

Plans for Front Yard Planting.

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I. Introduction

1. Decorative planting as applied to the home lot.

II. Discussion

1. Make plan before planting
 - a. This plan should be explicit.
 - b. This plan will help to avoid mistakes

2. Building Sites

- a. Is round Surfaces
- b. Amount of trees already grown

3. Planting

- a. Arrangement in planting
- b. Different Styles.

4. Relative value of

- a. Lawn
- b. Trees shrubs etc.

5. List and description of trees, shrubs etc for yard.

III. Conclusion - Plans.

The term "landscape gardening" usually gives an impression of something large and expansive but in its true meaning it does include the decoration of the home lot. Everyone should at least understand the aim of landscape gardening as applied to the home as this is where most of our interests center. Very little of this decorative planting can be done in the city but aside from homes inside of the city limits it may be accomplished by a little study. The home should always be built so that it will fit the landscape that it so it will look as if it belonged there and the decoration of the yard should do the same and if we consider it as a part of the landscape the decoration of it will then clearly come under the subject of "Landscape Gardening". Even in the homes in small towns and suburban homes by the cooperation of the owners the landscape gardening may be made very effective there.

Before beginning to work on the

lot no matter how small one should always have a plan made first. This plan should be made on very durable paper with good ink and should be accompanied with written specifications. Some people who have a fairly good knowledge of trees shrubs etc in regard to their size color or form and who have a fairly good idea of the beauty of nature may make a plan for their own home which would be very satisfactory and they would have much pleasure in the work. If one has the money it is very well to have some skilled landscape gardener to plan the lot who will do his best to use those trees shrubs etc which are desired by the owner. This would give great satisfaction but the owner does not get the training that he would receive by doing it himself so it would be advisable for everyone to leave something of the plants used in decorative planting at least those for the home lot. In regard to the

details of the plans Prof. Waugh says
 "Plans and specifications are not
 too explicit if they locate every ^{lilac} bush
 and spirea and clump of columbine
 and if they demand that the lilac
 shall be Fran Danemann; the Spirea
 a frunifolia and the columbine of
 the variety Skinneri." It is easy to
 realize how very awkward it would
 be to begin building a house without
 a plan but it is not so noticeable
 in that of a yard yet it is just as
 bad although it may not be as
 costly.

When we are selecting a building
 site although a varied surface would
 be our first choice yet in small grounds
 the abruptness is seldom in keeping
 with the surroundings. However
 in rocky places and along the side
 of a brook one could make them
 look well with the buildings. But
 usually the best site for a house
 is the level or more gradual
 slopes.

One form of ground surface

would be to have the ground where the house stands to be on about the same level with a high fence next the street and it will have a better appearance if this slope takes the form of an arc of a circle. Another way which might prove more satisfactory in some cases would be to have the curve more abrupt as this increases the apparent extent of the ground. The forms of ground surfaces are the most common deviations from the level but there are several others of a more elegant type.

If there are trees on the lot on which one expects to build they are sometimes very valuable. However owing to the manner of growth and the age some trees are dangerous to the buildings and give a rather lonely effect. But those that have had a chance to grow in open ground and have been accustomed

to the strong winds would not be so dangerous. Some trees that have grown together very thickly will usually contain several specimens that will be worth while to preserve. But the owner of such a building site should not make the blunder of leaving too many rather than too few of these trees.

In the decoration of the home lot we should always leave as much of the unbroken lawn as is possible.

Trees are planted in groups on the home lot for four reasons - for ornamentation, to hide objectionable places, for protection from cold winds and for background for the house. When planting trees always leave radiating lines from the principal windows and porches to the outside of the yard in which no trees are planted. Also plant the smaller trees and shrubs such as lilacs, honeysuckles and dwarf

almonds nearest the center of the yard so that they may be seen in front of the larger trees and yet not detract from their appearance. It is a good idea especially if we expect to have various kinds of shrubs and flowers never to plant trees which are great in size such as elms on a small lot. This should be followed particularly if they attain this enormous size in a short time. Trees of characteristic beauty such as the oaks may be planted so as to appear very conspicuous. Trees of similar characteristics should never be grouped together unless in a park or some large ground. Examples would be to plant several species of the oak together which would not look well on the home grounds. However these rules for grouping trees ~~and~~ shrubs are general rules and not applied to any particular style. If the

planting to be done is that of the natural style then one would try to follow nature as much as possible while in case we were following the architectural style they would be grouped or planted in geometrical figures and designs and quite often the trees and shrubs are trimmed into figures for this style especially the evergreen trees and shrubs. However in the picturesque style we do not have either of these two styles and nothing in common but rather in this style everything should have a broken uneven appearance and should suggest peculiarity. There are only a very few places where it would be possible to have the decoration of the home follow this style but on the banks of a stream or a hill nearby it can be used to some extent. The table mountain pine is one of the best trees to be

used in landscape gardening after this style.

