

A Plan for a City Home Ground

Eva May (Rickman) Gilbert

Key to Plants.

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1. Althea.
2. Hollyhock.
3. Hydrangea Paniculata Grandiflora.
4. Peonies.
5. Fox gloves.
6. Sweet William.
7. Narcissus Poeticus.
8. Small spring flowers as * 8.
9. Quercus Palustris.
10. Picea Pungens.
11. Picea Canadensis.
12. Spiraea Van Houttei.
13. Spiraea Anthony Waterer.
14. Clematis Paniculata.
15. Spiraea Billardii.
16. White Lilac (Not Persian)
17. Weigela.
18. Hypericum.
19. Vitis Agnus Castus.
20. Iron Wood.
21. Elms.
22. Viburnum Opulus Sterilis.

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Pansy

Phlox

Asters

Poppies

Zinnia

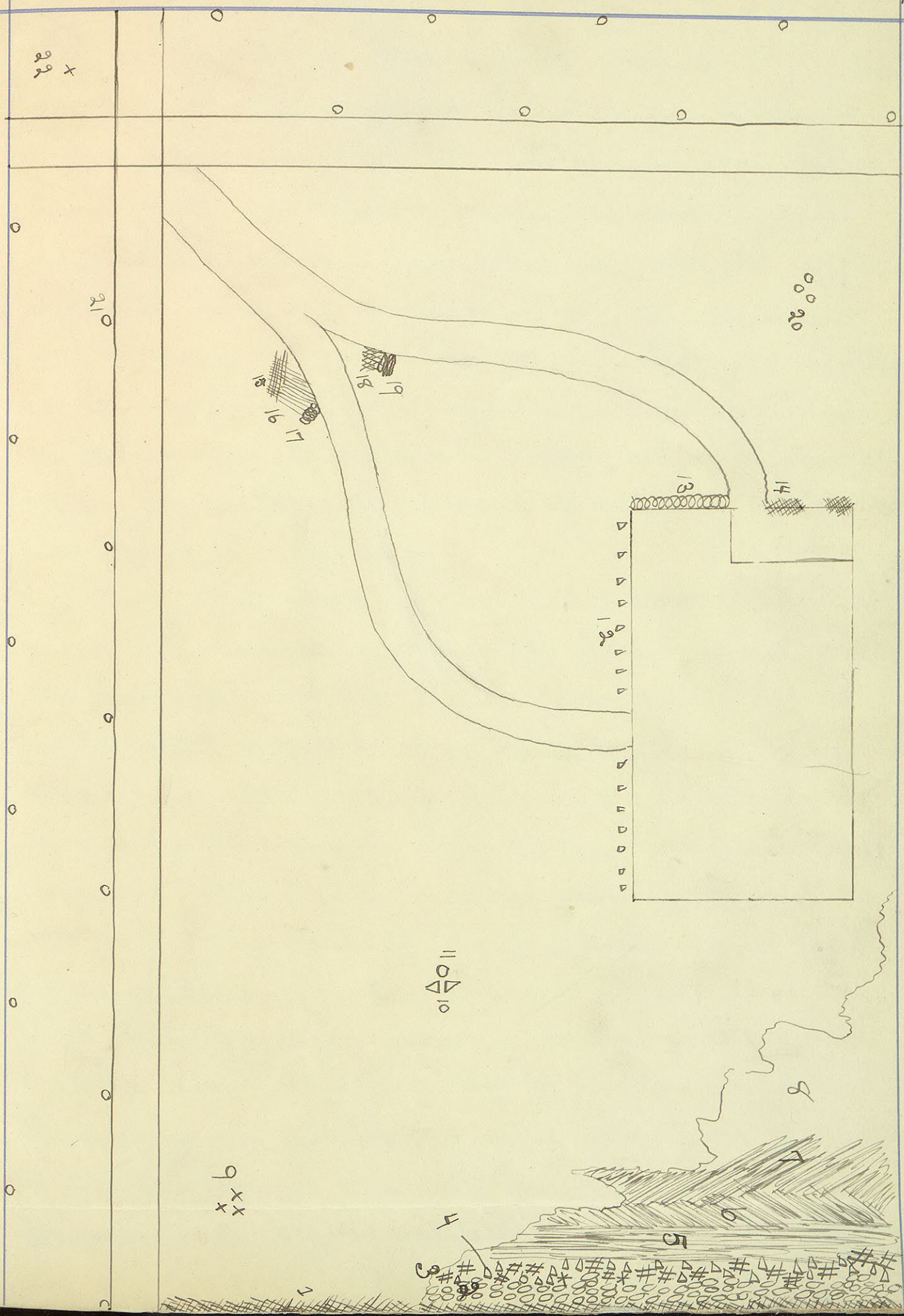
Fire-fly.

