

Winifred Johnson

A Country Lawn.

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The true art of landscape gardening lies in such disposition of roadways walks and buildings as shall most effectively develop all the natural beauties of the land under treatment without conflicting and to be in harmony with the uses to which such lands may be devoted for a home. The interests of the home and its conveniences must be kept in view, and must never be sacrificed for some picturesque effect however beautiful or striking it may be. In a country home on Kansas soil much may be done by even the poorest laborer to brighten his door-yard, if only a little care and forethought be used in planning as well as in execution, and if our poorer neighbor can improve his lawn, what may we not expect for our prosperous farmer, who has more time and means at his command. At the rate of advancement in all lines, it almost

becomes a necessity that on the whole there be an improvement of country lawns in our Kansas homes. If necessity demands it Kansas people should and I think will be willing to meet that demand if they can only be made to feel the need of such improvement. During past years one great excuse for the apparent carelessness of the farmer's lawn has been the lack of time and lack of funds, but we find the latter is not true now, and perhaps not the former, for people generally find time to accomplish what they really desire to do.

It is within the power of the one planning the grounds to secure an agreeable view in some way from the door or window of his home. A good view may be there by accident, or the site have been chosen with this idea in view, but where the reverse of this is the case, it is surprising what may be done by careful and thoughtful planning, to hide or screen unpleasant scenes and have in the foreground for your pure enjoyment some beautiful stretch of trees or shrubbery. Taking the Country home as a whole

we must consider in our plantings the amount of care needed to keep them in the best condition. This very fact will perhaps eliminate some of our prettiest shrubs, roses etc. Because some of them need constant care. But a sufficient number can be found that will fit the need of the average farmer and be a source of pleasure to him and the passer-by.

The first requisite in laying out a lawn is the plan, it need not necessarily be a surveyor's map but it must be a definite plan decided upon from the beginning. For the best results the director of the improvements must have a clear idea of the grounds and the effect he wishes carried out.

Unity is one of the main points in landscape gardening and to secure this unity in landscape composition means that some one idea shall prevail throughout, and that all details shall be subordinate to it. If the site chosen for the home is broken with hills it will perhaps be easy to plan for a

picturesque place, if we admire that style. But whatever our site may be we must endeavor to obtain the best and most pleasing results possible. We will look to nature for our model and make our plantings appear as if nature had accomplished the work. Personally we would prefer a smooth but slightly rolling lawn facing the East, and such a one we will attempt to plan. Too often we make the mistake of making our country lawns too small, this would be excusable in the city where lots are so expensive, but on a farm of one hundred sixty acres or more, we admire the large lawn which gives us the idea of roominess, comfort and restfulness. The average Kansas farmer can well improve in this particular. The house itself will appear to much better advantage at least one hundred fifty feet from the road, and if the lawn is as wide or wider the effect of the same plantings can be improved greatly. After the site has been selected

the laying out of the roads should be the first consideration in the plan.

The house should of course be planned but the roads leading to it should be well planned before the house is placed. There are several requisites for the laying out of good roads.

1st. They must go some place, that is have a definite end in view. 2nd. If it is not the nearest road possible to the house, it should artificially be made to appear so, and the artificial obstacles that make this road the nearest ought to appear natural. 3rd. When an approach quits the main road it ought not to do so at right angles but there should be an easy turn in from the high road. If the drive gives one good view, the poor views ought to be hidden by plantings, or by turns in the road. Curves are better than straight lines for nature always works in curves, but to make them appear natural, there must be substantial plantings placed at the turning of the

curves so as to make it appear necessary  
 to have the road go around the shrubs  
 or trees. Serpentine walks just for  
 the curves are an abomination. In  
 this age of hurry and rush unless there  
 is a need or an artificial one has  
 been suggested, we demand a straight  
 line, or the shortest distance between  
 two points. When a walk or drive  
 branches each arm should take such  
 a course as to appear to be the proper  
 continuation of the trunk. Imagine  
 how one arm would look with the  
 other removed. Would it still be complete?  
 Now that the walks and drives are  
 planned for beauty as well as utility  
 the house can be located. The distance  
 of course will vary according to the  
 slope of the lawn and to the taste of  
 the builder, but the farm house will  
 look much better if the distance from  
 the main road is at least not less than  
 three times the height of the house.  
 The planning of the lawn is the next  
 consideration. As the grass is one of the

