



*plan and
plant for
beauty*

September 1963
University of Missouri
Cooperative Extension Service

plan and plant for beauty

Alice M. Alexander

Janet seems to be enjoying the beautiful white petunias and red geraniums in the cover picture. Other people enjoy them, too. That is one reason why Janet and her family grow so many flowers—they get so much pleasure from sharing them, even with strangers who pass their home.

This pleasing color combination didn't just happen; it was a result of planning. Several combinations were considered, but the red and white seemed just right with the brick planter. A chart showing proper distances between the plants provided the information for the numbers needed. Planning on paper eliminates guesswork. There are other advantages for planning. It can be done any time of the year. Armchair gardening, while the snow is still on the ground, can be profitable as well as interesting. A planting chart saves valuable time later because important decisions have been made. Are you ready to start your plan? Sharpen your pencils, get a clip-board and some paper, and begin a tour of inspection of your place. Make notes of the things you find that are interesting as well as those that need improving.

Do you agree that a nice lawn, bright flowers, and well chosen shrubs and trees help to make a home inviting and beautiful? Are you pleased with what you see at your home? If you have all of these things, you are a fortunate person. If you do not have them, you have a wonderful opportunity to get them. There will be things for you to do even if you are content with the picture you see. Planning and planting for beauty is a continuous activity—just ask any gardener if this isn't true. Seeds must be sown, new plants started, shrubs pruned, trees fed—the list goes on and on.

You may not be able to accomplish all of the things you would like to do but completing this project will give you a good start. Review the requirements: Among other things, you are to *identify* a number of trees, shrubs, and flowers; you are to *plant* and *care* for a minimum of three shrubs, ten kinds of flowers, and one shade or flowering tree. Did you notice the word "minimum?" If you can do more, fine!

Your first question may be, "What kind of flowers, trees, and shrubs do I select and where do I plant them?" You must answer this question. This is where planning begins. You must know something about plant materials and where they are needed before you attempt to make



Step 1: See what needs to be done.

choices. Start with your identification activities. Before you make any decisions, discuss things with your family.

Do you need a tree to provide shade for the outdoor living room? Do the shrubs at the entrance need replacing? Do the flowers in the perennial border give a succession of bloom from early spring to late fall? These are the types of questions you and your family will want to consider before you make your plans. Determine the areas where you will work before you make your choice of plant material.

—PROJECT REQUIREMENTS—

If you enroll in this project, your club leader will expect you to complete the following:

1. Identify a minimum of ten deciduous and three evergreen trees—fifteen deciduous and five evergreen shrubs—three woody vines—three ground cover—twenty-five flowers.
2. Compile a notebook—include check lists of information regarding plant material—drawings of areas to be planted—record of work done—and other things related to this unit.
3. Plant and care for a minimum of three shrubs (could include vines or ground cover)—ten kinds of flowers—one shade or flowering tree (may be planted on property other than your own).
4. Assume some maintenance responsibilities such as mowing the yard.
5. Carry out at least two group activities and four individual ones.



Step 2: Plant bulbs according to a plan.

PLAN THE KEY AREAS

Think of your landscaping plan as an extension of the house to the outdoors. You may be concerned with three distinct outside rooms. These are commonly referred to as the *public* or front lawn areas, the *private* area, and the *service* area. Just as the rooms inside the house serve a specific purpose, so do the outside rooms. (Fig. 1) Do the names indicate their purposes?