Morning bride.

Petunia

Mignonette

Verbena.



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The art of gardening is eminently one of the finest of arts for by skillful application of the principles here set forth we may form tasty and impressive pictures from those plants and trees which otherwise might appear uncouth and out of place. The first requisite in carrying out an idea for the home grounds is to make a definite, written plan so explicit in detail that to eradicate any portion of it would mean to destroy the desired effect and make a new plan a necessity.

In this work we should consider the appearance of the landscape the entire year and not simply the summer months. For the improvement of the winter effect I think it impossible to lay too much stress upon the desirability of the evergreens. They may be used in very many locations with impunity due to the marked variety in color, size and form. The adaptability to climate and soil varies widely with the different species. As a class they are symmetrical and slow of growth. Very handsome effects may be produced by clumping the evergreens and placing snowballs in the fore ground. The contrast makes this arrangement very beautiful.

Among the other trees to be mentioned

for winter effects are *Quercus Palustris* and *Quercus Imbricaria* because of the leaves being retained during the winter months. As a genus no tree is so popular. They give the impression of strength and sturdiness. They may be used as a specimen tree, for background work and for heavy plantings. The oak is certain to be admired for even the young trees are generally symmetrical.

The following notes some of the desirable points of the trees, shrubs, and plants I have used in this plan for a corner city lot one hundred by one hundred and fifty.

The pin oak (*Quercus Palustris*) is especially adapted to a city home because it is less affected by the smoke, dust, and pavement with which we must contend. Usually this oak is more uniform and less inclined to fork and form heavy branches than others. The tree is quite symmetrical and graceful especially when young. It is very hardy and one of the easiest to transplant. In the summer months the leaves are a dark, shining, bright green and the fall coloring is exceptionally good. Recently this oak has been used extensively as a shade tree.

One of the most handsome and successful

evergreens grown in our climate is the "Colorado Blue Spruce." This is called *Picea pungens* on account of the sharp, stiff character of the leaves. The color may vary from a bright green to a glaucous blue but the blues are the less common. They make an excellent tree in almost any situation: are common and may be used as specimen trees. They are certainly one of our most beautiful and attractive evergreens succeeding as well as any evergreen grown in this climate after they are established. They are perhaps a little harder to grow than *Picea Canadensis* (or *Alba*) which is unusually good in the spring due to the very graceful appearance of the new shoots. Another excellent quality to be attributed to this species is the comparative ease with which it grows and is transplanted. The effect of these two species when worked together is in my estimation one of the very best combinations which can be made; a combination which anyone should feel proud to claim. The rate of growth and also the size of the trees compare exceedingly well.

With the limited space we would have to deal with in a city home ground it would not be wise to follow the natural style. Since the architectural style through necessity must predominate where we are densely populated we

will keep the lawn trimmed. In the natural style the long grass is a requisite in carrying out our plan but here we will trim the grass to harmonize with the surroundings.

To break the harsh effect which would be obtained by the abrupt union of the house and lawn it is desirable to place shrubs about the house. This makes the change more gradual and pleasant to the eye. This effect may also be produced with climbers. To the accomplishment of this end I have used the shrubs, *Spiraea Anthony Waterer*, *Spiraea Van Houttei* and the vine *Clematis Paniculata*.

Anthony Waterer is very free in producing flowers and is small of growth. This *spiraea* is early in blossom and of a rose red color. It flowers from June until October.

Spiraea Van Houttei we may consider the best *spiraea* for general planting in this climate. It has rarely been injured by our winters, indeed we may call it absolutely hardy. It stands pruning well and is high enough to be grown for hedges. It is early but it does not follow that it is injured by frost as it does not flower until the danger of frost is past. The flowers appear for some distance along the stem and

are full and free. A shrub of two years has an attractive appearance. The foliage is retained until fall. It should have one half of the new growth trimmed away as soon as it is through blooming.

