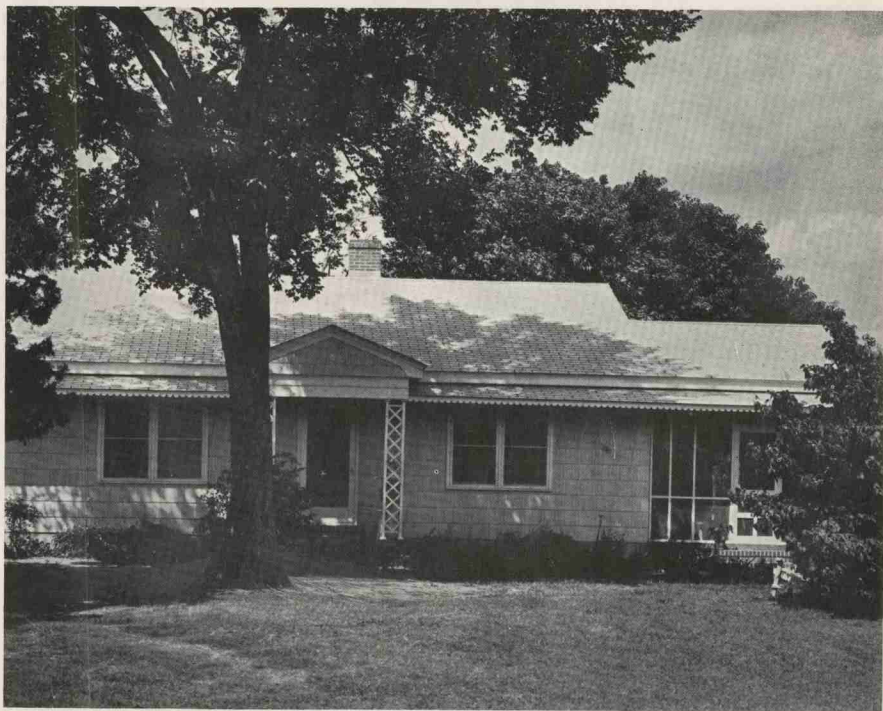


4-H MANUAL FOR

Home Grounds Beautification



Home Grounds Beautification

Do you really want an attractive home? You can have one if you have the *desire* and if you don't mind *work*. Don't let the lack of money stop you. If you have the desire and love for beauty, ways will be found for creating it. Love for beauty can't be bought or sold it has to be developed.

The landscaping around your home *reflects* your taste, personality, and attitude to all those who pass your way. Let's make a good impression. A neat, well kept place not only impresses others but impresses us too. It gives us a feeling of pride and inner satisfaction.

Take a look around your home and see what you can do to improve its appearance. Little things you do today can add to the attractiveness of your home during future years. I sincerely hope the following suggestions will help you develop an attractive home of which you will be proud.

What Makes A Place Attractive

The next time you go for a ride look at the different yards and see what makes them attractive. You'll probably notice that attractive yards are neat and well kept; have attractive lawns; have trees for shade; have shrubs around the house and to screen off ugly views; have well kept walks and drives, placed only where they are needed. The house is usually painted and in good repair with some flower borders to give color. You'll also notice that attractive places are simple, not decorated with shrubs and flower beds scattered over the lawn. Examine Fig. 1 and see how simple the plan is.

Plan Your Work

The first thing for you to do is to make a plan of your place as it is. Also make some pictures. Then study this bulletin carefully and ask your neighborhood leader and club agent for any suggestions they can give you. The next step is to draw a plan of your place the way you want it to be. Fig. 1 will give you an idea as to how to draw this plan. You may not want to include all the barn buildings unless you plan to change them. A convenient way to draw the plan is to place a white sheet of paper on top of cross section (graph) paper. Draw the plan to a convenient scale. You can usually let one inch on the paper equal 20 or 30 feet on the ground. If the paper has ten squares to the inch, each square would equal two or three feet depending on which scale you used. These plans along with before and after pictures are an important part of your record. Next, get a record book from your club agent, go over the list of suggested things to do, and decide which ones you are going to work on. You will find it helpful to set up a time schedule. Take a calendar and write on each month the jobs you plan to do during that month. Now you are ready to start work.