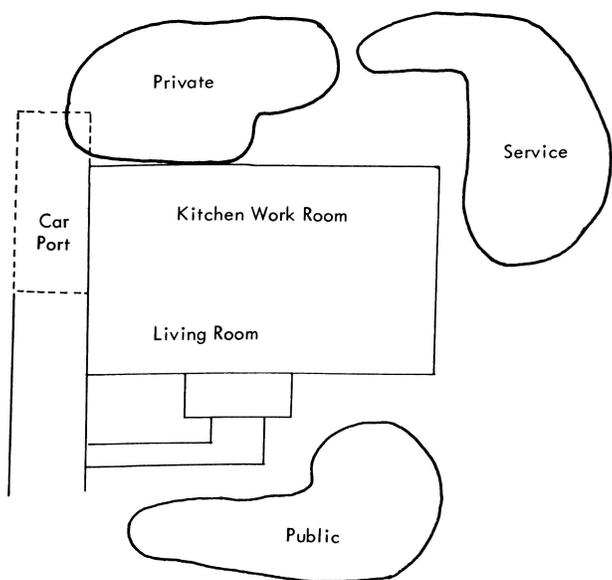


Fig. 1 - Key Areas



Step 3: Maintain yard beauty by raking.

The public area is exposed to the full view of people passing by. It gives the "first impression" to the public. It includes the front lawn, the entrance or front door, the foundation plantings, the drive and parking areas, walks, trees, and other plantings.

The private area is for outdoor living such as family play, cooking, eating, or resting. It may include such things as a patio, a pool, a badminton court, and a grill. Plantings of various kinds can be used here.

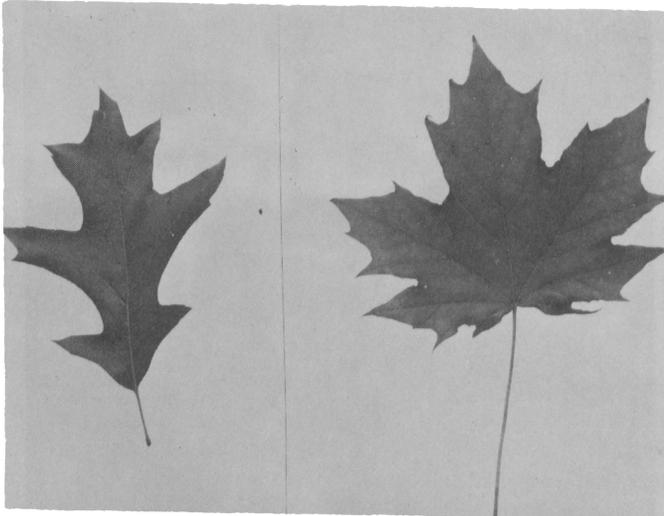
The service area is for necessary but less attractive things such as clothes line, fuel tank, incinerator, vegetable garden, and compost pile.

In all of these areas, plan for use or utility as well as beauty. First, try to locate the three areas so that they are near the part of the house to which they are related. This makes it easy to move from indoor to outdoor activities. (Fig. 1)

Look at your clip-board. What needs to be done? Use the inventory you made on your tour of inspection. It will help you to plan and organize your thinking. Each family's needs are different so your plan must fit your family. This plan will tell you what you have to work with and what you hope to accomplish. It will help you determine the space needed for lawns, patio or terrace, game or play area, and planting areas. Although you may have to complete the plan in stages, you will be working toward a final well-organized design.

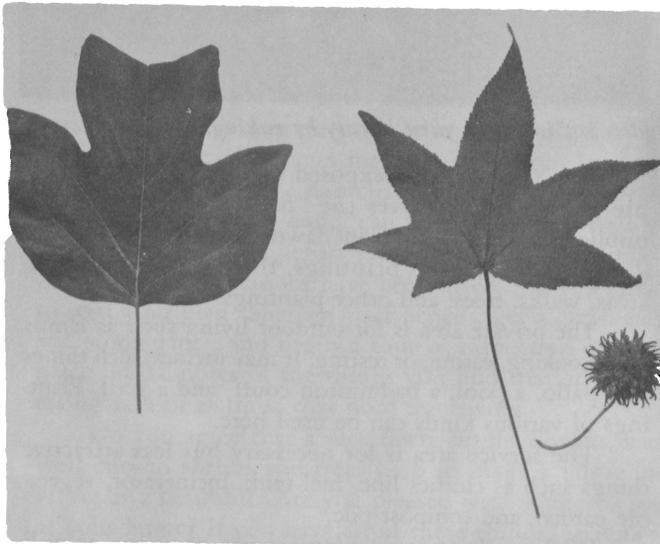
INFORMATION TO HELP YOU PLAN

A front lawn need not be large. Its main purpose is to create an attractive view of your home. An open lawn



