

# BEAUTIFUL YARD A GARDEN

## Planned Garden Represents Idea Or Composite Picture, Authority Says

By Ralph I. Coryell of Coryell Nurseries

Whether planned or not the garden represents an idea or a composite of ideas, of plants, planting and arrangement of plants. The planned garden is a coordination of plants which presents a harmonious whole.

As a practical measure the building of a garden differs from the building of a home in that the home must be built complete at once, or at most in two or three sections, whereas the garden may be added to and changed at will.

Some home owners prefer a completely planned and executed garden, so that it may be dismissed from their minds. Others prefer to work out the plan themselves, trying out different plantings and effects, and gradually arriving at a completed stage of execution.

For the latter the important starting point is the planting of the framework and the background, mostly composed of the evergreen varieties. The foreground planting and the perennials may be added later.

In general it is well to complete the groups as they progress and to add other groups later. This form of planting insures uniform growth of the plantings. The expert landscape architect or designer is able to pick from memory the various sorts of his garden composition but the average home owner finds it helpful to look over specimens of plants to refresh his memory of plants, varieties and variations in growth.

The larger areas of planting are most completely planned. Plants once started never stop growing and at various periods, say five years on the average, it is a good plan to take inventory of the garden, replace some plants and rearrange the others. This type of planning insures a young, fresh growing garden, different from the overgrown and woody growth so often associated with old places.

The garden and home grounds planting should be planned to complement and tie in with the architecture of the home and with the natural effect of the site. Certain architectural features should be enhanced by bold planting groups, others softened by a screening effect. No attempt should be made, as a rule, to emphasize individual varieties, but rather to provide a pleasing group effect.

Flowering shrubs are chosen both for foliage and flower effect and bloom should be provided for the maximum period of time rather than to concentrate on any one short season.

It goes without saying that indigenous plants are usually the most satisfactory for Michigan climate and when varieties from other climates may prove interesting for a while, they cease to be interesting when unmated. Michigan weather may catch them napping.

In the selection of varieties to be used various methods may be utilized. In the gardens of friends may be seen many attractive plants in their mature stages. A study of their habits and uses may be profitably made. On the sales grounds and in the nurseries may be seen plants in various stages of growth and the customer may make his selections with a view to the locations to be filled. Catalogs may be studied and varieties selected from pictures. A landscape architect will prepare ground plans and perspective sketches to cover the specific situations to be met. The ultimate aim is the same, the selection of varieties which will make up a suitable collection for the garden as planned en masse.

As periods of architecture change in gardens. While it is safer to stay away from gardening fads there is no question but that certain varieties and certain landscape treatments ebb and flow. In changing gardens it is well to have in mind the current trend and a change should always be made for the better if possible.

Wholly aside from the changes in gardening taste, necessary by plant growths and differing uses there is the change which comes from the love of the outdoors. Every spring the urge for gardening comes as a powerful surge. Evolutionists claim that as the bears emerge from hibernation ready for action so the human being comes into the spring ready for outdoor activity. It is in the blood to do a little gardening.



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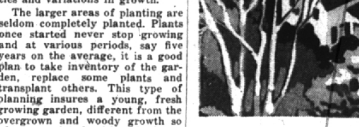
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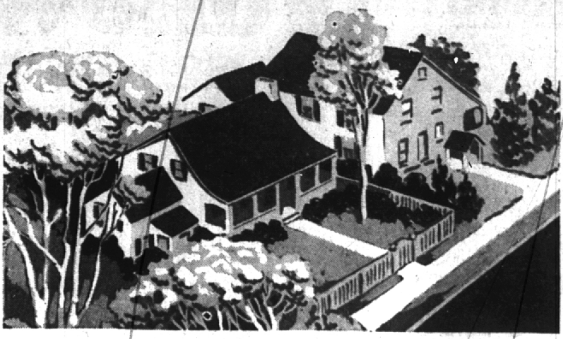
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**"IT'S NOT A HOME 'TIL IT'S PLANTED"**

## Chats With The Master Gardener

I'm not a magician. And I can't guarantee that my formula will chase all the weeds out of your lawn. But I do know this. It's helped a lot of people who were resigned to raising a lawn full of weeds year after year. And I certainly want you to give it a fair trial.

The first thing to remember is this. Strangely as it may sound, weeds just can't grow where there's grass. In other words, the better grass you have, the fewer weeds you'll have to put up with.

Now grass usually starts growing before weeds. And if you give it a helping hand—help it cover up all those bare spots that just naturally beckon the weed seeds on the breeze—you'll make life extremely uncomfortable for the delusions and plantains, and such, whether they're in the ground or in the air.

Don't Starve The Grass

The way to do this is very simple. Thin grass almost always is starved grass. For grass, like all other growing things, requires eleven different food elements from soil, and unless a completely balanced plant food is used, one or more of these elements soon gets exhausted. When that happens, your grass gets sickly and your weeds decide to take over.

