

DOWN TO EARTH

A Few Suggestions On Special Trees

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Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

At this date many of you will be planting new tree and shrub material. When planting it is important that a portion of the top of the tree or shrub be pruned to reduce the amount of plant the roots have to supply with water.

When you dig the hole for the plant, be sure the diameter is generous. Do not place fertilizer at the bottom where the roots will come in direct contact with it but add the plant food after you are through planting. This warning is given because so many of our fertilizers are "hot" and the roots, upon contact, will be burned.

After you have the tree or shrub placed, fill the hole half way with soil tamping firmly round the roots. Now fill up the hole to within an inch of the top. Pack this added soil down, then water thoroughly with the nozzle of the hose. If you have some peat moss or other type of mulch, fill up the remainder of the hole after you have first applied a mild feeding of fertilizer.

ONE LAWN tree which we do not use enough is the linden or basswood tree. It favors poorly drained areas, is a pleasing shade tree and has large heart shaped leaves. It grows fast and has a pyramidal profile.

The European planetree is a rapid growing erect tree. It is known as a sycamore, too. The bark comes off in thin layers, dull greyish or greenish-white which gives interest to it. There is a handsome specimen on Maple, near the intersection of Westwood.

There is a small maple which is worthy of note. It will mature at around 25 feet. The leaves are deeply notched which change to a beautiful orange and crimson in October.

Another nice shrub we ought to use more is physocarpus or ninebark. It is handsome.

IT WILL grow 10 feet high and has a potential spread of five feet. It will take sandy soil such as you see in the cottage area of Michigan but it must have some humus mixture for food in the soil. Ninebark is an upright grower. The flowers, which greet you in June, are two inches in diameter and in flat clusters. They are pinkish, with greenish white petals, while the stamens tips are a bright green. It looks somewhat like spirea. This shrub will take half shade.

You will like to try this shrub because it is a rapid grower and the birds love it, so it provides a welcome note for those developing a bird sanctuary.

Here is another shrub which few use around here and I have wondered why. It is handsome, the glossy buckthorn or rhamnus frangula.

It is adaptable to shade. When you are designing you surely appreciate a few shrubs condescending to live in the shade as they are definitely in the minority. The buckthorn has glossy leaves. The flowers are of little value in June, July and August as they are pale yellow. They are followed by black berries. This shrub makes a good showy high shrub. I saw a good sample of its performance as a hedge at the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Ill.

IF YOU have a sunny location and are interested in a very nice five-foot hedge, you might like to consider the flowering quince. You can now secure two or three varieties of color aside from the previous available oranges and yellows.

If you are starting a new yard you might be interested in collecting varieties of cotoneaster, pronounced "co-to-ne-aster".

In the gauntlet of this plant family you can select a member to perform most any trick you wish to cover a landscape assignment. Remember the value of white as



GRANDMOTHERS are a wonderful institution, and little Lisa Boynton is very well blessed with them. Here the little lady sits on mother's (Mrs. Sinclair Boynton) lap to visit a bit with her maternal great grandmother, Mrs. Ernest Schafer. Looking on (l to r) are Mrs. Stanley Boynton, paternal grandmother; Mrs. R. Van Tassel, maternal great-grandmother; Mrs. Catherine Fox, paternal great grandmother, and Mrs. Paul Schafer, maternal grandmother. "She won't be spoiled—not much", the latter comments.

an accent in your garden. If you have a full sun location you might like to have a hedge of summer snow floribunda roses. It is always in flower from June through frost. The clusters are mounds of snow. Mrs. J. C. Roberts, 480 Yarmouth has done a fine job with this plant in her well known rose garden.

WHERE? A specimen, 20-foot tree would be needed, and you want something choice, select a larch, yew or a golden chain tree.

The leaves are like exaggerated clover leaves and the flowers are pure yellow-like wisteria and appear in late spring.

The tree looks as though it is "raining" yellow flowers as they drop from the boughs. This tree

came to us from southeastern Europe. Some of you have your property located in the shade and take rather a defeatist attitude regarding developing a spectacular garden. This is silly because some of the nicest gardens I have seen are built in the shade, dramatizing the plants preferring this habitat.

Ferns and wild flowers, supplemented by the native ornamental shrubs of Michigan combined with an artistic path, can result in a sanctuary envied by the sun gardeners.

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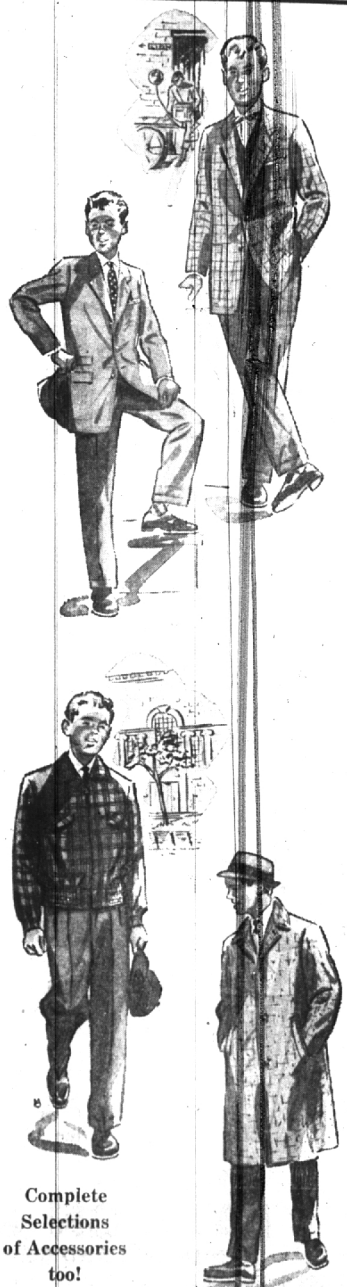
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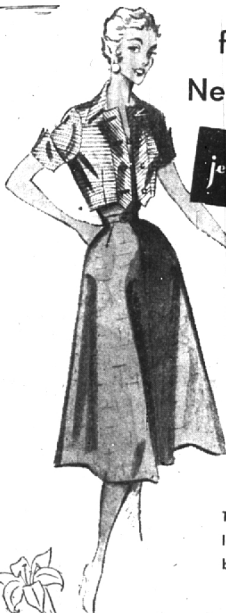


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