

Landscaping Is Key to Home Improvement

Landscaping and planting the home property is one of the first considerations in a home improvement program. Fifty million home gardeners this season will be planting trees and shrubs to make their home properties more livable, more beautiful and more valuable, says the American Association of Nurserymen, with the jobs ranging in size from a few shrubs to complete landscaping programs.

An advantage of home improvement through landscaping is that the home owner, if he ever wants to sell the property, will get a higher resale price.

Well landscaped homes bring 10 to 20 per cent more in the real estate markets. Independent studies have shown that a minimum of four per cent of the total value of the property invested in landscaping and planting will bring the highest return when and if the property is sold.

MEANWHILE the whole family, as well as the neighbors point with pride and pleasure to the beautiful flowers, shrubs and fruit. In setting out to improve your property with landscaping, start with a well-conceived plan, advises the nurserymen's association.

You have land and sky and space as your canvas to start painting a lovely, yet practical picture. Trees, shrubs and other flowering plants are the art materials with which you work.

FIRST STUDY the location of your house and the slope of the ground. Look at the property as a whole, not just house, or drive or yard.

Before you plant, visualize the outlines of your planting as you want to be ultimately. Make sure the types of foliage blend together. Get the advice of your landscape nurserymen.

Your planting for best effect must have unity, that is, it must tie house, drive, walks and land together to make a pleasing picture.

There are two principal types of evergreen plants (1) the coniferous evergreens, and (2) the broad-leaved evergreens.

The coniferous evergreens do not bear flowers in the ordinary sense and are used primarily for the rich, everlasting color of their foliage. Because they hold their winter color under all conditions of climate — they are especially important in the home landscape.

They include the pines, firs, spruce, spruce-fir hybrids, yews, cedars, junipers and similar plants, growing in many different shapes for special purposes, with the foliage colors ranging from gray-blue and gray to dark green.

A FEW have a golden color, according to the American Association of Nurserymen. Many grow in the familiar cone shape, broad at the base and narrowing to a point at their top.

Others are columnar, globe-shaped or low and spreading, while still others grow so close to the ground that they are ground covers.

All add to the property in cold weather when most other shrubs and trees are bare of foliage.

In addition to their use as foundation plants and as accent foliage all year long, coniferous evergreens are especially valuable for screening off unsightly views, for privacy, and as windbreaks and sound barriers.

WINDBREAKERS keep homes warmer in winter and cooler in summer, if properly planted. On small properties evergreens can be used to break cold winds and form "sun pockets" on the property.

Your nurseryman can tell you how to locate the trees for various purposes.

Broad-leaved evergreens, which include the rhododendrons, some varieties of barberry, cotoneaster, hollies, and hundreds of similar plants, are used for their flowers, colorful fruits, and winter foliage.

THESE HAVE climate limitations and it is best to consult with your nurseryman as to which are preferable in your neighborhood for your particular purposes.

The broad-leaved evergreens, however, are a striking class of plants, with individual characteristics that can be used in home landscaping for unusual foliage effects.

own family. Though you may observe landscaping of other homes for its effect, express your own personality in the plants you choose. Your local nurseryman can advise on plants for particular purposes such as foundation planting, screening for privacy, flowers or fruit, or trees for accent.

SHOULD YOU not wish to do the whole job of landscaping at once, it can be accomplished gradually over a period of years. Thus you can feel your way from year to year and get exactly the final effect desired.

YOUR FIRST consideration probably will be a planting around the foundation of the home to tie the building to the ground in a natural way, and thus make the home more attractive to family and neighbors as well.

Bare, stark walls are unsightly. In the foundation planting you will want low-growing shrubs and plants that will not grow above the first floor windows.

A tree at the most open corner of the home will be desirable for accent. In front of the foundation planting open lawn space is popular in order to present an unobstructed sweep of grass.

If you have a lovely open view do not plant anything but low-growing plants to set off the view. Tall shrubs and trees should only be planted to frame the view, not to block it.

CONVERSELY, if you have an unsightly view, or close privacy where houses are close together, a screen planting of tall shrubs or trees should be made.

Sometimes one wishes a low line of demarcation between his property and the next. A living fence of roses or low shrubs may serve in that case to be admired by your neighbor as well as your

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Evergreens Provide Needed Winter Color

Regardless of the size of any home property its winter attractiveness is tremendously increased by careful use of evergreens.

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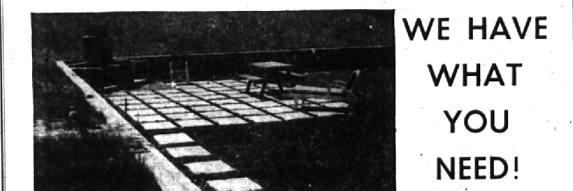
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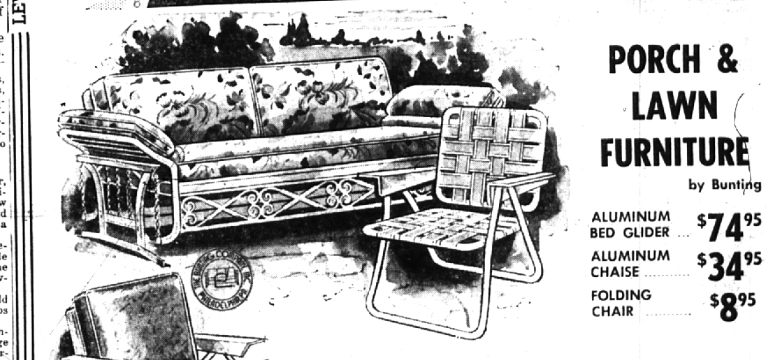


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