So the most important job in weed control is not to put in every Saturday afternoon on your hands and knees. No. The first thing to do is to feed your lawn a completely balanced plant food—a square meal—just as soon as the frost is out of the ground. That'll give your grass a head-start over the weeds. And when they do crop up, your grass will be so far ahead that it will help choke them.

Now, of course, it may take more than one season to choke out all weeds. But you'll be surprised at the improvement early-feeding will make.

Feed Early

But, remember, to be more effective it must be done just as soon as frost is coming out of the ground and before grass starts to grow. That'll save you from having to water in the food, too, because spring rains will take care of that. Of course, plant food can be applied any time during the spring, but after grass starts to grow the plant food must be watered in. Remember that just any plant food product won't do. I'd recommend that you buy a complete plant food—one that supplies all eleven of the food elements in balanced proportions.

Early feeding has another advantage, too. It happens before the rush of other garden tasks begins. And there's no necessity to water in the plant food, because late snow and spring rains take care of that. When the ground is thawing, the soil is in a porous condition. Plant food works down gradually and it is already to do its stuff when the grass roots start growing.

By early feeding, I mean just as the frost is out of the ground, before the grass starts to grow in Northern localities. Farther South, feeding should be done before permanent grasses start taking the place of waning winter grasses.

Correct Poor Soil Condition

After you've given the grass a square meal you can wait a bit, until the soil is dried out enough to work. Then go after the places where the grass was killed last summer. Try to analyze what caused the trouble. If the soil had too much clay in it, so that it baked hard and dry, spade in some sand or finely sifted ashes. If it was too sandy, mix it up by mixing it, heavy black loam, or peat moss, or well-decayed mulch, such as last year's dead leaves and grass clippings. Then mix in some complete plant food, one heaping tablespoon to every square foot, or two quarters to every 100 square feet. Work the food three or four inches into the ground. Then apply the best seed you can get, and plenty of it. Rake it lightly over, and water gently but thoroughly. And keep moist until the new grass has made good growth.

When to Rake, Cut, and Water

Now about rolling your lawn. Once a year is enough—early in the spring, when the ground first becomes firm. At that time rolling removes the air pockets created by the frost, and pushes the grass roots back into the soil where they can get nourishment.

As for cutting, let your spring grass get three inches high before you cut it. Use a grass-catcher on your mower, because dead clippings form a mat that hurts the grass.

And a word about watering. It's a good idea to water your lawn less frequently and do a more thorough job of it. Light waterings draw the roots to the surface and the sun may dry them up.

Flower experts of the Ferry-Morse Seed Breeding Institute have found the way will survive an unusual amount of mauling in transplanting, principally because its spreading root system is not in the least harmed by a bit of pruning.

Once planted, however, the pansy must be well tended if it is to perform well. It should have fairly rich soil and ample moisture, and its flowers should be picked regularly if it will cease blooming long before the end of the summer.

## SEED PACKETS USED TO DECORATE HOME

This year, gardeners with an eye toward economy in home decoration are using seed packets, as well as the flowers grown from the seeds, to brighten up the home.

Seed companies have in recent years been devoting careful attention to the beauty of flower reproductions on the packet fronts. The Ferry-Morse Co., for instance, is using actual color prints on its packets. As a result, the pictures are brilliant and life-like.

These flower reproductions, cut out from the packets and pasted on cupboard door corners, kitchen chair backs and in other spots in need of decoration, add beauty to the surroundings. The cutouts should be shelacked over, to preserve them. Although not as fragrant as the real thing, these paper flowers do last longer.

## FEED SHRUBS AND TREES NOW!


Shrubs and trees bring beauty and increased value to your property. But don't expect Mother Nature to give you your beauty year after year without a little help!

Trees and shrubs need nourishment—a full diet of 11 elements that few garden soils can continually supply. That's why authorities say, "Feed them."

**LAWNS, FLOWERS, VEGETABLES.**

as well as shrubs and trees require an 11-element "square meal." Lack of one element makes complete nutrition impossible.

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## ADVERSITY GOOD FOR NASTURTIIUM

The nasturtium is like an athlete who plays his best game when the opposition is strongest. It thrives on adversity.

Flower trials at the Ferry-Morse Seed Breeding Institute show poor soil is best for nasturtiums. They refuse to bloom at all if the soil is too heavily fertilized. Gardeners often blame the seed when nasturtiums fail to bloom, but the difficulty is that the plants have just been treated "too well."

While too much nourishment can make the nasturtium worthless as a garden item, some laborers are not spoiled when such kindnesses are heaped upon them. The vitamin, for instance, will go on to produce bigger and better flowers even if the soil is overly rich.

## PANSY NEEDS RICH SOIL AND MOISTURE

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## Spinning Out an Old Yarn



Yes, marriage is an old yarn to the J. E. Pratts of Marietta, Ga., but it's been 70 years of wedded bliss, the secret of which, they state, lies in "following God's rules." The Pratts get along perfectly but admit that happiness is fostered by tending to their own knitting and never losing both their tempers at the same time.

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