quickest improvements to procure for  
 our home we can afford to sow the entire  
 lawn and have its velvet carpet before  
 we are ready to make our entire  
 planting of trees, and there is nothing  
 more inviting as far as it goes than  
 a green carpet from early spring until  
 late fall. To secure this the ground  
 should be thoroughly prepared, ploughed  
 about eighteen inches and all of this  
 depth to be of good loamy soil, make  
 the whole depth of soil of uniform quality  
 for if not the grass will not be uniform  
 in color. Rake and pulverize with roller  
 until the top surface is as fine as  
 the ash heap. Then sow four bushel  
 Kentucky Blue Grass, two pounds white  
 clover to the acre. Mingle well together  
 and divide into three parts, sow one  
 part, then rake whole surface to lightly  
 cover seed, then sow another part  
 seed and repeat only raking in an  
 opposite direction, then sow remainder of  
 seed and roll with a heavy roller

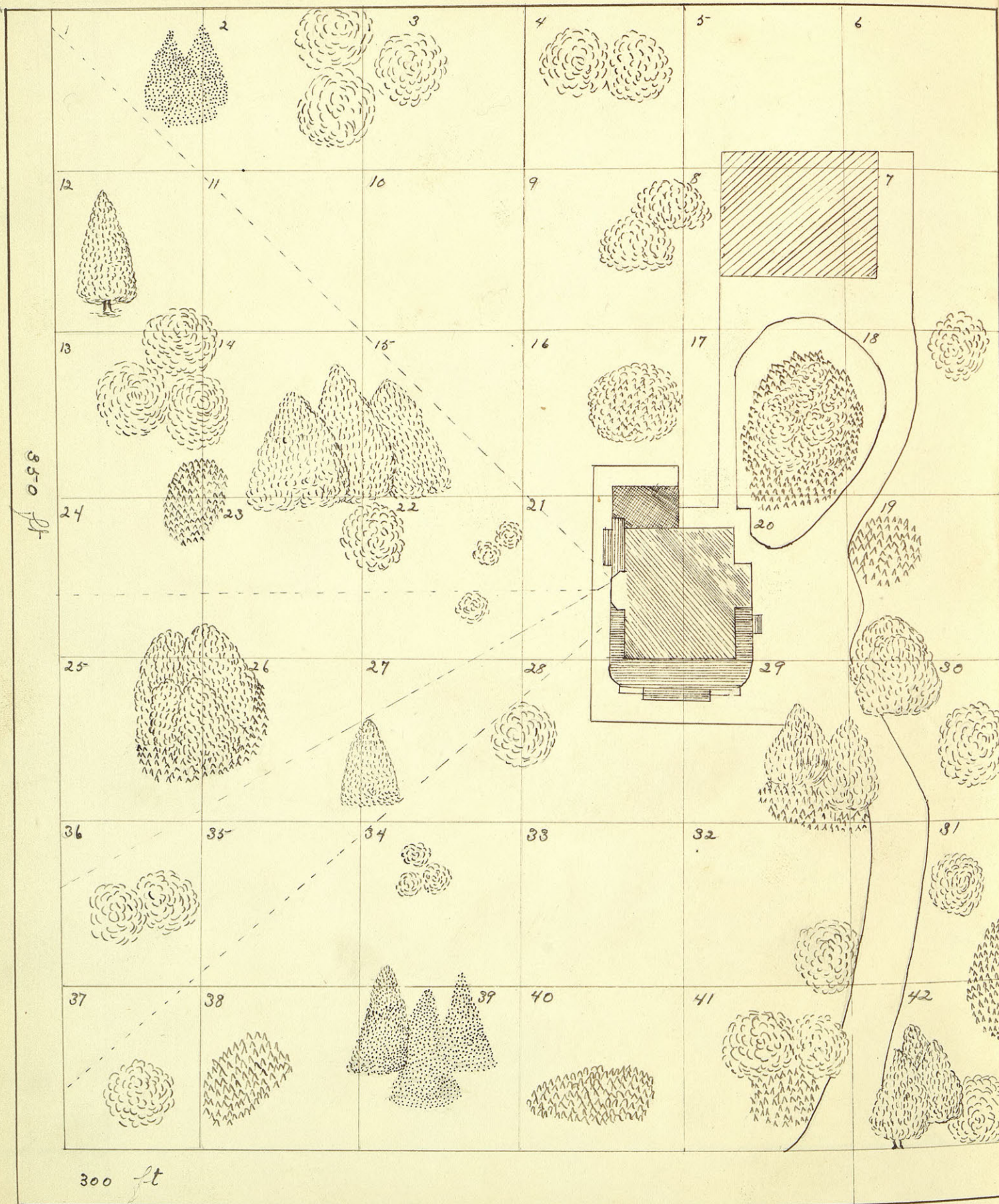
To have a good lawn, it should be  
 freely mown, no matter how closely

early in the season, but when hot weather comes on mowing should be less frequent and less close. In August mow just high enough so that no seed is formed. As soon as fall rains begin mow close but near close of autumn leave it so there will be some protection over winter.

