

## PLANT TREES.

Each fleeting year with its freighted hours  
Brings back the timely Arbor Day  
When thoughtful men, with a pause, may heed  
And duty's urgent call obey,  
May look beyond from the present's cares,  
From transient joys the days now hold,  
And plant for men who are yet to come  
New trees to grow for good untold.

To one who thinks when he plants a tree  
To live and thrive in brown earth's breast,  
Come visions clear of the world's great space  
Made glad with shadowed nooks for rest,  
Where each green tree with its out-spread  
boughs  
Has refuge for the weary made,  
With sunlit gleams on its shining leaves  
Has bent to guard its cooling shade.

To one who lists when he plants a tree  
Come melodies so full, so sweet,  
As if the years from the future called,  
Though far away, their joys repeat;  
As if the birds from the trees to come,  
Beside each peaceful, sheltered nest,  
Sang out their glee from the morning time,  
Sang softly notes of evening rest.

To one who thinks when he plants a tree  
A thousand joys spring into view,  
His act, unselfish, will others bless  
With gifts to make life glad anew,  
From out the rootlets that lie below  
A message to his heart will creep,  
"Some day this deed will a harvest yield  
When thou shalt with thy fathers sleep."

—MARY FRENCH MORTON.

## HOW TO IMPROVE THE HOME.

The home is the unit of society and for its protection government exists. That which will make it better and more attractive will have a like effect upon its product and will thus build up a higher type of citizenship. The home does not consist merely in the structure that shelters the occupants but includes the immediate out-lying grounds and buildings. In the arrangement of these the æsthetic effect should be kept in mind the same as in planning the interior decoration. As the city has its public parks so each home should have its place for enjoying and being refreshed by the gracious gifts of nature. By beautifying home environment we instill in children a keener love of nature, foster in them a sentiment for the better care of flowers and trees, and fill them with pride to leave the world not less beautiful than when they found it.

## Sub-Divisions.

In home improvement care should be taken to conceal objectionable objects, barns, outbuildings, etc., by screens of shrubbery, and to afford a pretty view from the interior of the house. Mr. Warren H. Manning has issued a pamphlet that contains some splendid suggestions in regard to laying out the grounds. He makes three subdivisions. First, the front lawn, including the space from the house to the street, with trees or shrubbery across the frontage; second, the living lawn, extending from the front to the rear of the

house, separated from the front lawn by a cluster of shrubs and so screened as to be freely used during pleasant weather as living rooms, giving ample opportunity for the enjoyment of outdoor life. It may be beautified by being dotted with flower beds or laid out for game courts as the tastes of the owner may suggest; third, the working section, or the part in rear of the living lawn, including the barns and outbuildings, which should be hid from view by screens of shrubbery.

## Selection of Plants.

In the selection of shrubs we should have a specific purpose in mind and make a choice of those best adapted to our purpose. The arrangement should be irregular to avoid monotony, but the union complete to insure privacy. A desirable effect is produced by the intermingling of large and small shrubs, keeping in mind their size and foliage at maturity. Care should be taken to preserve as much open space in the living lawn as possible. It should not be obstructed by flower beds. These should be confined to a garden or placed about the edge of the lawn as a border for the shrubbery. The ground should first be well tilled and properly fertilized as a rich soil is productive of a more thrifty growth. More satisfactory results can be obtained by planting more abundantly of fewer kinds and adding other varieties later. The interval between shrubs should be one-half the natural spread at maturity, thus forming a complete screen. If but little time can be devoted to the care of the lawn, the more vigorous and hardy shrubs should be selected. Many plants of exceptional beauty grow naturally without much regard to soil or care. Discrimination then should be used in destroying native clusters as many have points of attractiveness and are well worth preserving.

## Take Advantage of Nature.

Landscape gardening need not all be artificial. Nature sometimes supplies splendid assistance. Take advantage of the lay of the ground, the knolls and ledges which oftentimes add picturesque beauty which nature thus supplies is even more charming than that which human effort can give. Trees should be adapted to the soil. Plant those which are congenial to a marshy soil or adapted to a more arid region as the case may require. The time of transplanting varies with the kind. Trees and shrubs should be moved when not in growth; deciduous plants after the leaves have fallen; evergreens when the growth is ripe. Large trees are difficult to successfully move. Smaller trees and shrubs withstand transplanting best. Native plants should not be selected from among those that are crowded or shaded very much by other plants. Care should be taken to get

plenty of the roots and to prevent them from drying by removing a liberal supply of earth with them. The cost of obtaining shrubs and herbs is very slight. They can be purchased at an average cost of about \$1.25 per dozen; \$5.00 per 100; and \$20.00 per 1,000. Many plants, especially herbs, can be very successfully grown from seeds which can be purchased from the seed houses for a mere trifle per package. A list of choice varieties of shrubs and trees is given by Mr. Warren in his book, together with other valuable information, well worth while investigating.

## The Distance.

In planting trees of the larger varieties care should be taken not to plant them close together. It mars the beauty of the individual growth and destroys the symmetry of the neighboring trees. The excess of shade, too, is very unhealthy. Many diseases have their origin in the bad sanitation resulting from too dense a forest growth about the home. Where the effect of the individual tree is what is desired the distance between trees should be at least forty feet in case of the larger varieties. If the effect of a group, as in clusters along the roadway, is sought, the distance apart need not be so great. When trees are crowded it is best to remove a part of them even though they may have attained considerable size. The loss of a few trees in this way is more than compensated for by the added splendor and symmetry given the others.

## The School House.

While improving the home grounds on Arbor Day do not neglect the roadway or the school house. Groups of trees along the roadside relieve the monotony and give an added charm to the landscape. There is no place quite so forlorn and dejected looking as a school house with only a barren waste about it. In such an environment, it is not surprising that children should early form a prejudice against going to school and should be afflicted, almost from infancy, with a mania for truancy. Replace this dreary effect with the cool, refreshing shade of the elm or maple. Make the play grounds cheerful and homelike. Plant shrubbery, with here and there clusters of rose bushes. It was Lowell who said: "I willingly confess so great a partiality for trees as tempts me to respect a man in exact proportion to his respect for them. He cannot be wholly bad who has a sympathy for what is so innocent and beautiful." PLANT TREES.

## SAPHO.

Among the blessings of life in a small town upon the Missouri river, is that one does not have such theatrical entertainments presented for his enjoyment as that with which one Miss