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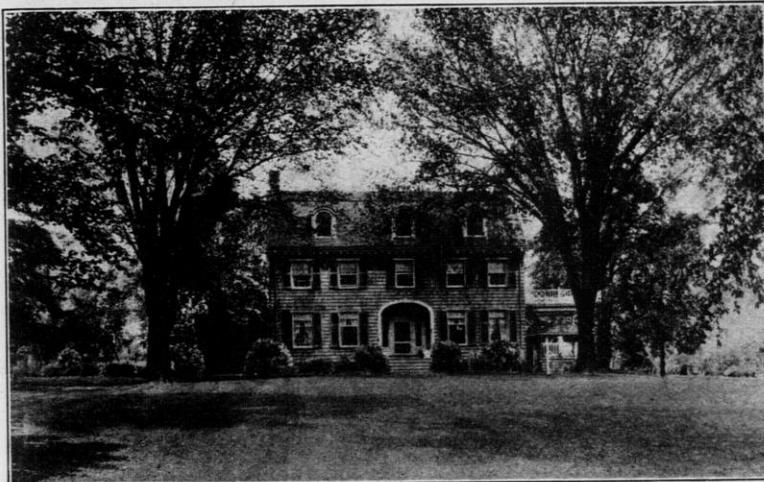
WISCONSIN BANKERS' FARM BULLETIN

How to Beautify the Home Grounds

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MORE THAN A HOUSE—A HOME.

A few trees to frame the view, and shrubs at the foundation, will make a house look like a home.

File this bulletin where you can find it

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Wisconsin Bankers' Association

W. A. von Berg,
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How to Beautify the Home Grounds

Nature has been lavish with Wisconsin. She has given us a wealth of beautiful lakes, inspiring hills, rolling valleys, bluffs, rivers, and waterfalls, and in addition beautiful trees, shrubs and flowers. No more varied or more inspiring scenery can be found anywhere than in Wisconsin. With such beautiful surroundings Wisconsin can develop the most beautiful homes in the world.

Today we find an awakening interest in the beautifying of the home grounds. We realize that none can afford to have bare and ugly surroundings. Trees, shrubs, and flowers planted appropriately about the farmstead not only add to the cash value of the farm but also give comfort and beauty to those who live therein.

THE HOUSE is the central feature of the farmstead picture. Give it the greatest prominence. Locate the house well back from the road. Place it so it will be free from odors of farm buildings. Never dwarf its size by placing larger buildings nearer the road.

the arrangement of the necessary objects such as house, roads, walks, clothes yard, and out buildings; and the planting materials such as grass, trees, shrubs, and flowering perennials. The person of sufficient wealth may secure the services of a landscape designer with the possibility of a greater degree of immediate success, but it is the average farmer not able to pay for such services, who will eventually better the general appearance of Wisconsin farm homes. To these the following suggestions may prove helpful.

Study the arrangement of the necessary objects and the planting materials as you would study a picture. Consider each tree, shrub, or flower, its habits of growth, its ultimate size and its location before giving it a place in the home grounds picture.

The most important feature of the necessary objects to be placed in the home grounds picture is the house. Give it the prominence it requires and make all other features secondary to it. Walks and drives, necessary lines of travel to the house and out buildings, are seldom objects of beauty, therefore, make them as inconspicuous as possible. Place them at the sides of the lawns so they will not divide what would otherwise be one unbroken sweep of grass. On small areas, walks should be straight unless there be a good reason for making them curved. On larger areas curved walks and drives, but reasonably direct, are more pleasing. The barn, and other out buildings, when framed with trees and partly screened with shrubs, may often be made

an interesting feature of the home grounds picture. The clothes yard is never an object of beauty. It should be completely screened either by lattice or shrubbery from the public road or walk. It may often be made a children's playground, with the exception of one day in the week, by using a movable clothes reel.

The lawn is the foreground of the home grounds picture. Have it large enough to give privacy and expanse. Keep it open so the picture will be dignified and restful. Keep the lawn free from flower beds, iron monuments, curious stones, or improperly located plants which would destroy the picture. Plant native shrubs which will attract the birds to the home grounds and plant hardy shrubs which will harmonize with the other features of the landscape.