As we take up the plantings there are many things to be considered. For the natural style we will expect to have the trees in clumps, rather than rows, and in doing this these points are to be observed: The sky line, light and shade, form and texture, fall and summer colorings, that our various groups will make on the lawn.

We always find that nature has her low shrubbery grouped about her trees, affording some shelter to the shrubs as well as adding much to the beauty of the picture. One fault to guard against is making the plantings too dense. There should be plenty of open lawn, but if the mistake is made the axe is a sure remedy. Another

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error to avoid is planting trees of slow growth and habit behind those that mature earlier, even if they will be larger when fully matured. We want a desirable effect at all times. The lawn in the plan will be suitable for a Kansas home and the shrubs and trees chosen will be hardy and grow in our climate. The plan is drawn on the scale of fifty ft to the inch making the entire lawn three hundred by three hundred fifty feet. The house is placed at one side rather than in the center with one hundred fifty foot front. The drive leads up to the house and out to the barn. There are good walks all around the house and leading to the barn. In selecting the trees we have been liberal in choosing the conifers, though have made a careful choice and selected those that will grow with a moderate amount of care. One objection to the conifers as a class is that they make slow growth but they are beautiful during the entire year and they look well even when

they are only small trees. To the right of the main road in section 42 are three Austrian pines, *Pinus Austriaca*, has a heavy dark colored foliage, leaves from five to seven inches long. Bark of older trees is grayish brown. Section 30 has two dwarf pines *Pinus Montana*, they are a spreading shrubby plant rarely taking an erect stem. Some care is needed however in older trees to prevent them from being open-headed. In 29 is a group of conifers, the white pine, *Pinus strobus*. Is hardly as well adapted to high land as some others but is the handsomest of all the pines. In good soil the growth compares favorably with some of the others. Readily recognized by its soft silky leaves which are five in a sheath and dark green in color. 20 is another group of Austrian and Scotch pine with border of snowballs (*Viburnum macrocephalum*) and *Spiraea (Lemonii)* like *van Houttii* only blossoms are pink. Colorado spruce (*Picea pungens*) This spruce is handsome throughout life, young are as handsome as can be, slow in growth but seem quite hardy, long lived and valuable when grown. The Scotch pine *Pinus sylvestris*

is one of the most successful. Graceful as a young tree, and old trees are stately and of good appearance. Recognized by lighter character of tree, leaves are from two to three inches long, borne in a cluster and are a light green in color. Older trees readily recognized by reddish brown bark.

9 Has two more dwarf pines. 2 are the red cedars *Juniperus virginiana*. Native of Kansas, they succeed well in most any soil. Young trees are symmetrical and of good appearance, when older they become a little rusty looking and sometimes open headed. They are better viewed from a distance when they become old. 12 Has a Larch

a deciduous conifer, leaves are shed late in the fall, rather late in leafing in the spring. Graceful in foliage and moderately hardy. In this position it is somewhat protected by the cedars, Succeeds better in low moist soil. 14 and 15 are Austrian and White pines. 23- and 26 ~~is~~ a group of Green and Blue Colorado Spruces with border of *Spiraea Billardi*, flowers from July until frost, also Snow balls, *Viburnum*, *Opulus sterilis*, presents a good appearance

in summer and fall. Easily grown and is absolutely hardy, usually blossoms early in its life, only objection is that the foliage is often attacked by an aphid which is injurious. In 27 is a specimen tree of Colorado Blue Spruce. In 39 is red cedar. These are far enough from the house to look well and at the same time make a pretty group to view from the main road. The Cedars are desirable for a farmer's yard because they always look well and they need scarcely any pruning. We will now take up the deciduous trees as a class. In our selection we want to have in view the Summer, fall, and winter effect of each tree and its relation in this respect to surrounding shrubs and trees. A tree may present a handsome appearance with its summer foliage and yet be any thing but beautiful in its winter condition. So in our selection we will have trees that look well during the entire year. 42 is the cut Leaved Weeping Birch *Betula alba*, variety *laciniata pendula*. It makes a rapid growth is easily transplanted and is beautiful in both winter and summer. It will

