

HOW TO TAKE CARE OF A LAWN

A Great Many Things Must Be Considered.

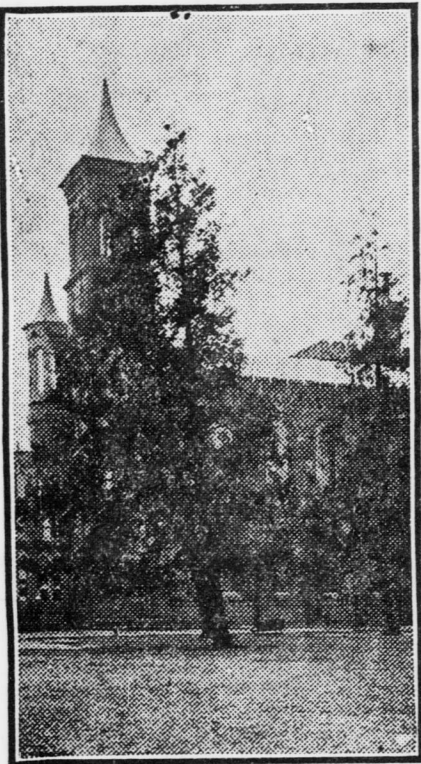
BEAUTY AND USEFULNESS.

The Soil is One of the Most Important Considerations—Sowing the Seed and Grading the Lawn Must Be Done Carefully.

In an effort to educate property owners in the art of making and keeping good lawns the department of agriculture has sent out a bulletin containing the results of experiments made by the bureau of soils and the bureau of plant industry. The whole subject, from the breaking of the ground to the cutting of the grown grass, is treated scientifically.

A lawn may vary in extent, the bulletin says, from a few feet square at the side of steps leading to a brownstone mansion to broad, expansive acres of an extensive park. Green grass is not only of great economic value, but it is also of great aesthetic value. The grass of the fields is the primary dependence of animal life, and it is nature's balm for healing all erosive scars. Nature abhors rough edges and broken places and immediately proceeds to cover up such places with green grass.

A lawn is the accompaniment of every effort on the part of man to beautify the surroundings of his abiding place. The great increase of suburban



AN IDEAL LAWN IN BRYN MAWR, PA.

and rural life has caused corresponding increases in interest in matters pertaining to the making and maintenance of lawns. Suburban railways, the extension of electric lines and the increasing return of man to the country are factors contributing to the growing interest in lawn making.

In general a lawn should be beautiful as well as useful. Its beauty depends upon the contour of the land, the color and texture of the grass and the uniformity of the turf. The use of the lawn is to provide a suitable setting for architectural adornment and landscape painting. Every device should be employed when working with small areas of ground as possible. The buildings should be well back, the foundation not too high, and the grading of the ground should be slightly convex.

The soil is one of the most important considerations that a gardener must contend with. It must be rich enough so that it will grow grass well without any additional chemical plant food. If fertilizer is then added grass seeds are sure to result in a flourishing lawn.

Bricks, boards and other coarse debris found in nearly all lawns are very detrimental to the proper movement of soil fluid. The moisture moves downward until it encounters a brick, at a distance of from three to four inches below the soil level. The water meets with no difficulty in getting to the edge of the brick and goes straight down, thus leaving the soil immediately below the brick unsupplied with moisture.

Now, when the opposite movement of soil fluid begins the water moves upward until it encounters the brick, and the soil immediately above the brick, which has in the meantime dried out, remains unsupplied with moisture, so that the grass suffers and dies out during a critical dry spell. Bad spots on city lawns are more often than not found to be due to some such impediment to movement of capillary water.

City to Collect Garbage.

The contracting company has refused to sign the contract with the city of Passaic, N. J., for the collection of garbage. This means that the city will again, in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the people, do the collection itself. The contracting company stated that the rules of the board of health were so strict that it would be unable to comply with them except at a loss, its bid being \$5,800.

FALL TREE PLANTING.

Much to Be Said In Support of Moving Trees in the Autumn.

There is much to be said in favor of planting fruit trees in the fall. In the first place, there is a larger stock from which to select the trees. In the second place, there is usually more time in the fall than in the hurry of spring work. Besides this, the rains of the winter settle the soil firmly around the roots of the trees, so that they are ready to begin growth in spring at the earliest opportunity.

