Landscaping gardening on The Farm

C. Marty '96
Table of Contents

I. Introduction
   a. Objects of the Art
   b. The Practising of Landscape Gardening in this Country.
      i. Past
      ii. Present

II. What the Art Included
   a. Choice of Sites.
   b. Laying Out of Roads, Paths & Buildings
c. Trees, Shrubs & Flowers.
   d. Beauty of Trees best adapted to Kansas Soil (g) Arrangement & grouping

III. Why forms direct useful arrangements.
   a. Condition & situations of forms
   b. Use objects.

IV. Landscape Gardening on the farm in the future.
   a. Its progress
   b. My ideal form

References:
I. Landscape Gardening by W. J. Downie.
II. Artistic Aspects of Trees
III. Art of Town Planning by B. C. Mitchell.
IV. Prof. Masri's Lectures
In writing on Landscape Gardening, my object is to call the attention of the farmer to an art which in the past has been much neglected. At the present it is in its dawn, and promises a bright and glorious day for the future. The art of Landscape Gardening is the designing or arrangement of buildings, walks, trees, shrubs, and floral, that they may be or appear more pleasing and beautiful to man. The art is not only the knowing how, but the doing or carrying out of this work.

The farmer of the past gave little attention to the beautifying of his home. In fact this was not his object; he had other things to do to which to him were of much more importance. It is hard to prohibit himself against his enemy more than the man of today. He had none of the improved machinery which this generation has. Therefore he was forced to spend most of his time...
raising and gathering food for himself and family. Later we find him in a high stage of development, more civilized. Here he is seeking wealth and fulfills the importance of making the home beautiful and life happy. The very fact that farmers have neglected the beautifying of their homes has been and is yet, the reason why the farmer's life is called 'Burly bridgery.' But this time is now being used less and less.

To show the effect of the practice and esteem of landscape gardening I know of no better example than our own state. In the Eastern Country where the art is practiced to some extent, we find as a rule (I of course state all the exceptions) make farm homes, houses well painted, tennis and other buildings arranged showing some thought was used before their erection. Beautiful blue goose lawns will shade trees, shrubs and flowers! But as we pass Western with a change title.
Place. Things drop out one by one until finally all we have left is the sod or frame house standing alone on the prairie.

The farmer after buying a tract of land upon which he intends to make his future home cannot be too careful in the selection of the building site. He should not only take into consideration the buildings which he intends to erect at the present time, but should look ahead and arrange now those which he intends to erect so that in the future additions can be easily made whenever he wishes to enlarge the buildings. He should always have his dwelling house on higher ground than his stock in that there is good drainage, that is, that no swamp or pond of stagnant water will be near or thus making a harbor for disease. He should always consider what would be the best place for an orchard, vineyard or garden, and see that they...
will not restrict the view from the house. It should plant a large number of different kinds of trees at first and take out certain ones as they grown up thus leaving the hardiest and best. The laying out of roofs and walks is one of the main questions. The cost of laying out a beautiful walk is considerable and therefore cannot well be changed after once finished. A person should first determine the entrance for the approach from the main road or street. In former years this was most always the nearest joint from the house to the road then making the walk straight. But now the most beautiful walks and drives which we have are made up of gentle curves that making the view look more natural. The laying out of the walks depends upon the lay of the ground and it is hard to give any rules which can be followed closely. There are two joints however which cannot be
...disregarded in the curves should not be too just nor too many as it will give an artificial appearance and therefore look worse than if the walk were straight. 2 3/4 The walk should not lead over unnecessary ground thus making it inconvenient. If the ground is slightly rolling the walk may be made to follow the lowest ground. A few trees may be planted along the walk for shade. Here and there small groups of trees and bushes. In the near of the house there should be a denser hillside with large trees and evergreens. This will give a more natural appearance to the ground and also serve as a wind break in severe storms. No one who has lived in a timbered country all his life can realize the true value and beauty of a tree. They cost but little and can be grown in nearly every part of this state. In some portions however, they require more attention than in others but what little time is spent
in the growing of trees will be well rewarded in the end. In the spring they bring forth their fragrant flowers and deep green leaves. During the summer months no other place seems as inviting or refreshing as the shade of a large elm or a maple tree, while the autumn with its crimson, gold and crimson colors which the poet so often sings is all due to the lives and slumber.