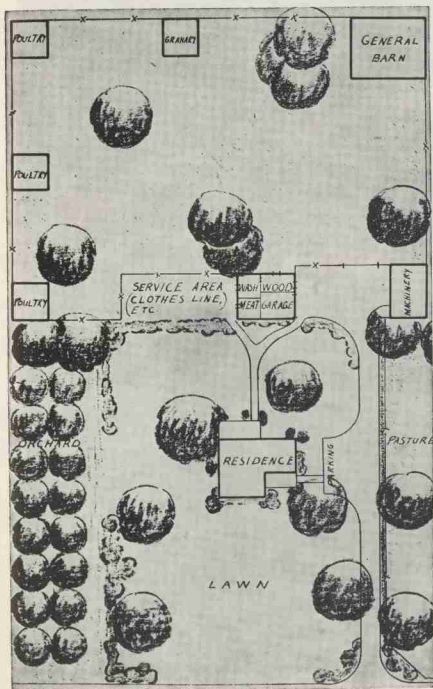


Fig. 1. Example of a well-planned farmstead layout. Notice it is simple, yet convenient and attractive.

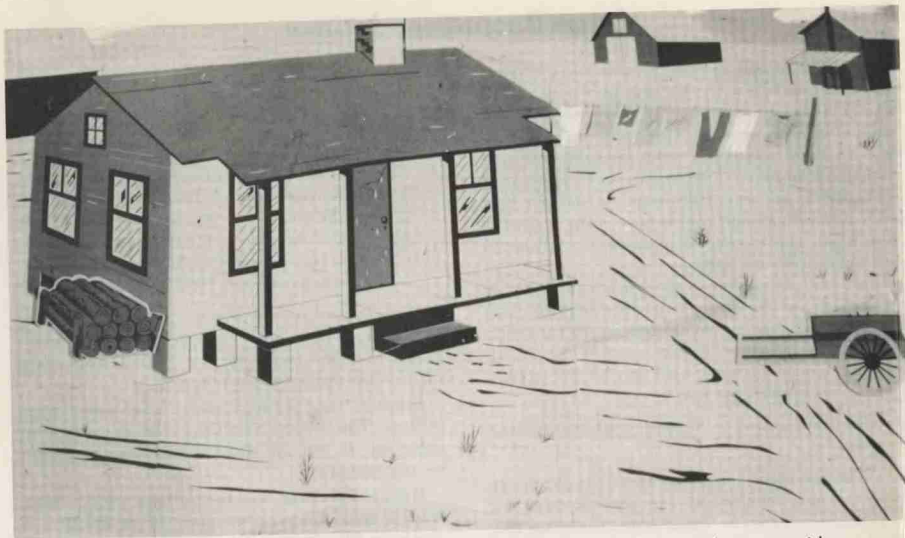


Fig. 2. A run-down, unkept looking home. Apparently the people who live here have no pride or sense of beauty. Or, maybe they're just lazy. What impression do people get when they ride by your home?

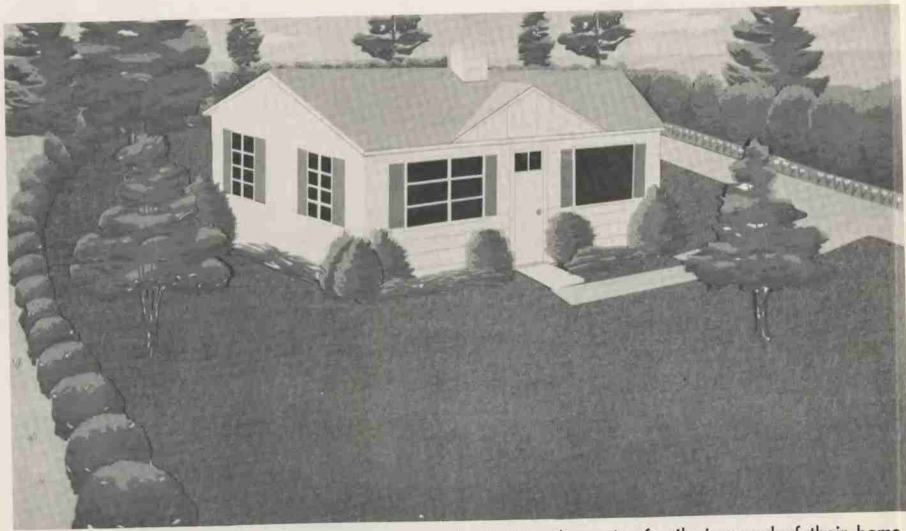


Fig. 3. Here the remodeled house takes on a new look. Now the entire family is proud of their home. Grass, trees, shrubs, paint and some cleaning up made the big difference. Find out how on the next page.

