughout the garden. In other words, avoid mixing boulders with flat rocks. The apparent relation of rocks, one with another, is also an important condition that measures the effect produced.

A good setting for a rock garden is a natural slope or bank with space to make a dense planting of trees and shrubs for a pleasing background for the garden. The boulder type of rock is suitable for such locations to simulate stream-cut earth or boulder bank. Good-sized weather exposed boulders should be selected for this purpose. The size of rock used should be determined by the size of garden. Some standard of size should be selected for general use, supplemented by a few larger and smaller ones for special use. Small stones, when used too generally, tend to develop a weak, artificial effect. Large rocks develop an effect of strength and stability and seem more an inherent part of the area.

In the selection of rocks, it should not be the aim to select specimens of various colors or unique formations, such as would be expected in a museum, but rather those of less conspicuous character that harmonize with each other. Similarity in form, color, and texture of rock tends to develop the effect of unity and has less tendency to detract from the beauty of the flowers. After all, the use of rocks is for the purpose of providing the right growing conditions for certain kinds of flowering plants.

In placing the rocks, the natural stratification should be maintained. Rocks that have a weathered surface are preferable and should be embedded to the weathered line. Standing rocks on edge is not permissible, as such construction detracts from naturalness. Tilting the outer faces of the rocks slightly will aid in catching moisture. The soil used to fill crevices and pockets between rocks should consist of a good rich garden loam, leaf mold, and sand thoroughly mixed and well firmed. In the absence of leaf mold, well rotted barnyard manure may be used. Leaf mold can usually be secured beneath clumps of shrubs and trees in coulees and along streams. Providing the right soil for the individual species of plants is very essential to vigorous, healthy growth.

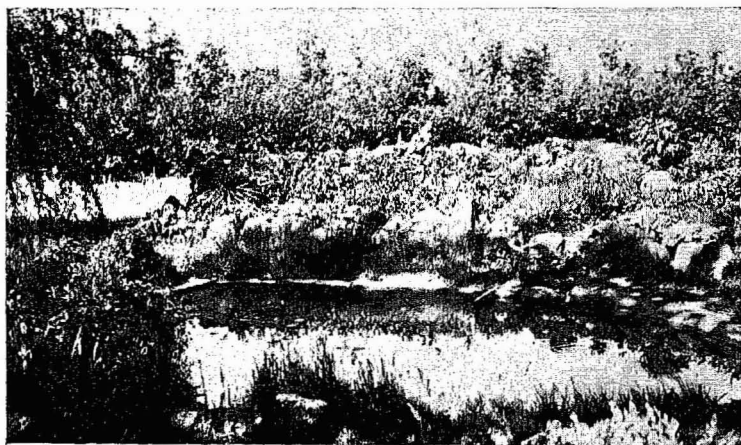


Figure 12—An informal rock garden requires a shrubby background. Such an arrangement invites the addition of an informal pool.