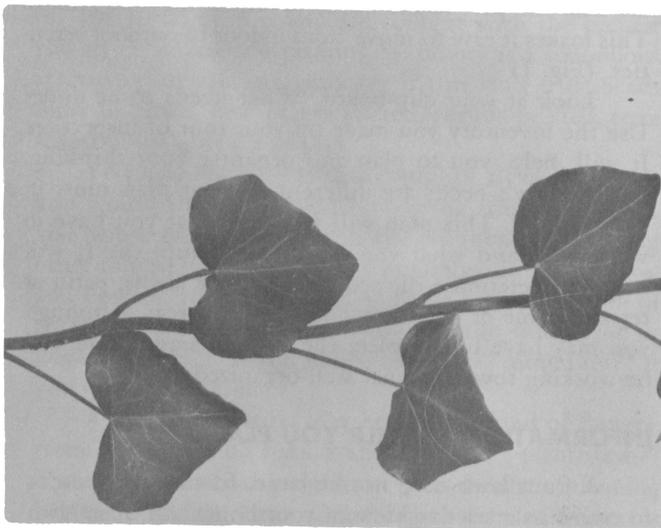
Pin Oak

Sugar Maple



Tulip

Sweet Gum



English Ivy

with plantings, drive, and walk arranged so that attention is focused on the front door is desirable. This encourages people to go to this spot. Have you noticed how many guest parking areas lead visitors to the back door? It might be interesting to get a woman's viewpoint on this subject.

Trees and foundation plantings seem to "tie" the house to the ground. They not only add beauty and provide shade, but they also serve as a windbreak, lessen the amount of dust around the house, and provide a screen for privacy. Use trees for "framing views," as background, and for display. You will want to keep these things in mind if you need to choose trees and shrubs for your yard. You will also want to choose those that grow well in your location. Make a survey of trees and shrubs in your community. There will be someone who can supply you with reliable information. Make use of library facilities, also. Record your findings in a manner that will be most helpful to you (see suggested outline, "Points to Consider in Selecting a Tree"). Include desirable characteristics but don't overlook the undesirable ones. For example, some trees spread too fast, forming dense growth at the expense of other plants. Others, like the sycamore, shed their leaves very early in the fall, creating a raking problem.

Before you make your choice, consider whether the tree or shrub will grow too large for its location, whether it will thrive in the soil in which it will be planted, and whether it will do best in sun or shade. Some trees and shrubs have colorful flowers, attractive fruit, unusual foliage, or brightly colored bark. Try to see the trees and shrubs when they are at their best. Your first survey will indicate special times you will want to go back for a second or third look.

After you have become familiar with the trees in your community, visit a nursery or consult a reliable catalog for information regarding trees not commonly used, but which could be grown; or ask for mimeographed material at your University of Missouri Extension Center. It isn't necessary to rely entirely on old favorites.

While you are studying trees, think how interesting it would be to select an ornamental tree as a club tree. A whole neighborhood or community could be a show place for dogwoods, red buds, crabapples, or other ornamental trees.

KINDS OF TREES

The following deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves) are among the best of many that will grow in Missouri. How many can you identify? Add to this list.
Large Trees (50 ft. or more in height)

Black Tupelo or Black Gum

Cucumber Tree
European Beech
Ginkgo
Japanese Pagoda-Tree
Kentucky Coffee-Tree
Pin Oak
Red Oak
Scarlet Oak
Shingle Oak
Silver Linden
Sugar Maple
Sweet-Gum
Thornless Honey Locust (+ many named podless varieties available)
Tulip Tree
White Ash
Willow Oak

Small to Medium Trees (20 to 50 ft. tall and 15 to 20 ft. wide)

Amur Cork Tree
Crabapples (many named varieties available)
Dogwood
Golden Rain Tree
Hawthorns
Little-Leaved European Linden
Magnolia
Moraine Ash
Norway Maple
Ornamental Cherry, Peach, Plum
Red Bud

How many of these evergreen trees can you identify? There are many named varieties of most of these. You will want to further identify them.