Want To Make Your Place Beautiful?

You can. Look at what was done with the home on the opposite page. As you read each step look and see what it does. Do these same things in your own yard.

1. Remove shrubs, flower beds, and junk from yard. Keep lawn open and simple. Use as few drives and walks as possible. Place them only where they will be used. Plant flowers along sides of yard, in back yard and in vegetable garden.
2. Grade and smooth yard, haul in topsoil if necessary, and seed to recommended grass. (See recommendations on back page of this bulletin.)
3. Paint and underpin your house if possible. Plant a few shrubs around the foundation. Keep shrubs in scale with house. If you can't underpin your house, use low shrubs to form a screen. Most people prefer evergreens for foundation planting. Examples: Low growing plants for use around low porches and under windows—Helleri Japanese Holly, Convexa Japanese Holly, Microphylla Japanese Holly, Rotundifolia Japanese Holly, Pfitzer Juniper, Douglas Juniper, *Low growing azaleas, *Creeping Gardenia. Larger growing plants suitable for corners and entrances—Abelia, *Boxwood, *Aucuba, Barberry, the Japanese Hollies, Chinese Holly, Glossy Privet (Ligustrum), Oregon Grape (Mahonia), Nandina, Osmanthus, Pittosporum, Japanese Yew, Viburnums, Rhododendron, Larger growing azaleas and camellias.
4. Plant Evergreen trees and shrubs to screen clothes line, wood pile, ugly fences and other unattractive views.
Use such plants as: Native Cedar, White Pine, Cherry-Laurel, Hemlock, Chinese Holly, Yaupon Holly, American Holly, Retinispora, Camellia, Elaeagnus, Glossy Privet, Japanese Privet (Ligustrum), Pyracantha, Amur Privet, Photinia, Osmanthus, Southern Magnolia, and Native Myrtle.
5. Plant trees to furnish shade and background. Allow room for them to develop a natural shape. Do not top them.
Good trees to use are: The Oaks, Maples, Pecan, Moraine Locust, Sweetgum, Pine, Magnolia, Sycamore, Tuliptree, Crapemyrtle, Dogwood, Redbud, and many others. Chinese Elm, Mimosa, Lombardy Poplar, Silver Maple, and Chinaberry aren't recommended as permanent trees because of brittleness or susceptibility to disease, or insect injury.
6. Plant shrubs and trees down sides of yard to form border. Use several plants of a kind together. Avoid clipped hedges.

When And How To Plant

1. Plant your trees and shrubs between November 1 and March 1; preferably in November or December.
2. If you are moving plants that aren't evergreen, take them up with all the roots possible (little or no dirt) and keep the roots moist until the plant is back in the ground.
3. If it's an evergreen plant, take it up with a ball of earth around its roots.
4. Dig the hole about two feet wider and six inches deeper than necessary to take care of root system.
5. Place the plant in the hole the same depth that it was growing originally.
6. Fill in around and under the plant with topsoil, to which $1\frac{1}{2}$ pints of garden fertilizer has been added to each wheel barrow full; or you can wait until the following spring and put a small amount of fertilizer around each plant.
7. Pack the soil thoroughly around the roots, then water.
8. After the water soaks in, finish filling the hole with topsoil. Make a ring of soil around the plant to hold water, should the plant need watering the following summer.
9. Mulch with three or four inches of pine needles to conserve moisture and help keep down grass and weeds.
10. Balance the top and root system by cutting back the top at time of planting. Cut back plants moved from the woods one-third to one-half. Cut back other plants less severely.