The most essential element of the yard is the surface of closely cut grass. The quickest and probably the best way to get this is by turving but if the lot is very large owing to the fact that this process is very expensive instead of turving it could be sown early in the spring.

Which would be the more valuable the trees or shrubs would be dependent on the size of the lot and what the owner likes best. If the yard is small and the owner has a great appreciation of shrubs a good collection of shrubs would better fit his lot than a few trees while for one who has a decided longing for trees a few trees and a good lawn will better satisfy him than a lot of shrubs. But as a usual thing a small yard had better be given to shrubs and flowers than to

include trees unless of small variety as it looks bad to plant a tree where there is not enough room for it in fact only enough room for shrubs. So it seems that there would be no inquiry as to which would be best on the small lot, a good lot of shrubs or such trees as such a place could afford. Annuals and flowers of low plants are necessary but must be used cautiously that is we must be moderate in the use of them. We should never plant them in the open part of the lawn but they may be used for bordering walks in the bays of shrubbery and on the points also but too many always spoil the desired effect.

For deciduous trees for the home lot the following may be used:-

The maples are very valuable trees for planting where they will thrive. They are typical American trees.

Oaks are very valuable trees but the one objection to them is the very slow growth. The pin oak has an abundance of delicate light foliage when in full leaf if it is in open ground. It has a great number of small branches and the lower branches usually have the drooping habit. The bark is very hard and is dark in color. The leaves are of lighter color and smaller in size than other species of the oak. The Burr oak is a very handsome tree on account of its spreading habit and beautiful leaves. The leaf is the largest and most beautiful of the oak leaves. This oak gets its name from the appearance of the acorn which resembles a burr. It is very handsome in the summer but its appearance in winter is not so attractive. The shingle oak is one of the desirable varieties to plant on small grounds. It has a very pretty leaf being glossy

pointed and smooth edged.

The Elm trees are very ornamental and very good trees for the yard. Most of the species are very large trees. The white elm is probably best known in this country and is said to deserve the title of "queen of American trees." This species grows very fast and in every stage of its growth it is very beautiful. They make very handsome ^{street} trees as they are great in size and breadth of top. The red or shiffery elm is said not to be very good for small home grounds. It is so much less beautiful than the white elm that it is scarcely ever planted now. It is not as large however as the white elm.

The ash tree is good on account of its abundant foliage and rather symmetrical form. However it is late in leaf and is said to be noted "for exhausting the soil to such an extent as to injure the lawn under its branches." The white ash is the

finest of the ash family. It requires a warm dry soil which is very different from the black ash as it grows better in damp soil. The bark of the black ash is darker than that of the white ash. The foliage of the white ash is not as bright in color as the black.

The poplars are as a rule very easy to grow and transplant and they grow very rapidly also. The cottonwood is one of the largest species. It is very unsuitable for small grounds as it grows to a great size in a very short time. The lombardy poplar is a very tall slender tree. It is not a very desirable tree as there are worms that work on the foliage and borers that work on the wood and kill it.

The catalpa is of extremely rapid growth and is desirable for the beauty of its leaves and flowers.

The best fruit trees for the home lot are the cherry and apple as they are not very hard to grow and furnish abundant foliage flowers and fruit.

For shrubs for the home

lot the lilac is the commonest and yet one of the best. Both the white and purple varieties are stout shrubs. Some varieties of the lilacs reach a great size for shrubs some as high as 12 ft in N. Y.

The shrubby honeysuckle is very good in the yard. If some people were to have but one shrub on their lot their first choice would be the honeysuckle. This Tartarian species of the honeysuckle leafs out very early and its foliage is very delicate and with its delicate blossoms it is one of the most desirable shrubs.

The hardy hydrangea is a shrub that is easily grown and extensively planted. It requires rich warm moist soil. It is covered with a cluster of blossoms most of the summer. They are too tender to be left out of doors in winter in the Northern States.

Spiraea van Houttei is one of the most desirable shrubs. It is usually quite small in size but when in bloom is very beautiful for it is usually almost completely covered with white blossoms.