Fall planting should not be begun too early. The leaves should be off. True, they can be stripped by hand, and this in not a few cases is done too soon in crowding times. The leaves should be left until by their beginning to fall it is seen that their important and life giving work is over. Their beginning to fall shows this, and any leaves that remain can then be taken off—will come off easily—and the trees can be dug. This is usually about the beginning of November, and the planting may continue as long as the ground is not frozen.

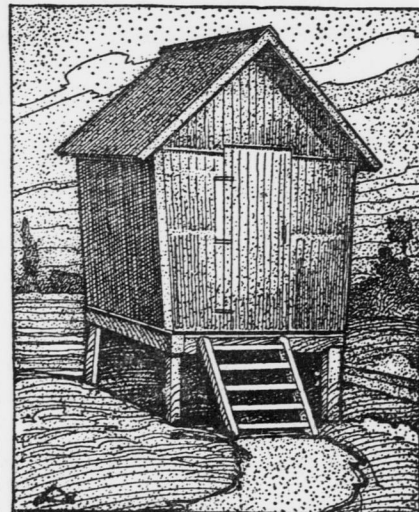
As to the care of the trees, that is the same as in spring planting. The roots are to be exposed to the air as little as possible and on being brought home should be well covered in a trench in the garden or other well protected place until planted. The covering of the roots in the trench should be with the stems of the trees inclining at an angle of about 45 degrees toward the surface of the ground. In some cases it may be necessary to leave the trees in the trench until spring, and this will be successful if the work is well done. The trench should be at least eighteen inches deep and the soil well worked in among the roots, and after a good rain or two more soil should be thrown on, making the earth above the roots rounding and a foot or so above the surface of the ground.

Perfect planting, other things being equal, consists in placing the tree as nearly as possible in the same condition as that in which it was before being removed.—National Stockman and Farmer.

KEEP RATS OUT OF CORN.

Directions For Building a Crib That Is Proof Against Them.

Having an order to build a corn house guaranteed rat and mouse proof, I give the method employed, says a writer in the Orange Judd Farmer. The building is twelve feet long, seven feet wide at floor and eight feet wide at eaves; seven foot post with a square pitch roof. Six heavy chestnut posts were set; then the 6 by 6 inch sills were put on. Floor timbers about 4 by 5 inches were laid on the sills. Over these was laid a covering of galvanized iron extending about two inches beyond the timbers all around, this being bent down. Over this a double floor was laid, and the seams in the iron were



BAT PROOF CORNCRIB.

[From Orange Judd Farmer.]

nailed thoroughly to the under side of the flooring. The frame (2 by 4 inch joist) was next set up. The slats, 2½ by 1 inch by seven feet long, were then nailed on, leaving an opening in one end for door three feet wide by seven feet. This being in the center gave room for a crib two feet wide at bottom, two feet six inches wide at top and twelve feet long on each side.

The entire crib was then covered with fine galvanized wire cloth, three meshes to the inch, fastened to the metal on the floor timbers and extending up to the roof line. The rafters were then put on, and over these more of the galvanized iron was used, bringing it well down on the wire cloth and fastening securely. Over this the roof, which is of boards, painted, was placed. The cribs were made narrow, as the corn was very green.

One way to keep the boys from sowing wild oats is to keep them busy planning a greater harvest of corn, alfalfa and the like.

Orchard and Garden.

Always plant small fruits on deep, rich alluvial soil, one which carries plenty of humus.

Turn up all dirty land thoroughly to expose the weed roots to frost and repeat this at intervals.

One of the first requisites to keep in mind in selecting an orchard location is that it be well drained.

Fine, well rotted manure is a good mulch for tea roses. Prune by cutting the blossom lavishly with long stems. In order to reduce vigorous blooming branches.

Constant and persistent warfare with the sprayer against the various pests that haunt and damage the orchard is the price of successful and profitable horticulture.

THE LAWYER'S EXORBITANT FEE

A Modern Shylock Beaten at His Own Game.

"Father, tell us a story about your law cases."