be effective from the road with the back  
 ground of Austrian pines. Close by its side  
 will be a Tartarian Maple, a small tree  
 with small cut and lobed leaves making  
 a beautiful tree when in flower or in  
 fruit and again by its brilliant coloring in  
 the Autumn 31 and 42 the Van Houttei will  
 appear to good advantage, it is a low  
 spreading bush with curved branches and  
 is four to six feet high, a profuse bloomer  
 and its foliage has a pleasing appearance  
 flowers are borne on shoots, nothing is  
 easier to grow. Also the Syringa alba  
 insignis which is good. 31 Is a Horse  
 Chestnut, this tree possesses much beauty  
 in its compact regular form and dark  
 green foliage, but is especially beautiful  
 when in blossom with its large compact  
 panicles of white and rose colored flowers  
 It is readily transplanted, hardy and  
 succeeds in a variety of soils. 19 Is the  
 Purple leaved Barberry, (*Berberis vulgaris*)  
 variety *purpurea*, one of the smallest  
 purple leaved shrubs and one of the best.  
 It retains its dark purple color through  
 the season. It has golden colored flowers

It needs frequent heading in, when young  
 to bring it into a compact bushy form.  
 18 American Elm (*Ulmus Americana*) A  
 fine shade tree not to be excelled, grows  
 to greatest perfection in deep, moist  
 alluvial soil and it is easily transplanted  
 20 We will have a border of Snowballs  
*Viburnum macrocephalum* proves to be the  
 equal of the old American snowball in  
 in purity of color and far eclipses it in  
 size and beauty. Each blossom is more  
 than an inch across and the clusters  
 made up of three, measure eight or ten  
 inches in diameter, tree grows to about  
 twenty feet and is hardy. *Spiraea Bumaldii*  
 is also in the border. In section 2 and 3  
 is a planting of peach leaved oaks  
 (*Quercus imbricaria*) Leaves are retained  
 over winter, a little difficult to transplant  
 but a fine tree for both winter and summer  
 effects. 4 Has two American Elms.  
 13 Is a Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)  
 while young this tree resembles the sugar  
 maple but as it grows older it takes on  
 a more rounded massive head. The leaves  
 are broad and thin palmately lobed

and change to a light golden color in the autumn. It is easily transplanted and thrives in ordinary good soil.

13, 14, 23, 24, Is the Red Dog wood a beautiful shrub of large size and especially valuable for winter effect. The branches are bright red and here it is to be planted in front of the Austrian pines in section 15, this shrub will give a good contrast. 22 Is the Iron wood, grows to a height of thirty to forty feet. It is of slow growth, though a very beautiful tree, it is by no means common, but is hardy and a very desirable ornamental tree.

27 and 28 has a specimen tree of yellow wood, seldom exceeds forty feet in height, foliage is quite brilliant and has a very sweet odor, the flowers are in long pendulous clusters. When first planted it is slow of growth but after the first two or three years, it takes a sudden start and soon reaches its full height. 36 Is the English Elm, a tall tree, more upright in growth than our American Elm. The

branches are less spreading and more erect than those of the American species, bark is also darker and coarser 32 Is another yellow wood. 41 Soft Maple (*Acer saccharum*) fairly rapid growth succeeds well in many soils but better in a deep moist soil where it often reaches a great size, they recover from pruning easily, and the foliage is beautiful in Autumn. 37 Has white oak (*Quercus alba*) A large tree sixty to eighty feet high with a trunk often six feet in diameter. The bark is light gray the recent shoots light reddish or grayish brown, alternate leaf scars. Small round buds, smooth and short, about as long as they are wide, acorns in a shallow rough cup. The shrubs we will put on the lawn must be hardy and require little care, and at the same time we must consider the appearance of the lawn during the entire summer, so we will also select shrubs that do not all blossom at the same time. 38, the tree lilac *Syringa japonica*, free bloomers, quite hardy, foliage is darker than common lilac, blossoms in June. usually about

