

" LANDSCAPING "

by H. O. Balough

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Today with mass production being extensively used for the majority of products, including housing, there is little wonder that builders have neglected one of the house's principle accessories, landscaping. That landscaping is necessary, is readily shown by the builders themselves who try to cover its absence by planting a bush on either side of the walk or in a row along the front of the house. In later years, if they live, these will block part of the walk and cover the windows. Since builders are concerned only with immediate effect, they will choose large, fast growing plants without any thought of the future. What things must one consider then before landscaping?

Before starting anything one must have reasons. First let us look at a new house, recently built. What does one see? A house and a plot of ground. To unite these two and make them appear as one there must be a blending which can be accomplished by the proper combinations of shrubs and trees. If one has correct design for planting he can obtain increased comfort, health, and beauty of surroundings as well as increasing the effective usage that can be obtained from the grounds.

The planning of the grounds should take care of the arrangement of the drives, grading of lawns, and the relations of trees and buildings. As far as possible, there should be no mistakes about the main permanent features. The minor features,

such as shrubbery, borders, and flower beds may be changed quite easily in the coming years but expenses of removal and shifting prohibit this being done with large trees or heavier groups of shrubs.

Therefore let us consider a few principles of arrangement. For the average type of house it is desirable to choose a few accent plants about the front and perhaps sides of the house and build the foundation upon these. Such accents would usually come at corners, bay windows, porch pillars, and at entrances. Emphasis should be produced at these points by the use of large and conspicuous plants, ones that will draw attention to themselves, and the spaces adjacent to them may be filled in with smaller and less conspicuous plants. This does not necessarily mean that planting should be done completely around the house, as it would be better to plant too little than too much. An example of proper arrangement would be a tall square house with the planting at the corners extended to make a gradual transition between lawn and house.

For best utilization of the home grounds it would be well to divide it into areas, public, private, and service. The public area consists of the lawn and the ground fronting on the street. Private area takes care of all recreational features of the yard, including play area, flower gardens, and outdoor living room. Garage, drying yard, and vegetable garden will be

included in the service area. These areas should have a definite dividing boundary formed by planting of masses of shrubs or a row of hedge.

One must be careful to avoid using a large number of plants for an immediate effect as later years will cause trouble and embarrassment. Too many accent plants will neutralize the effect of any since the eye will not be attracted. The wise thing for the beginner to do is to plan well ahead and in moderation.

Bibliography:

Garden Guide

DeLaMare Co. Inc.

Landscaping the Home Grounds

Ramsey