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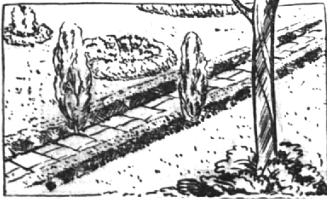
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PRIVACY OF THE GARDEN

By THEODORE H. MILLINGTON

ONE of the outstanding differences between American and European gardens is the lack of privacy in the average American garden. To be able to look across the front lawns and rear gardens from one end of a block to the other may be democratic, it may be social-minded, it may even be a pretty vista; but the children at play, their dogs, wagons, bikes and whatnot, destroy all privacy and render gardening difficult. "The children must have a garden to play in," you say. True, but not the neighbors' children in your yard.

Let us admit that a substantial garden wall, hedge or fence may look a little forbidding from the outside; but when once on the inside the garden becomes doubly attractive.

A garden cannot really be enjoyed when public view of it requires one to be dressed for passing inspection. The kind of seclusion which permits informality and comfort in dress is productive of intimacy between garden and gardener. Besides, a garden is not fond of high heels, gloves and parasols. A garden without a garden gate leaves out a vast source of romance and poetry.

Now, assuming that the lot or land including the house in the planning and building has been considered as a whole, the presence or absence of privacy will be apparent.

But how can one make the house a part of the garden? To plant tall stiff evergreens around the house and at the street entrance is not making it a part of the garden. They look more like military guards for preventing entrance.

On the other hand, the great mass of the house forms an ideal permanent shelter for delicate plants. Especially the south exposure offers a necessary protection, making the house useful to the garden, and, therefore, a part of it.

Then, too, wind-breakers on the north and west planted to shield the house against winter blasts form a part of the garden, and many lovely things thrive best in the shade on the east and north side of the house.

The footing-drainage around the building tends to dry out the soil near there, making success with such moisture-loving plants as ferns and rhododendrons near the house, even on the north exposure, quite impossible.

Winter-scaling, i. e., sun heat reflection in winter from house walls or from bare ground and snow-free, is injurious to cedars and rhododendrons and many evergreens. *Vineca* and *Euonymus* make ideal ground covers to prevent this, and woodbine (*Ampelopsis Virginia*) on the walls will have similar effect.

Unightly views outside the premises should be screened by their roots down and not along the surface. Surface roots of poplars and some other things, on both garden and lawn. A small spot should also be screened off for compost piles and fertilizers, unless one prefers to use only the odorless artificial

fertilizers—just as good or even often better, but never unpleasant.

The walls surrounding the lot or land should offer ideal protection for plantings, both annuals and perennials, most of which need some protection against winds, frosts and predatory birds.

What and where to plant is not the purpose of this article, but rather to suggest what to ask your gardener about. There is one thing, however, which I think should be left simply to taste and desire. That is, the climbing vines about the veranda, porch or covered terrace, for their fragrance always fills the house. Another thing is that vines, from the habit of looking out or window when getting out of bed, a real beauty-spot should be provided in the garden where the master and mistress could see and enjoy it at the beginning of each day, while some planting around the bedroom windows should shield them from view of the neighbors.

An arbor with a nearby big pool catching the reflection of the blue sky offers both privacy and charm.

Finally, don't make your garden a museum of rarities. It will be much like permanent lake and personal, most of temperamental people. Flowers, shrubs and trees blended into the traditions of one's race have a permanent charm so lovely that often a so-called commonplace becomes and remains beautiful.

And to complete the total ensemble, at least one room of the house should be so furnished by furniture, hangings and carpets as to suggest a garden scene. A plants that one would scarcely know where the house ends and the garden begins.

Dusting Prevents Rose Diseases

The two most common diseases and the most troublesome among roses are mildew and blackspot. In both, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

From the time the leaves appear in spring, dust regularly weekly with sulfur-lead arsenate dust. Sulfur-lead arsenate dust is made by combining 9 parts dusting sulfur with 1 part arsenate of lead. When purchasing sulfur, be sure to get dusting sulfur, which is very finely ground and more effective than flowers of sulfur. Dusting sulfur may be purchased under a variety of trade names. To apply the sulfur evenly and thoroughly, purchase a small cheap hand duster.

To avoid mildew, in addition to the above dusting, avoid sprinkling foliage of roses late in the evening, especially when it is warm and humid.