Clematis Paniculata succeeds best on a trellis. The foliage is a good, bright green with a shiny leaf. It is hardy but if injured is injured only a few inches from terminals. In early autumn we have a mass of starry bloom. It is particularly good to plant with other vines by veranda posts.

When we create a bend in a walk it becomes necessary for us to make prominent a reason for such. I have chosen to place a clump of *Spiraea Billardii*, *Syringa Vulgaris* and *Weigela* as one cause and *Hypericum* with *Vitex Agnes Costis* as the other. My idea in thus clumping these shrubs is to place *Spiraea Billardii* in front of *Syringa Vulgaris* and *Weigela* on the opposite side. By so doing I form a most beautiful cluster which is gradually rounding.

To the rear of the lot I would place my small cut flowers because these are not planted so much for ornament as for the home use. In arranging such flowers I would keep in mind a certain very definite color scheme. I would vary colors to break monotony and also take into

consideration the size of the plant. We desire not a cluttring of various sizes of flowers but rather a gradual rise. This also has the advantage of displaying the varieties.

When ordering I would get the best for in the end they are cheapest. I would prepare the beds and borders in advance of the date of arrival so that everything might be set out with out delay. When unpacking I would sort the varieties placing each in a separate pile and laying the excelsior in which they were packed over the roots to prevent drying. If possible I would unpack under cover. If I could unpack with no better convenience I would go to the cellar.

In planting I would be particular to give ample room since the roots should be spread out and never doubled under. The earth should be finely pulverized and packed about the roots firmly. The plant should be watered and if the weather is dry should be kept watered a couple of weeks.

The screen at the back should be blooming as long as possible. The quickest screen and best effect is made by planting next the fence at the rear, White Lilacs (not Persian), Mock

Orange, Deutzias and the lovely Altheas. In my plan I have chosen the Althea which should be planted three feet apart. If in good soil great canes will be formed and in four years will reach six feet in height shutting you in from prying gaze.

In placing my border I would try and obtain some bloom from May until November. The tallest plants should be placed at the back, the smallest in front. The front I would also fill with spring flowering bulbs, the Daffodils, Tulips and Narcissus would be over before the plants come on. Some plants in a border with a background of shrubs look better in rows although so much has been said against it. The Hollyhock is one of this type. A row three deep broken every ten feet or so by a clump of a dozen; a row of Rudbeckias broken occasionally with a clump of six placed in front and the rest planted in clumps according to the space with Phloxes, Larkspur, Lilies, Columbines, Sweet Williams with once in a while a good clump of Chrysanthemums which would blossom when the other flowers are gone.

The following is an attractive form. At

the edge Narcissus Poeticus, behind Narcissus Poeticus, Sweet Williams varying in color from white to dark red; back of Sweet Williams, Foxgloves; behind Foxgloves, Peonies and Hardy Hydrangea planted alternately; back of these the Hollyhock and a tall hedge Altheas. The bloom here is successive. The Peonies come on just as the Narcissus Poeticus finishes its bloom. The Sweet Williams (two feet high) bloom before the Peony has lost its beauty. While the Sweet Williams still bloom the Foxgloves (three to four feet) open. These last for about one month. They are still handsome when the Hollyhock blossoms. The Hollyhock should now be cut down and the Hydrangea which should be trimmed back every autumn form a mass of white. In the meanwhile for almost six weeks a yellow background is formed by Rudbeckias.

In the earlier part of June the border should be converted into a continual one; wherever a spot can be found should be placed clumps of Asters, Cosmos; annuals which bring their cheer in September and October. Columbines, Platycodon, Mariesi,

Delphiniums, (perennial larkspur), Hibiscus, Rockets, Chrysanthemums, Oriental Poppies and pinks. Tritoma, Yucca filamentosa may also be used.

The improvement of our home grounds not only affords us pleasure but is a source of happiness to our neighbors who would otherwise be compelled to view an unsightly home ground. Our character is greatly influenced by our environments hence the absolute necessity of beautifying the home yard with which we ever come in contact. A beautiful yard will give us traits of character very pleasing to others as cheerfulness and an appreciation of the beauty of God's out-of-doors. How much more cheerful is one surrounded by the beauties of nature than one who necessarily must live without such and learn to look upon them as curiosities or museum specimens. Hence our duty to God, our neighbors and ourselves is to exert our utmost powers to beautify our surroundings.