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The Kind of Garden One Woman Made and How the Making Benefited Her in Many Ways

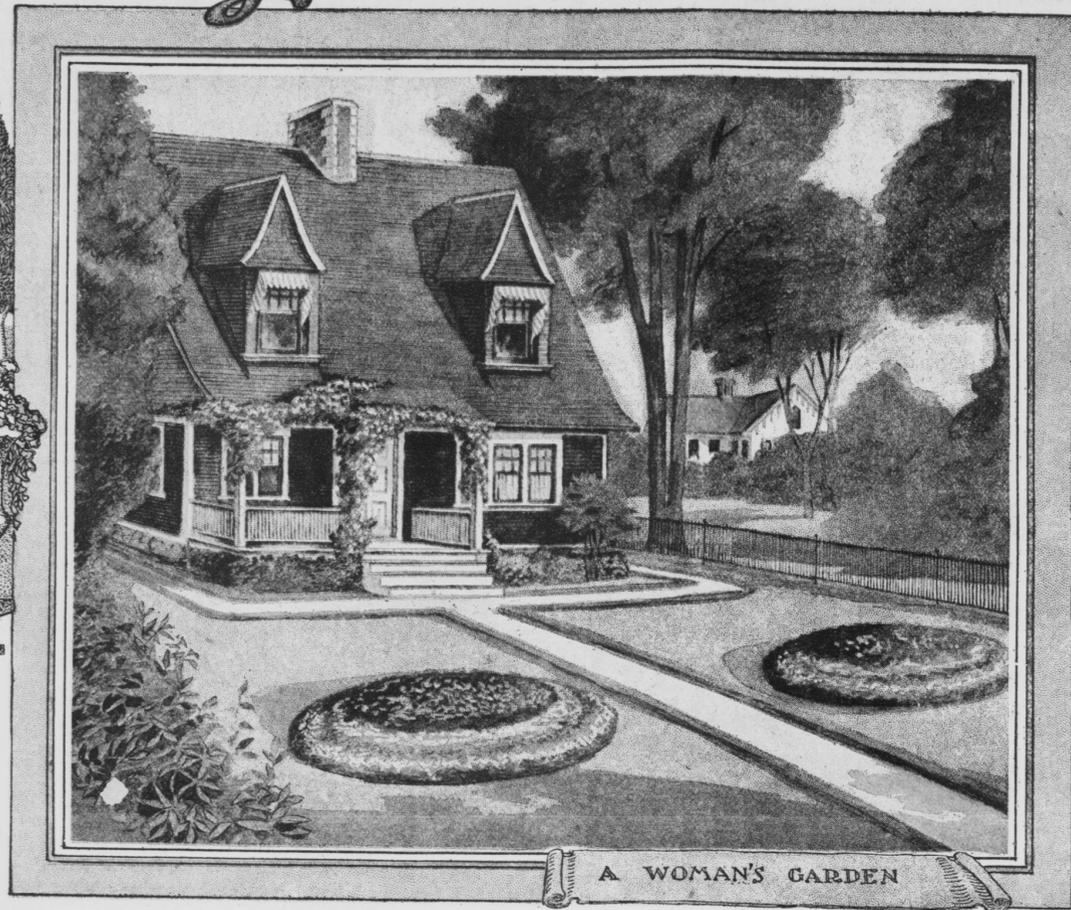
THE woman who loves flowers and plants, digs, weeds and waters her garden, finds herself much improved bodily by the labor. She becomes a more cheerful, broad minded and wholesome creature mentally than she was before undertaking the work. Very many women distinguished in art and literature find their recreation and highest pleasure among their flowers.

How tenderly and exquisitely Celia Thaxter wrote of her garden on the Isle of Shoals, which was set on gray, rock-covered Appledore. Her book is of intense interest and help to the flower lover and grower, and to read of what she accomplished alone, under the most adverse circumstances, gives encouragement to all. Another woman who wrote lovingly of the garden of her own making is Sarah Smiley, who, in "Garden Graith," points out new and hidden beauties in each well-known plant and blossom, and gives a great deal of helpful and practical advice.

The kind of garden one woman has made for herself is shown in the accompanying picture. The small lawn here was growing when she took the place, but was in a most disheartening condition. The front yard was divided by a five-foot gravelled walk. This left a lawn space almost fifteen feet square on either side. A flower bed for the exact center of each grass plot was decided upon, and the growth of rose vine over the door was carefully pruned and trained. A step ladder, some long-handled pruning shears, a hammer, and rubber garden gloves for her hands, were the necessary implements, together with matting, tacks, and some inch-wide strips cut from old kid gloves.

