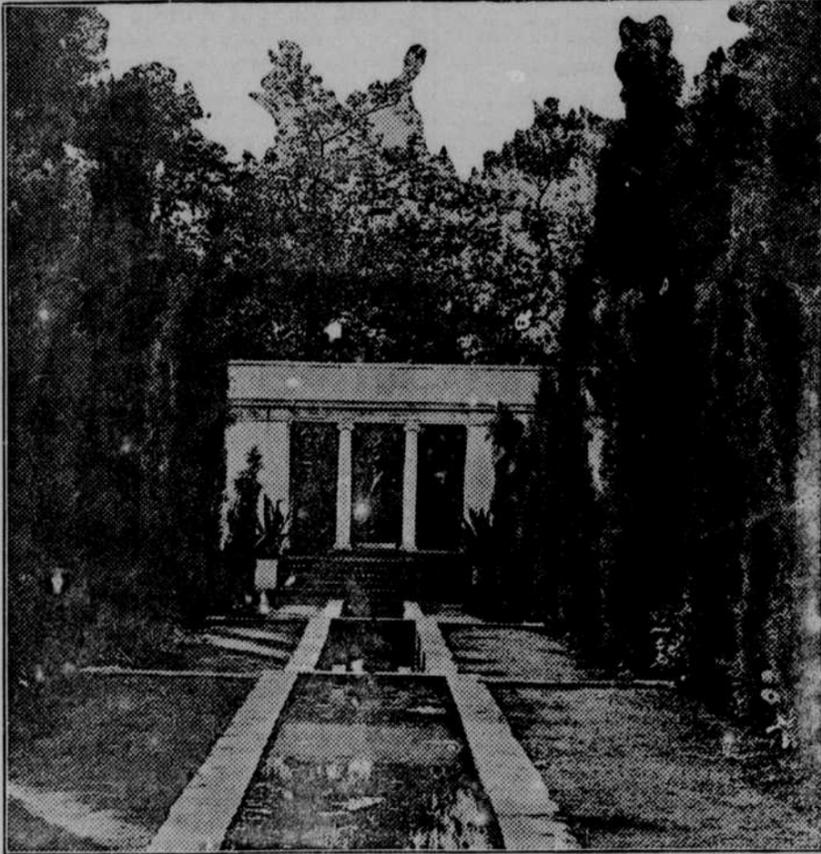


The HOME BEAUTIFUL

Flowers and Shrubbery
Their Care and Cultivation



BEAUTY OF HOME YARD

By H. H. SHEPARD.

The immediate grounds about the home can be made beautiful, and an effort should be made in that direction. The home grounds should be ample, as large as is consistent with the size of the dwelling.

An acre is not too much. Some think that an acre of land is too much to waste on a simple door yard, but the better the home grounds the better will be the life of the family.

It is a wrong estimate of life and property to be forever making money to enlarge the farm in area, in buying extra tracts of land for future use, and not improve and make the best of the ground where the wife and children spend nearly all of the best of their life.

Some look forward and prepare too much for pleasure to come, and do not expend any means on making the present the very best that it can be. They let the home grounds and surroundings remain shabby and unimproved, spending the extra money on property to be handed down to the children or putting it in the bank.

This is wrong when there is any neglect in home improvement. If the children need help, by all means, they need it now while they are helpless more than when they grow up and will be able to fully care for themselves, perhaps much better than we ever shall be able to care for them.

They need the comforts, healthfulness, and beautifying influences of good homes and surroundings in order to make them healthy, strong, beautiful and good. These are infinitely better than inherited real estate, personal property, or money.

The child whose home life is perfect for physical and mental development will go out into the world with a rich heritage.

The grounds around the home should be well drained and graded to suit the location. The main open part of the space should be lawn of good grass and be kept mowed low at all times so that the air and sunlight may purify the soil.

Abundance of flowers, shrubs and trees are essentials for completing the picture, but flowers and shrubs must be massed in clumps and borders along the sides and the trees must be grouped in one place, somewhat removed from one side of the dwelling.

Pergolas add much to the beauty of the home grounds.

Under the tree in the cool shady part of the grounds a children's play house or rustic, open structure is a good place for play and rest for both young and old.

We can never get too much of the open air, even though we live in the country; and such a covered place under the trees makes a fine nook in which to read or take a nap and fully enjoy the sweets of outdoor life.

For wet weather concrete walks are economical. They are cheaply and easily made. They need not necessarily be wide, but there should be enough of them so that all the out-buildings and other much frequented spots can be reached without walking on the wet ground.

The grounds about the barn and other stock buildings should be as neat and clean as the home grounds proper. This is both good farm management and a mark of good taste and character on the part of the farmer.

Good fences around all the home grounds and lots are a necessary convenience, and keeping them in good repair adds to the neatness and beauty of the picture as a whole.

GARDEN HINTS

Whenever possible procure perennials—they are the most satisfactory class of plants, and especially adapted to the farmer's garden. During this month, if possible, procure seeds that have just ripened, from your friends, and plant them at once. Or maybe you can find self-grown seedlings about the base of the early blooming sort.

Keep on hand a good supply of insecticides. Bordeaux mixture as used in the orchard is good to destroy mildew and rust in the flower garden. Tobacco water will kill aphides which infest chrysanthemums and golden glow.

Cut the rhubarb blooms as soon as they appear. They weaken the plant. Treasure the weekly wash water and apply to the roots of the flowers; it will enhance the beauty of the rose.

If slugs bother the roses sift ashes on the bushes when they are wet with dew or rain. See that the ashes reach the under side of the leaves.

Sow the seeds of annuals—phlox, candy-tuft, poppy and the like—for a fine fall showing.

Autumn Signs

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