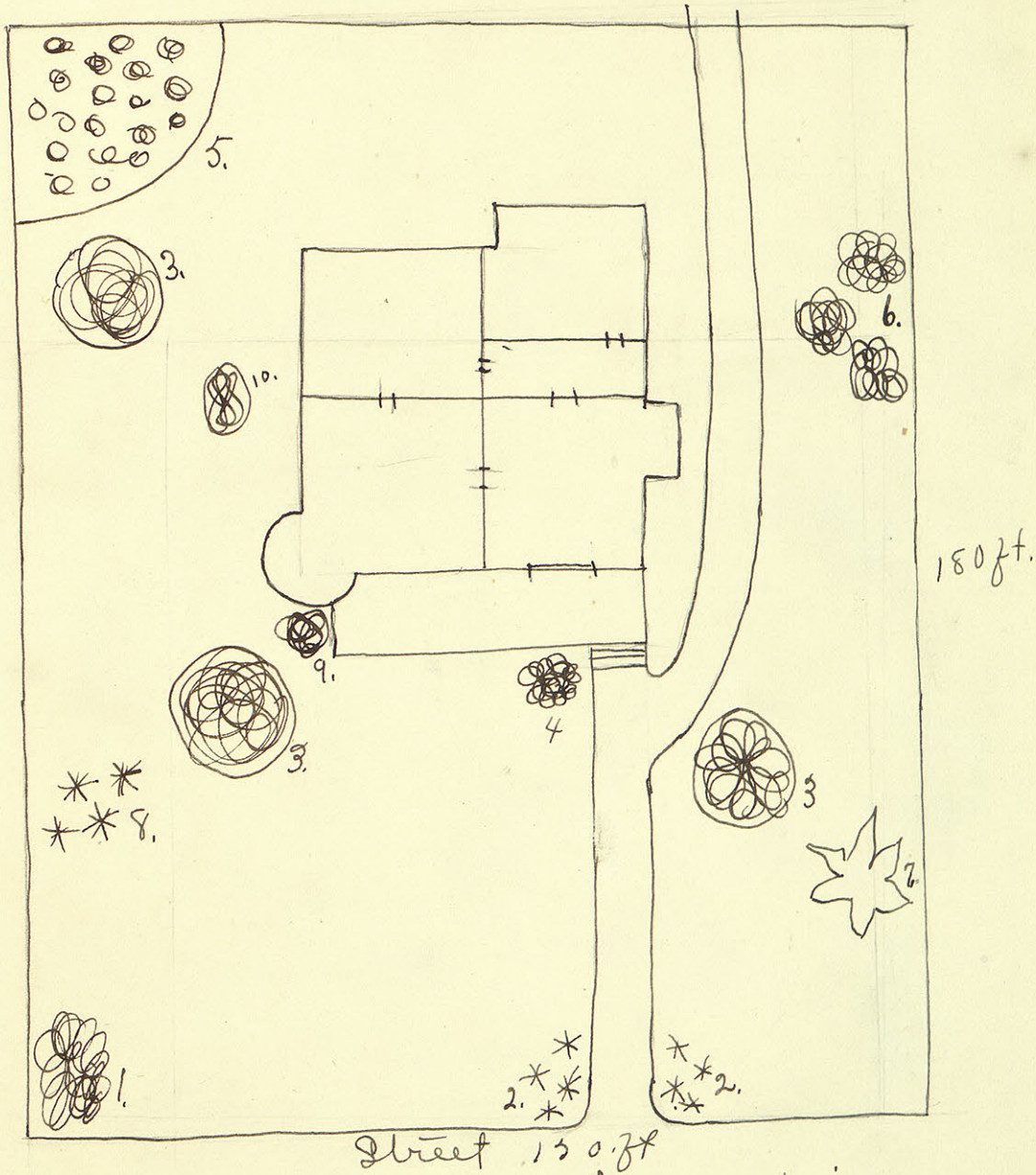
The rose is ^{another} one of the best shrubs. Although the rose bush is not very beautiful, the blossoms are always very handsome in form color and odor.

The home lot is never complete without a liberal supply of evergreen trees and shrubs. For this may be used the Scotch and Austrian pine, the spruce firs, the silver firs, cedars and junipers and the arbor vitae.

For vines for decorating the home lot some of the varieties of the climatis are desirable for the flowers. Some of the climbing roses are the Baltimore Belle, Queen of Prairie^{2d} and Quins on Rambler. The latter is one of the most desirable. The wisteria is said to be a favorite among many but it is slow in leafing out. It has a large cluster of blossoms of white or purple according to the variety. Others are trumpet vine, honeysuckle and bitter sweet.

Knowing that the home should be a very charming place it should be impressed on the mind of everyone to get a knowledge of the plants used in decorative planting^{2d} and with slight expense make the home lot very attractive to the passerby^{2d} and to the occupants.