Never one how said, "They who plant trees at once instead of wasting their breath in selfish complaint of the shortness of life, find luxuriant foliage waving over them much sooner than they expected. But whether you live to see the maturity of your lives or not be ever modest enough to plant for posterity."

Some of the true trees adopted to Kansas soil and climate are Elm, Boxelder, Maples, The Locust, Walnut, Mulberry, Cottonwood, Willow, Cedar & Pine. One should be careful in planting
trees not to close them when they will obstruct the view. After a person in sitting out these does not seem to realize that they will grow, so that after the trees how to come some size they have to be removed. It is not a good plan to plant large trees too near the house. They should be put away some distance and the spaces between left for small shrubs and flowers.

Do not these look much prettier in their natural state then when trimmed to represent different forms. The lawn must to be moved once in two weeks and rolled them. or four times a year. Flowers and flower beds may be placed between the house and gate, but not too many, or two beds on each side of the walk leaves much prettier than flower beds scattered all along the walk to the house.

The vines and climbing plants are used for many different purposes and add much to the beauty of a house. The Virginia Creeper or
Climbing Ivy, as it is called by some is used to cover up the bare walls of houses in the spring and during the summer months it furnishes a rest for green white as Autumn draws near it assume a reddish brown or golden color. This vine is grown principally on stone houses as it is said to cause decay on frame houses.

Anyone who has romped in the timber can remember pretty well the wild goose vine and the time he cut loose one end of the long vine and made a bow. The Landscape Gardener now has the vine climbing the long vine of our lawn as well as the rambler of our porch, other vines which are used all, The Bells-patch, Climbing Rose, Climatis, Morning, and Honey Bells, the latter is grown on a trellis and noted for its fragrant flowers.

Landscape Gardening has to do with all that can make the home appear beautiful and the flowers today
with all that is said on this subject. In the paper, cannot help but hear something about it. In order to raise a crop of wheat, corn or oats, a farmer has to put a certain amount of labor into it. This is true of everything and especially of a beautiful place. To keep a town in a good condition the farmer will have to spend more or less time or work upon it. This is what most farmers fail to do and consequently this is why we see as many deserted farmer homes as we ride on the country.

The farmer often is as poor as he is bad. He said, "A man is more corn, to feed more cattle, and get more hope to make more money. If that is so, do not buy more land to raise more corn out," to certainly the aim of a large number of Kansas farmers.

Not long ago a person from Hutchinson, Kansas, said that the good and fertile could not be grown in that vicinity on account of the dry weather, it is true, they are not grown.
This now but that is no reason why they cannot be, and before many years I believe that time will be given than the same as in the Eastern part of the state.

It has only been a few years that attention has been turned towards this art of gardening. Every year it is steadily marching forward and becoming more perfect. It has only been a few years that our large cities have had such beautiful parks, and to get an idea of the progress made in landscape gardening we can find in what places to go there to visit some of these beautiful parks.

The practicing of this art in the country is going to make the farmer let one of pleasure, of course he should not attempt too much at first. To make a place beautiful, he must do what he does well, and then by working continually he will succeed. The trouble in this part has been as Mr. Downie has said, "The lazy are too insolent, and the busy are to hurried. The sluggish
Of others are readily taken and the most incongruous and imperfect results necessarily ensue.

The former life is said to be the most independent of all occupations, why can it not be the happiest? It is true the love for gardening is rapidly increasing, every year an increasing number of persons move to the country to engage in fruit culture and to restore pleasant rural homes. Thus we see that it is in the former and latter keeping that the large part of the country meaning lies, and we hope that the love for gardening will rapidly continue in the future through their ranks.