*Use in shade

How To Get Plants

You can get many of the plants you need from the woods. Those not native in the woods can be bought from a nursery or you can grow your own. Here is how:

BY SEED

1. Gather seed as soon as mature, clean if seed are covered with pulpy material.
 2. Store seed until planting time (usually about the middle to last of March) in damp sand and keep in cool place.
 3. Locate seed bed in shady location which is protected from the usual winds. Imitate nature as much as possible—sandy loam soil is best.
 4. Prepare seed bed to a depth of about 12 inches working in leaf mold and some sand if soil is not sandy. Soil should be free of stones and as fine as possible.
 5. Plant in rows and cover to about the thickness of the seeds. They are easier to weed if in rows.
 6. Mulch with pine needles, straw or lawn clippings. Remove surplus as seeds come up. Don't give up on seeds; sometimes they germinate the second year.
 7. Place lath or burlap shade 12-25 inches above seedlings during extremely hot weather.
 8. Water carefully and keep weeds out of the beds. When beds are watered apply enough water to thoroughly moisten the soil to a depth of 12 inches or more, then do not water again until the surface soil shows signs of drying.
2. Make cuttings four to six inches long being careful not to cut too close to a leaf bud—about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch below bud. Remove about half the leaves from the cutting beginning at the base.
 3. Prepare bed 6 inches deep of clean creek sand in protected place. A hot bed or cold frame is best.
 4. Place cuttings in sand in rows two to four inches apart about two inches apart in row. Pack sand well and water thoroughly.
 5. Cuttings must be shaded by buildings, lath, burlap, two thicknesses of tobacco cloth, or similar material.
 6. Keep sprinkled to prevent the sand from *drying out* and cuttings from wilting. Water cutting bed as described in "8" above. In addition just sprinkle the leaves about every two days.

BY LAYERING

1. Make cut on underside of low limb or shrub to be layered.
2. Fasten limb to ground by means of wire or brick and cover with soil leaving tip exposed. This is done in fall or early spring.
3. Next fall cut from mother plant, dig and move out in nursery rows in garden.

BY DIVISION

Shrubs making clumps such as Mockorange, Lilac, Sweetshrub, Forsythia, Spiraea, Flowering Quince, and many others may be separated in the fall and a number of plants made from one.

ROOTING AIDS

A number of rooting aids are on the market. These materials usually make a higher per cent of the cuttings root and root more quickly. Use the materials according to the manufacturer's directions.

BY CUTTINGS CUTTINGS

Two of the best seasons for making cuttings are the fall (after a killing frost) and late summer (late June to middle of August).

1. Select current year's growth.

Lawn Recommendations

It takes good soil to grow a good lawn. If your soil is poor, enrich it by working into the soil two to three inches of manure, rotten sawdust or other forms of organic matter. Also work into the soil 1,500 to 2,000 pounds of 8-8-8 fertilizer per acre (40 to 50 pounds per 1,000 square feet). Have your soil tested or ask your club agent to find out how much lime you should use. If your lawn is already established, apply about 20 pounds of fertilizer to each 1,000 feet each spring.

It seldom pays to buy a grass mixture. A better plan is to use the grass that does best in your community. Below are some suggestions for different parts of the state. If you want White Dutch clover, it could be used with any of the grasses. (About five pounds per acre.)

1. *Mountain area:* Use Merion or Kentucky Bluegrass.
2. *Piedmont area:* For sunny areas, use Bermuda, Zoysia or Tall Fescue. For shaded areas, use Bluegrass, Zoysia or Tall Fescue. Bluegrass may do better than the others in heavy shade.
3. *Coastal Plain area:* For sunny areas, use Ber-

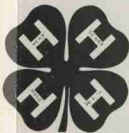
muda, Zoysia, Centipede or Carpet grass. For shaded areas, use Zoysia, Centipede, Carpet, or try St. Augustine. St. Augustine may freeze out,

4. *General Recommendations:* Seed Bermuda, Tall Fescue, Kentucky Bluegrass and Carpet grass at the rate of two pounds per 1,000 square feet. Seed Centipede at the rate of three ounces per 1,000 square feet and Merion Bluegrass at rate of one pound per 1,000 square feet.

Seed Bluegrass and Fescue in early fall. Sow Bermuda, Carpet, and Centipede in the spring. Zoysia and St. Augustine are started from roots only. Plant the roots in the spring.

Some of our prettiest lawns have never been seeded. The owners fertilized and cut whatever came up. If you are short on money this might be the best plan.

Italian Rye grass makes the best winter lawn. Seed it over the summer grass in September. If you have Bluegrass or Fescue, don't use Rye grass. Rye grass will choke out these two grasses since they grow during the same season.



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