Black spot is especially prevalent during hot humid weather and at this time special precautions should be taken to protect this rose garden from this disease. Dust religiously as described.

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CHATS WITH THE Master Gardener



3. Caring for an Established Lawn

You remember I told you in our last little chat that weeds are not just the thin, sickly grass—and that the best way to improve the grass and get rid of the weeds is to feed the grass. I recommend that you use a complete plant food, one that supplies all eleven of the food elements your growing things need from the soil. And you remember I stressed the point that lawn feeding should be done good and early. So as to give the grass a good head start over the weeds.

By early feeding, I mean just as soon as the frost is out of the ground, the first two or three inches. After you've given the grass a square meal you can wait a bit, but the soil at completely thawed out and dry enough to work. Then go after the pieces of grass, the weeds, grass, last summer. Try to analyze each spot and see what caused the trouble, if the soil has too much clay in it so that it baked hard and dry, spade in some sand and fork stirred that in. If the soil is too sandy, so that it couldn't hold water enough for the grass, mix in peat moss, or peat moss, or well-decayed manure such as last year's horse manure, or grass clipping. Then mix in some complete plant food. If you're mowing on sand and peat moss, get some about one heaping tablespoonful of food to every square foot. On heavier soil you can figure two quarts to every 100 square feet. Mix it well into the soil, work it down three or four inches into the ground. Then apply your grass seed using the very best seed you can and broadcast it. Rake the seed lightly into the soil and water gently but thoroughly—and don't let the soil ever get really dry until the new grass is growing strongly.

Now I'd like to say a word about rolling a lawn, a subject very few people really understand. A lawn should be rolled just once a year, and there's only one correct time to do it. That's early in the spring, when the grass is just dry enough to be firm after frost has left. Rolling at that time removes the air pockets caused by the frost and pushes the grass roots back into the soil where they can get moisture.

Now, about cutting your grass—let it get three inches high in the spring, when you start mowing for the first time. If it's newly planted grass, set your mower to cut no lower than two inches. If it's pretty well established, you can cut it down to an inch and a half. And it's wise to use a grass conditioner on your mower, clippings left on the lawn tend to form a sort of mat that hinders the grass.

And now just a word about watering. It's a good idea to water your lawn less frequently and do a more thorough job of it. You see, frequent light waterings draw the grass roots up near the surface, and then when the sun gets good and hot these shallow roots dry up and die. But if you give the soil a real drenching, get it wet down at least three or four inches, your grass will grow deep, stronger roots and will resist hot weather much better.

Plants Require Scientific Food

In reality, luck has nothing to do with growing plants, but it is true that poor soil (that is, soil lacking the right kind and amount of plant food) is the cause of most gardening failures. The soil around most of the homes in towns and cities is usually deficient in plant food—either because the supply originally placed there by nature has been consumed by plants grown year after year or because it never existed in the first place. This latter cause is often the case, especially around homes where grading was done prior to building or where the excavated subsoil from the basement was thrown on the surface and leveled off.

We must remember that plants are living things just like you and I and that they must have air, water, light, heat and food in order to live and thrive. The development of a plant is regulated by the kind and amount of food it receives. Plants require a balanced diet for normal, healthy growth, just like animals and human beings.

Fourteen elements in all are needed by them for maximum growth and health. Three of these elements are supplied by air and water; the remaining eleven must come from the soil. If deficiency of any of the necessary plant food elements may be the limiting factor in the growth of the plant. It isn't necessary to guess whether or not your plants are receiving all of the plant food elements they need for a healthy growth. Their appearance can be used as a guide. If everything you grow and know the pleasure she gets from successful gardening.

PERENNIALS BEST FOR HOME GARDEN

Flowing plants that penetrate their growth from year to year command themselves as the basis of a good home garden. They have been considered of such inestimable value that explorers have for centuries searched the most distant and little known lands for them. Plantmen have labored persistently to increase and improve the variety and quality of the many kinds available. The product of these centuries of labor is contained in the great wealth of the floral kingdom that is now available for your enjoyment.

Though the desirability and consistency of hardy perennials about the home is in part measured by their intense beauty, they are treasured more in a hardy escape way for the beauty they develop in the scenes of which they form a part. A beautiful landscape effect developed by hardy perennials is not a happy accidental combination, but rather the result of a well conceived selection and arrangement of them.

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