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The Garden - - And Its Relation To The Home

By THEODORE H. MILLINGTON

There shall be no attempt to suggest or outline landscaping or the planting of the garden in the five feature articles to appear during the month of April in this paper.

Rather will I try to suggest ideas of the sources of great pleasure that has come to the writer from the various points of consideration of the garden, its character, and influence upon the lives of the occupants of the homes surrounded by the garden.

For the garden is of the utmost importance and I have seen cases where its place in the comfort of the family was apparently superior to that of the house; for example—a dilapidated or insignificant house and a gorgeous garden. That of course is carrying the point too far for most of us, yet no house is really a home without that great out-of-doors living room which a garden should be. So I shall consider in each article the following phases which in my experience on two continents have been important, namely: the social; the continuity; the artistic; the privacy; and the care; each in the order named.

First, by the social phase, I mean this. One may enter a room at a social function. Knowing the faces of many present, still not knowing any by their name, their families, their importance in the community, their qualities and talents, etc. That makes one practically a stranger having no speaking acquaintance and so one is liable to miss most of the pleasure which social functions are intended to generate.

A garden filled with growing things; trees, shrubs and flowers is like that. One may enjoy the splash of vivid-colors presented by some, the healthy rugged strength by others and the delicate beauty by still others. Yet, that pleasure which comes from familiarity and appreciative acquaintance is lacking in a garden where one does not know the names of these beings which make up the garden, just as much as it is missed at the social functions, when one does not know anybody by name.

In other words, to fully enjoy a garden one must, not only, be on speaking terms with its inmates but must know their names, antecedents, peculiarities and place of importance in the assembly, much of which is indicated in their very names just as it often is in the names of men and women. For instance, when I encounter, say an ash tree, in a garden I recognize its scientific name: *Fraxinus*. I know it belongs to a large family but, this particular one, may be, for instance, *Excelsior*. That places that variety as a native of Europe of great usefulness to the ancient northern sea faring men, by reason of its toughness and lightness for the light and fast boats of the Vikings and for their light, tough shields, not easily split. Because of this use of the ash the Vikings were sometimes called "Ashmen."

Immediately this tree has by its name in fancy gives one a view not only of Northern Mythology in which the Ash Yggdrasil played a romantic part,

but of life at the dawn and development of European history. When I remember that ash is used for Whipple trees, tool handles, flails and many other things for which its great resistance to breakage when bent, is the reason for its use, I acknowledge its importance in the evolution of my ancestors for two thousand years of more or less known history.

There may be a beech *Fagus*. Etymologists claim that this name comes from the Sanskrit word, *Bhaskh*—to eat. Therefore the name *Fagus* means to eat. The particular variety of this beech may be *sylvatica*. I know therefore that, it too, is a native of Northern Europe and that my ancestors ate the beechnut. I know also that the great Boar hunts frequently staged by the Roman emperors were where these beeches grew, for both wild pigs and human beings loved the beechnut. Even today we place confidence in the "Beechnut" when placed on a Chicago produced ham. Again a lightning review of two thousand years of history.

But you say you cannot fill your city-lot garden with a forest of historic representatives. Very well. Consider the crocus, tulips and hyacinth, and you have one of the great factors in Netherlands civilization. Or the white lily and you go to China in your fancy. Or the common tiger lily, *Lilium Superbum*, and you think of Commodore Perry's visit to Japan in 1853 and his sailors who are said to have brought bulbs of this lily home with them. It is now escaped from cultivation having become almost a roadside weed growing in great flaming groups almost everywhere.

So if one knows the names of plants, flowers, shrubs, trees, and their background one realizes that the sailors, the wanderers, the monks, the missionary, the scientists and the merchants have for many hundred years worked and toiled to bring specimens from the ends of the Earth to make our gardens what they can be today. When their names plates are conspicuously placed, easily to be read, the charm and romance of the past is before your eye and memory.

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Be on speaking terms with your garden. Next week we will deal with the Continuity of Blossoming.

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WEED RIDDANCE IS ANNUAL PROBLEM

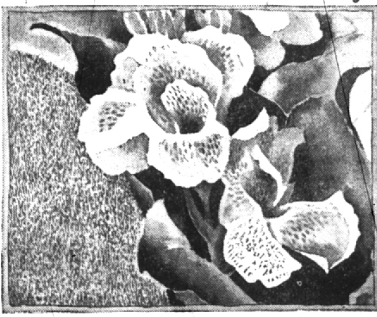
Replacing Top Soil And Fertilizing Aid In Eradication

Poor soil conditions and neglect in maintenance are the most common causes of weeds in lawns. The eradication of weeds by digging, spraying or other means is not of permanent value unless such conditions unless they are supplemented by the practice of replacing the top soil or of resurfacing with rich composted soil, by fertilizing or by such other practices as to modify and improve the basic conditions that have favored their presence and development. The growing and maintenance of a good, vigorous turf to densely cover every spot of the lawn area is the first and best general practice of weed control. A good thick turf will crowd out many weeds that would become established upon a thin turf or upon bare areas. But good cultural conditions alone will not usually produce a weedless lawn, unless supplemented by other practices. Bent grass is the only kind that grows in firmly dense enough to crowd out and smother most weeds. Commonly, therefore, when this grass is being established, weed control is not necessary until the turf is well established, since a large proportion of them will be smothered as the turf thickens. The initial practice of fertilizing the bent grass is to furnish the growing soil of the grass and let the grass take care of the weeds. After the grass has become established for about a year the "cleaning out" of any remaining weeds may be desirable. The best method of weed control is needed if bent grass is kept well fertilized, watered and otherwise maintained.

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