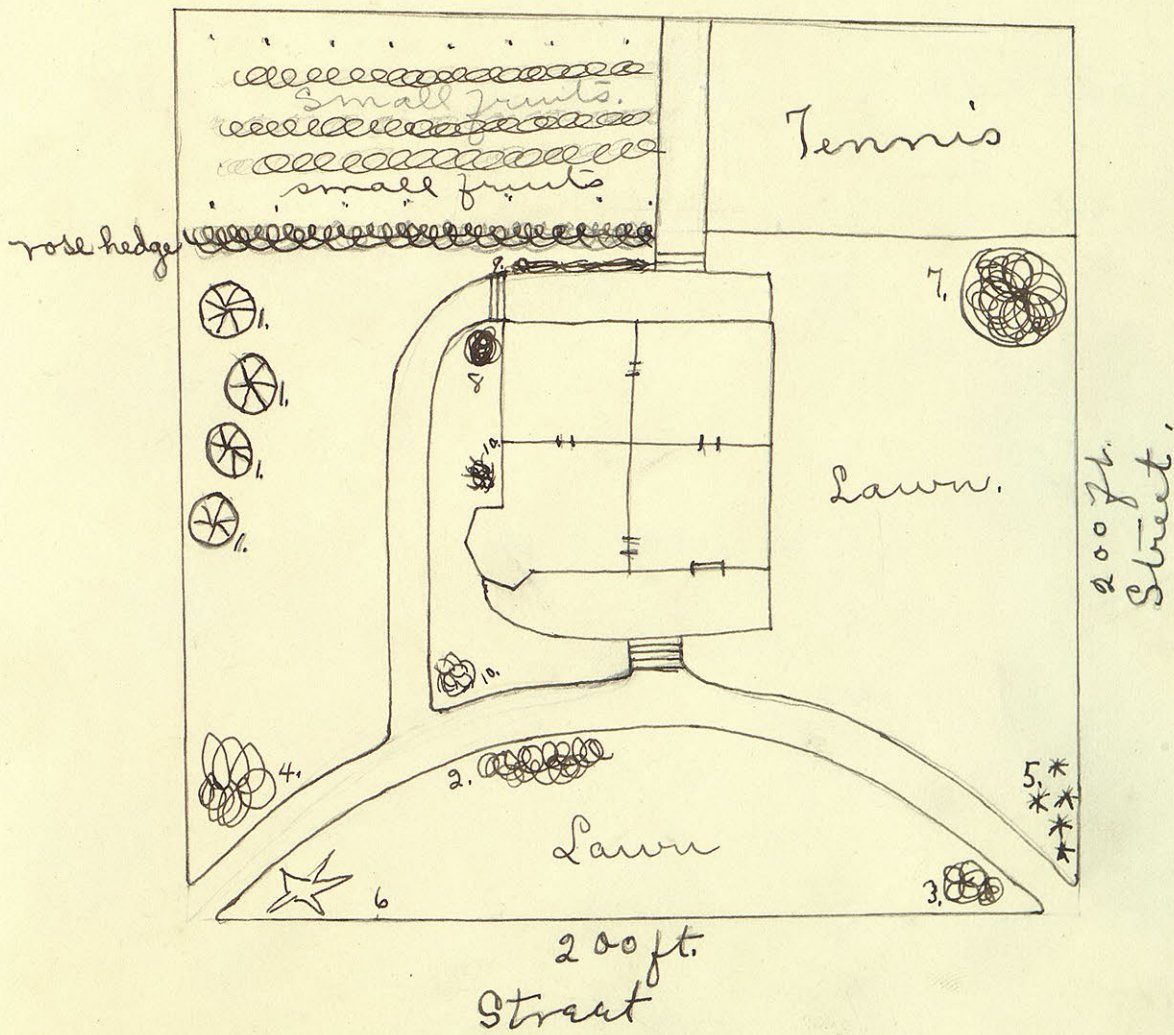
Plan for a home on a lot 150 ft X 180 ft. May or may not be on corner.



- 1. lilacs
- 2. arborvitae
- 3.
- 4 spirea
- 5. rose garden.
- 6. apple trees

- 7. austrian pine
- 8. Colorado Blue Spruce.
- 9. Hydrangea.
- 10 lilac.

Plan for a city home on
a corner lot 200 ft square.



- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Cherry trees. | 6. Arbor vitas. |
| 2. Low shrubs. | 7. Oak |
| 3. Spirea | 8. Rose |
| 4. lilacs | 9. Wisteria. |
| 5. Colorado blue Spruce | 10. Hydrangea |