"Law cases are very uninteresting affairs. However, there is one case which I think may be interesting to you youngsters because it has a direct influence on your existence."

"One day after I had got fairly well started in my practice my office door opened and a Jew entered."

"I hold," said he, "a note for \$200, secured by chattel mortgage on some furniture. The note is due, and I cannot collect the money. I wish you to foreclose the mortgage."

"I told him that I did not take such cases, but would find him a lawyer. Your Uncle Tom was then scraping along for a practice, and I intended to give the case to him. The Jew assented and agreed to call the next day."

"He had not been long gone when a lady was announced. She was shabbily dressed in mourning, but she interested me from the moment I looked at her. She was evidently in great trouble."

"Would you mind telling me," she said, "if Moses Weil has been to you to get you to foreclose a chattel mortgage on my furniture?"

"A Jew has asked me to foreclose such a mortgage," I replied.

"Then I am going to ask you not to take the case. I am a widow in very straitened circumstances. I have been obliged to borrow money from the Jew. I can't pay the indebtedness, and if he takes my furniture I shall have to go to the poorhouse. I can't pay board, and the only way I can live is in a little cot. Thus far I have persuaded every lawyer the Jew has asked to take his case not to do so. I hope you, too, will refuse."

"I was surprised and distressed to see so refined a person thus reduced. I was about to promise her that I would not take the case against her when I thought that by doing so I might be of service to her. But I had no final plan and did not care to commit myself. I therefore told her that I would consider her request. She left me much disappointed."

"The next day when Weil appeared I told him that I had reconsidered the matter and would oblige him. He was very much pleased—indeed, so much so that he said nothing about the expense attending the matter except the court fees, for which he made a deposit. He probably feared to antagonize me by mentioning my charge."

"I called upon the widow and told her frankly that her plan of persuading all the lawyers not to act in the matter was hopeless."

"You are the first lawyer," she said, "that has refused me. Tell me what your fee is to be from the Jew, and I will endeavor to raise the money and pay it to you to refuse the case."

"That would not be in accordance with the code among lawyers, certainly not my code."

"Is it their code to assist creditors to bring debtors to beggary? Indeed, I know that it is not, for several of your profession have refused to do so."

"This man Weil," I said, attempting to give her reasons that should satisfy her, "is determined to sell you out. He will in the end find a lawyer to do his work. That you may not think me more sordid than I am, I will turn over my fee to you."

"My offer had no other effect than to irritate her, and I left her."

"When the papers in the case were ready I sent for my client and the widow to meet me at my office at the same day and hour. It was not a pleasant gathering. The lady cast a reproachful glance at me, then looked fixedly out of the window. The Jew looked meek."

"Mr. Weil," I said at last, "these papers give you possession of this lady's household goods—that is, they will give you possession when I turn them over to you on payment of my fee. This fee—I turned to the widow—I voluntarily agreed to turn over to you. Therefore, Mr. Weil, you may as well pay the money direct to the lady."

"Certainly," said the Jew, pulling out his wallet. "How much is the amount?"

"Two hundred dollars."

"He looked at me aghast."

"I pay you everything?"

"It happens that my fee is the exact amount of the indebtedness."

"Suppose I don't pay it?"

"You will not get the papers, and I will collect my fee by law. You are perfectly good for the amount."

"Meanwhile a light began to break in upon the widow's brain. The Jew argued, threatened, pleaded. I was immovable. Finally I proposed to remit my fee on one condition—that he should renew the lady's note for two years at a moderate rate of interest. Then he left me alone with her."

"Pardon me," she said, with great feeling, "for misjudging you. Why did you not tell me what you were going to do?"

"Because I did not know myself till the last moment."

I paused. I had finished my story.

"And who was the widow?" asked a chorus of voices.

"The widow was a lady to whom you are indebted for many kindnesses."

"Do tell us."

"Well, since you are so eager to know I don't mind telling you that she is your mother."

Battles and Rain.