Trees furnish the frame and background for the home grounds picture. Plant permanent long-lived trees. Place them at the sides of the house and lawn to frame the views, and to screen unsightly objects. Plant them at the rear of the house to give a background against which the house may be seen. Plant them along the roadside for shade and comfort for the passerby. Plant a shelter belt of trees to the west and north of your buildings for protection from cold winter winds. Plant trees which will be useful on the farm in future years when lumber is scarce. Small trees as the redbud, hawthorn or thornapple, flowering crabapple, and plum, used in groups of two or three in connection with shrubs, are valuable for screening, for stepping down from larger trees and shrubs and for giving variety to the shrub border.

The entrance drive gives hospitality to the farmstead picture. It should lead with pleasing curve and easy grade to the house and farm buildings. It should be inconspicuous. It is well to provide a space in which to turn around.

Shrubs are the harmonizing elements in the home grounds picture. Group them at the corners and angles of the house to make it appear a part of the grounds. Plant masses of shrubs along the boundaries to give interest and year-around beauty. Use them to screen unsightly objects and to make walks and drives less prominent. Plant the more refined growing varieties about the house and the coarser ones, such as

sumacs, elders and black-haw, at the borders where they will be seen at a greater distance. Plant high growing shrubs at the corners of the house and the wider portions of the border beds. Plant low growing shrubs in front of the higher ones so there will be one continuous mass of foliage. Do not scatter a great variety of plants in one bed, but use several of one or two varieties to secure unity and a massed effect. Avoid planting shrubs in straight lines.

Vines give individuality to the home grounds picture. Plant them near the porch for shade and beauty. They may be used to cover walks, outhouses, and fences. Use them to conceal architectural defects, or to screen the clothes yard from the public view.

Perennial flowers give variety and color to the home grounds. Plant them against the shrubbery borders not in the center of the lawn. Plant some of the native wild flowers which bloom in late summer and autumn. Plant hardy perennials which will grow on from year to year.

Things to consider when ordering the planting materials for the home grounds picture. Trees which lose their leaves in winter are usually sold by their height up to ten feet; and larger trees by the diameter of the trunk near the base. It usually does not pay to buy a tree less than one and one-half inches in diameter, but much larger trees can be transplanted if the cost is not too prohibitive. Some nurseries will plant a five-inch elm within fifty miles of their nursery for twelve dollars. Good two-inch elms can be secured in quantities of five or more for \$1.25 or \$1.50 each. Evergreens are usually sold by their height and spread.

Shrubs are also sold according to their height. Shrubs two to three feet high are a good size to plant. They should have good bushy tops and an equally bushy and well branched root system. Mere whips are never acceptable. Buy direct from a reliable nursery firm for if sold through agents, stock must be sold for much higher prices. It is well to buy in quantities of five or more of one variety; in this way one can secure a better price. When bought at the rate of ten, shrubs should generally not exceed twenty to twenty-five cents each. Do not order all of one kind, nor is it wise to order more than ten or fifteen varieties for the average sized home grounds.

Before ordering study the habit and nature of the shrubs you intend to buy, then order the variety best suited to your needs. Do not allow substitutions of other varieties in your order unless it is acceptable and authorized by you in writing. Do not take seriously all you read or hear about some plants being "distinct and fine," "marvelously effective," "the best ever," etc. These are but stock phrases to catch the attention of the beginner. Avoid buying novel, gaudy plants for they seem out of place on the average home grounds.

GARDEN AND ORCHARD should be located conveniently but not to detract from the farmstead picture. The home orchard may be placed between the barnyard and highway where it will frame the farm buildings and screen the unattractive barnyard.

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The home grounds picture to be beautiful must be simple. Each object must be harmonious with the general plan for "the beauty of the whole is greater than the beauty of any part." There must be a logical and orderly arrangement of the useful features and the planting materials must be in harmony with other features of the landscape. Do not neglect the plants we call common. The common elder, sumac, black haw, thorn apple and crab-apple are more beautiful in the average home grounds than many of the foreign shrubs. Plant permanent long lived trees and shrubs which in years to come will be a credit to your efforts.