An Experience in Pruning.
"It was hard work," she said, "and I felt simply murderous when I cut away such quantities of the fine old growth, but for two seasons the vine had received no attention, and the last summer's flowering was weak and spindling, and the foliage was much less vigorously green and plentiful than it should have been. The blossoms came upon the new wood of the present season, and, after a severe pruning, such as I gave my vine, it seemed to me marvelous how the new shoots came out."

"One thing I have learned from experience is, that while all roses are much benefited by judicious pruning, it is not safe to consider them a precedent for other flowers or shrubs, or even trees. For instance, on the lilac bush the flowers are formed on the wood of last season's growth, and to cut off the old wood would be to re-



A WOMAN'S GARDEN

move all of the flower buds. This makes one realize that indiscriminate pruning is dangerous."

Experience the Only Teacher.
It is true that no set rule can be given for pruning. The amateur gardener must learn by experience and observation, and knowledge comes quickly if she keeps her eyes open. A good writer upon gardening gives this terse advice to the novice: "Unless, as he stands before his shrub or tree with knife in hand, he knows why he is to prune, and how, let him put his knife in his pocket and give the plant the benefit of the doubt."

The same authority continues: "The term pruning is generally applied to the cutting away, in whole or in part, of the ripened wood, but much pruning may be done by the use of the thumb and finger. This is termed pinching, and is practiced upon young shoots at the growing season, while they are yet soft, and this allows us to control the form of the plant with the greatest ease."

Chrysanthemums, geraniums and plants of that character, if left to themselves, and not pinched or cut back judiciously, will grow tall and straggling, and lack strength as well as beauty. In so treating the plants, the tops of the strongest shoots should be selected for execution.
But to return to the woman's garden. She found her greatest trial the lawn. After the weeds had been removed, there were many bare patches, particularly in the middle of each grass plot.
"That was what decided for me the question of where to place my flower beds," she said. "I consulted the authority which had been all through my guide, philosopher and friend, and this was the helpful advice furnished: 'Lawns that have been worn out by neglect or other causes, and where it is not convenient to renew them by ploughing up, will be greatly benefited by running a light harrow over them if the surface is large, or by a sharp steel rake for smaller areas. After stirring the surface by such means judiciously, so as not to injure the roots, lawn grass seed should be sown over the surface, using about half the quantity of seed required for new lawns, and over this some good lawn

enricher. Again harrow or rake, and roll down firmly."

"I used a small steel rake for the work, and a lawn roller, which, with the assistance of a boy, I was able to pull over my small yard. With the coming up of the seeds, the fight began with the weeds, but in a comparatively short time—which was entirely given over to the care of the lawn—it began to show the desired smoothness.
"As I had never in my life had enough pansies, I determined to fill the centers of my two beds with them. Many of the plants I had grown in boxes from seeds. These I set in the middle of the oval bed, planting rows of seed between. If these seed are planted in March, they will flower beautifully during the summer. The soil for pansies must be fresh and enriched by fertilizer and leaf mold."

"A border of candy tuft and lobelia completed the color scheme of these beds. The delicate, lace-like flower of the candy tuft was picked out here and there by the vivid blue of the lobelia blossom, their mingled foliage giving a good border. They grew and flourished finely. I had some transplanting to do in order to have the darkest and dullest pansies in the center of the bed, which was a slightly raised mound. I tried to make the lighter shades graduate toward the border."

In some parts of the country these two border plants bloom at different seasons, but where this woman lived they were in blossom most of the summer. Even when they are not in flower, the combined foliage effect is very good.