That rain followed many of the battles of our war was due not to the effect of the discharge of firearms, but to the fact that in the regions where the battles occurred rain falls on an average one day out of three and that commanders are more inclined to move armies and begin engagements in fair weather. In fact, while rain is in progress such operations are commonly impracticable on account of the condition of the roads. If by the regular operations of nature rain does not fall within two or three days after a battle it is due to the fact that a drought prevails. The idea of rain following battles is expressed in the writings of Plutarch, who states his opinion that the vapor rising from the hot breath, blood and sweat of the struggling masses is condensed into rain by the concussion of the weapons and the hoarse cries of the victors. In a form little less crude the belief that rain is caused by battles has survived to the present day, but it is absolutely unfounded.—Willis L. Moore.

Women Sweep the Streets.

There are many systems of street cleaning, but probably that of the French government of Porto Novo, Dahomey, West Africa, is the most economical. The native police examine the streets, and at any part which requires cleaning they stop the women and girls who happen to be passing at the time and order them to sweep the rubbish into heaps. A woman may be seen hurrying along, water jar on head, child strapped on back and perhaps on urgent business, when the native policeman hands her a brush, made from a palm tree leaf, and orders her to do her share of sweeping. This she does reluctantly, knowing how useless it is to refuse. Occasionally the native refuses to do this enforced labor, but in the end the sweeping is done, for the police possess unique powers. The men are exempt from this unpaid work, as, naturally, it would interfere and retard the trade of the colony.

Marie Antoinette's Prison Fare.

An interesting document has been published—the bill of the caterers who supplied Marie Antoinette's needs in prison. They boarded her, it seems, for seventy-four days at 15 francs a day, giving her for that sum coffee for breakfast and for dinner soup, boiled beef, fowl and dessert or, as an occasional alternative, duck and pastry. For forty-one days she had her maid with her, and the maid was boarded for 3 francs a day. Beds, mattresses and bed linen had to be hired, and the charge for these was 54 francs, while the hire of a bath amounted to no less than 60 francs. The washing bill, however, was only 22 francs, and the loan of books, at 1 franc a book, came to not more than 16 francs. The principal other item was 3 francs for a bottle of dentifrice, and the total of the bill, which the nation had to pay was 1,407 francs—a little over £58.

Soup Extraordinary.

Mrs. Mayfield was interviewing an applicant for the position of cook. "Can you make all kinds of sweets, entrees and soups?" she asked. "Oh, yes, mum," said the applicant. "Do you make good mock turtle soup?" "Oh, yes, mum." Experience had made Mrs. Mayfield a little distrustful. "Tell me how you would set about it," she said. "Well, of course, mum, like anybody else would." "But how would you make it?" persisted the lady. "Why, mum," said the cook, making a bold guess, "my way is to make a good strong soup first with anything I happen to have, then while it is on the boil I throw the young mock turtles in, mum."—London Express.

Why He Laughed.

A south side woman sent her small son with a note to his father, asking him to purchase some groceries and send them home in the little fellow's wagon.

"I could not find papa, so I gave the note to the groceryman," announced Herold indignantly, "and he just laughed and laughed." This is what the note said:

"Dearest—Please put some sugar and rice in Herold's wagon. Tootsie."—Kansas City Star.

Baboons That Like Oysters.

The liking for oysters is not confined to man alone. F. W. Fitzsimmons in a recently published book says that he found in South Africa baboons that were fond of, in fact, all kinds of shellfish. Troops of the baboons often make excursions to the seaside. He says, to get these salty delicacies. They open the shells with their strong teeth or by striking them on a rock.

An Expert Statement.

"Is there any sure way of knowing when a man is meaning to propose?" asked the bud.

"You needn't worry about that," said the belle. "The knowledge comes by nature. The most important thing is to know when he isn't going to."

Heartless.

"Your father is heartless! I told him I couldn't live without you." "And what did he say?" "He offered to pay my funeral expenses!"—Pearson's Weekly.

Automatically Attentive.

"Listen to your wife," advises a medical expert. "The average man doesn't have to listen. He hears her anyhow."—Nashville Banner.

On and Off.

"What a lot of style the Browns are putting on!" "Yes, and what a lot of creditors they are putting off!"

The Housewife Who Delights In Her Home Sewing

is often compelled to do as little of her work with the sewing machine as possible. The drudgery of pedaling a machine is a health risk and a tax on strength that few women can long endure. A small Electric Motor will drive the machine at a cost for current of 1c per hour.

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