

# Home Town Helps

## THE VALUE OF PRETTY LAWNS

Make Plans Now to Beautify Grounds Around Your Home in Spring—Pergola Very Ornamental.

Landscape gardening and architecture must properly include all forms of decoration that will increase the attractiveness of the lawn, and such as will add at the same time a monetary value to the home. It is not desired to have simply a pretty lawn, but one that will enhance the value of the property itself, says House and Garden.

There are many things that will materially increase the value of the lawn from an artistic standpoint. Among these may be mentioned the pergola. It is one of the newer forms of lawn decoration in this country, but deserves encouragement on the part of the real home lovers, whose desire is to add to the home plan.

One should understand, however, that the pergola is not simply a decoration. It possesses useful features in addition to its attraction as an ornament, and wherever erected increases the charm of the setting.

It serves as a bower, a retreat, and a nook. It may be covered with vines, and serve as a refuge from inclement weather. Frequently it leads off into the lawn and sometimes to the garage, or terminates at a pond or miniature garden. At other times it will serve as a bridge, with columns at either end, in this way spanning an otherwise open ravine and adding to the architectural effects of the home. In country homes it has a special place, because of the expanse that many of the country abodes possess, thereby making its necessity more keenly felt.

Thus we see that the pergola is in reality a useful ornament, and one that is finding more general favor as home-builders come to realize its need. It should be given a fair share of the construction man's consideration. The study of the varying materials with which it is built and the effects of the different types of architectural variations are widespread. Its very popularity has been the fundamental reason why there are today a larger number of the structural materials used in its manufacture.

## WE WANT REAL HOMES AGAIN

Americans More and More Understand Value of Having Residence With Some Land Around It.

We are today, for the second time in America, reaching the homestead period. We had it back in the old colonial days, when we built substantially. Then came the second generation of our foreign-born population, and their spirit was expressed in elaborate and futile imitations of homes unsuited to American lives.

More leisure has come to us, a more settled spirit of patriotism that breeds sympathy with all national achievement, and the time now seems ripe for the building of homes suited to the American spirit, substantial, comfortable, facing the servant problem frankly, realizing a growing interest in beauty, expressing, too, the keynote of our civilization—individually, says the Craftsman.

Because we are demanding homes of the type that we want to live in, home building has become the most absorbing topic of this generation. Whereas even a few years ago the difficulty was to keep the country boy and girl in any way attached to the land, the city holding the lure that unbalanced all youth, today the world is reaching back to home life, gardening, farming; you find boys who work in the city telling you frankly that they travel many miles a day rather than give up country life. You find young women planning from the day of their marriage to have a home of their own, built to their needs, furnished as they like it.

## BEAUTY VALUABLE IN ITSELF

When You Plant Shrubs Around Your Home Remember Some Are Useful and Ornamental, Too.

A very practical writer in a popular magazine recently condemned the American custom of planting purely ornamental trees and shrubs. Such things, he contended, performed no useful work, and ought to be discarded. The redbud and flowering almonds should give place to cherry and peach trees; and roses and spirea, presumably, should make way for currants and gooseberries. Only thus could we have a garden scheme worthy of a practical people.

There are elements of truth in such a doctrine. Too many people fail to recognize the beauty inherent in plants, trees and shrubs cultivated for food—in a cherry tree orchard, in a field of blossoming clover or ripening wheat.

But the central idea of this practical creature is false altogether, for he fails to recognize that beauty is worth while in and of itself, and needs no indorsement from either stomach or pocketbook. Mohammed knew what he was about when he uttered his famous advice: "He that hath two loaves of bread, let him sell one and buy narcissus; for bread is food only for the body, but narcissus is food for the soul."—Boston Courier.

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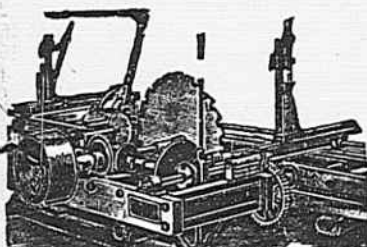
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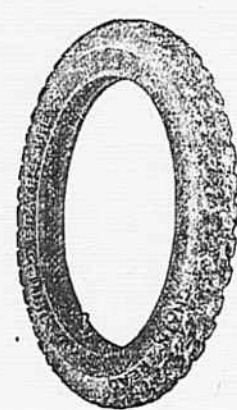
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