one month later in flowering than our  
 common lilac, flowers are creamy and  
 odorless 34 Mock Orange *Philadelphus*  
*coronarius*, flowers resemble the orange  
 blossoms and are equally fragrant  
 grows to a large size but retains its  
 regular rounded bush form even when  
 of great age. 41 With the Maples the  
 Silver Bell (*Halesia tetraetora*) will look  
 well it is a beautiful shrub producing  
 pure white bell-shaped flowers, much  
 like the snow-drop, hence its name, it  
 blossoms <sup>late</sup> in May. 40 *Spiraea Bumaldii*  
 is a very choice species of dwarf but  
 vigorous habit, grows two or three feet  
 in height with numerous slender  
 branches, The foliage is dense and  
 good throughout all the summer months  
 and when the bushes are covered with  
 a profusion of crimson or rosy pink  
 flowers, they are an object of rare beauty  
 Few plants answer better for bedding  
 out as they are more showy than  
 geranium or coleus and do not need  
 renewing every year. The blossoms  
 appear in June and continue until cold

weather 29 Is. a border of Japanese  
*Hydrangea, paniculata grandiflora*  
 Of the many beautiful shrubs intro-  
 duced from Japan this is one of the  
 best, most easily grown and largely  
 planted. The flowers coming in August  
 and September are very large and  
 showy and last a long time. To get  
 the best results in growing this shrub  
 the new growth should be cut back  
 severely in the fall or before growth  
 begins in the Spring, in many cases  
 to two or three buds, for the smaller  
 number of buds allowed to grow, the  
 stronger the shoots, and the size of  
 the panicles will be in proportion  
 to the vigor of these shoots. 22 Is a  
 Pearl bush, a pretty shrub having  
 white blossoms early in the Spring  
 Here also is the *Dentzia gracilis*, one  
 of the most beautiful small shrubs  
 with delicate white flowers in abundant  
 racemes. A slight protection of pine  
 boughs or straw over winter will  
 improve the size and quantity of the  
 flowers.

As we have now selected the regular lawn plantings we will choose the climbers for the porches, and prepare the beds for our rose garden. At the west porch we will plant a climbing Honeysuckle *Perempnosa* (red trumpet). This is a pretty vine and in good soil will make a good shade to shelter the back porch from the afternoon sun. At the sides of the front porch a climbing rose will give enough shade and we can find nothing more appropriate than the *Crimson Rambler*. But it should after blooming have all the old wood that has borne the blooms cut out, and the young shoots should be laid in and on these will be produced the blooms for the coming year. If we care for more climbers we can have a great variety to choose from. The rose garden needs especial care, a light airy position should be selected but where cold North wind will be somewhat broken. Roses will not succeed if planted in the shade of

trees, or buildings, neither do they want to be planted in an enclosure where the sun beats upon them, and all the air is shut off. The soil should be a good friable mould, moist and well drained. The soil should be thoroughly prepared and a liberal quantity of ground bone with well rotted manure added. Have the rose bed narrow so as to be convenient for cutting and working with the roses. When planting be sure to do it firmly by pressing the soil well around the roots with either the hands or the feet and bury the stems to about the same depth they have been buried before then finish off the bed with a top dressing of litter or strawy manure.

The best roses for this lawn belong to a group that is called Hybrid-perpetuals, they require the very best soil, and careful pruning in order to produce the best flowers. You cannot get soil too good for roses. Only thoroughly decomposed manure

should be used in the flower garden.  
 The following are good Hybrid perpetuals.  
 General Jacquemont, is a red rose  
 John Hopper, a good pink variety  
 Clothilde Souper, white with pink center  
 Madam Plantier is white

Hermosa is a pink perpetual. It is better to secure strong pot-grown plants in the Spring, these to be planted out as soon as the weather is settled and the ground is in good condition for a planting, and the following fall give them a top dressing of stable manure covered with earth and left over until Spring and then spaded into the bed during Spring preparation. We may expect fine roses from June until October.

The plantings are now complete but before our lawn is finished there must be ground laid out for a tennis court and croquet ground. These can be attractive to look at, and why not have arrangements made for amusements at home and make our home the most attractive and fascinating spot on earth?

The sooner we find out the possibilities of beautifying and making our home a pleasant place in which to live, the sooner we will have happier and more contented farmers, and farmers wives and children. We have reserved one hundred by one hundred fifty feet for amusement grounds back of the house in section 10 and 11 and we think if such a plot was chosen and set out with plantings, it would make an ideal Kansas home, and we look eagerly forward to the not far distant day when the people scattered over our broad prairies shall see the opportunities in store for them and carry into execution the beautifying of our country lawns.