Pansies and Ferns.
The rich color of the clusters of the Crimson Rambler roses seemed to be repeated and deepened in the velvet hearts of many of the pansies in the flower beds, and close against the house grew a beautiful collection of ferns. This was a well-shaded place, and, except for a liberal sprinkling with water in the early morning and late evening, it needed little attention. These ferns were the strong growing Blechnum Braziliense, the Magnifica,

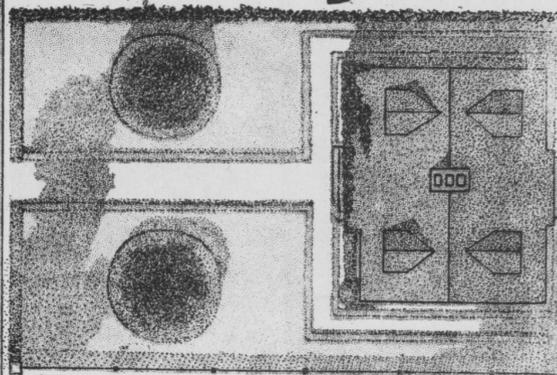
with beautiful crested fronds; the well-known *Tromula*, the *Cretica* *Albinea*, which gave a variegated effect. All of these she had bought well started, from the florist for 15 cents apiece. They grew rapidly, a northern or partially northern exposure being the first essential to their success.

"Each season long since I have been working among my flowers has helped me to a clearer knowledge of their individual needs," another woman said, when talking of her success as a gardener. "In my little greenhouse of home construction, I have under the benches rows of boxes holding the fertilizer, or medicine, as I call it, best suited to each plant. One box of cherry-leaf blight is for my roses. In another I have sand for the carnations. Leaf mold is for the violets chiefly, and an unpleasant looking heap of dried grass cuttings and fertilizer at the back of the building is the mulch which it is so necessary to spade into the ground about the roots of plants, particularly roses, when the season is a dry one."

It is now possible to buy barrels of properly prepared and mixed soil from the large seed houses. This soil is often of the greatest benefit in beginning a garden.

A thorough study of the qualities of the soil and of what can be added in the way of fertilizer, sand or loam in order to improve it, is of the utmost importance in successful gardening. In growing roses, healthy plants or cuttings must be selected. Choose a sheltered but sunny spot, and avoid the proximity of large trees whose foliage and spreading roots absorb all the nourishment from the soil. In the use of commercial fertilizers care must be taken not to apply them too freely, as they can do much harm when so employed. Only fertilizers free from acids should be used.

When insects attack roses, a thorough spraying with the following emulsion will be found effectual. Take two parts of kerosene and one of slightly soured milk. Shake them well together until a white jelly is formed; dilute with twenty parts of soft water and use with a hand spray or sprinkler.



PLAN OF THE WOMAN'S GARDEN

(Copyright, 1904, by T. C. McClure.)

this denim on? Will it stay in place all right if only tacked at top and bottom, and how far down from the ceiling should the floral covering extend on the wall, which is about eight feet high? I have a white bed, an oak bureau, a desk and two chairs to match. What should I pay for the denim a yard, and what would you advise for a floor covering and window draperies?

You have not said much in your department about the treatment of bedrooms, and I would be glad to take any suggestions which you might offer. Which would look better for covering a box for this room, the plain or figured denim, if I decide to use it? I want the box to be a sort of window seat where I can put dresses, etc. Also, would you kindly tell me what color paper and rug to use in a sitting room which has a mahogany desk, a dark red sofa, a chair upholstered in dark red, an oak table and several oak chairs. This room has south and west windows, which make it very light."

Choose one of the pretty striped floral papers now on the market, to be purchased as low as 25 cents a roll. Below this you can use plain, dull blue

cartridge paper, which sells for 20 cents a roll. This will give you the effect of color and design you desire, and yet will be much less difficult to put in place properly, and less expensive than the fabric would be.

A heavy quality of blue denim, of a shade to harmonize, would look well as a floor covering, and give excellent service in a bedroom. This should be stitched together in lapped seams, and used over a heavy wadded lining paper, such as the carpet department supply. When lightly stretched and firmly tacked, this makes an effective and inexpensive floor covering, a heavy quality costing but 25 cents a yard.

Cover your box window seat also in plain colored denim, matching the lighter shade of this cartridge paper for it. Use a tapestry paper on your sitting room walls—a mingling of soft greens and browns, with suggestions of crimson flowers. Such papers are easily found and sell from 40 cents a roll. A Wilton rug of Bokhara pattern, in crimson, with creamy figures, would look well. Some cushions and pillows of soft, dull green, and one of strong yellow, could be used successfully, and also a yellow-shaded lamp.

How to Decorate and Furnish a Bedroom

E. B. writes: "I want to fix over my bedroom, and wish to ask your advice about it. It has a south and east window. I had thought of denim for the wall covering—a floral design in light blue and white for the upper part down to the picture rail, and plain, light blue for the lower part. Would you please tell me just how to put

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