- Cedars (Junipers)
- Firs
- Hollies
- Pines
- Spruces

There are some trees to avoid since they have objectionable features. Consider such things as: easily split, brittle wood; shallow root system that would compete with grasses and plants for available food; feeder roots that would clog sewers and drains; susceptibility to disease or insect attacks; short lived; messy fruit or seed pods; early or prolonged leaf fall; dangerous thorns; and objectional odor.

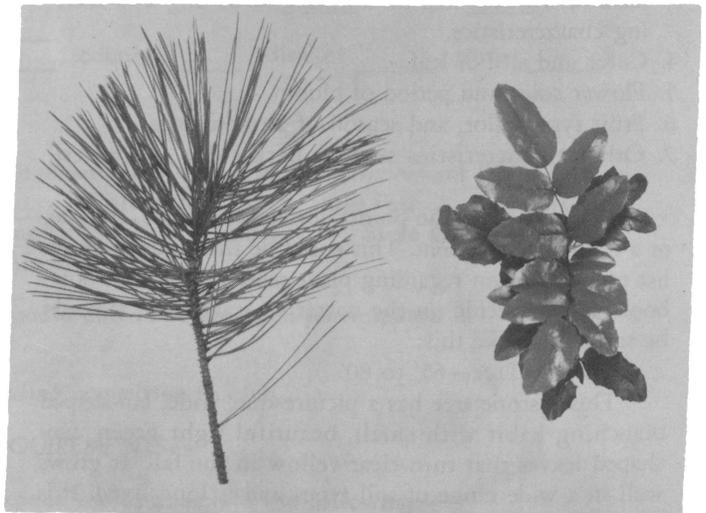
Because of one or a combination of these draw-backs, these trees are questionable. Do you know their weaknesses?

- American Elm
- Box Elder
- Catalpa
- Common Honey Locust
- Cotton Wood



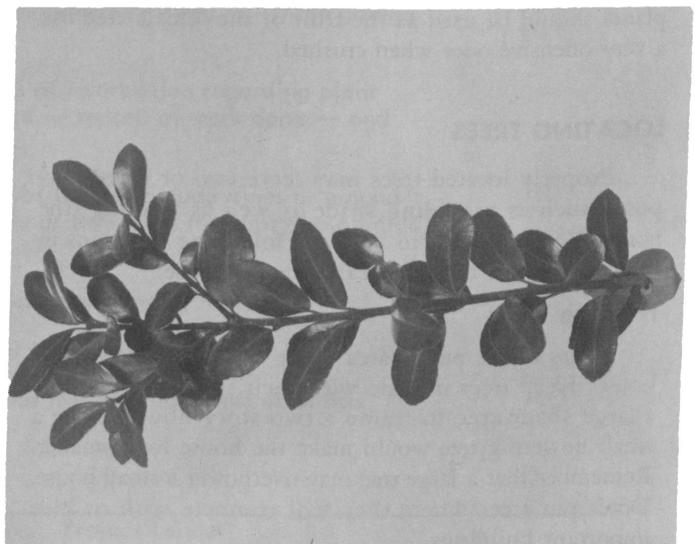
Juniper

Yew



Pine

Mahonia



Japanese Holly

Hickory
 Mulberry
 Poplars
 Siberian Elm (commonly called Chinese Elm)
 Silver Maple
 Sycamore
 Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus)

POINTS TO CONSIDER IN SELECTING A TREE

1. Adaption to soil, winter temperature, moisture requirements, and exposure to sunlight.
2. Size and form: Choose a tree for its mature size (large, medium, or small) and over-all basic form (upright or spreading) as well as rate of growth.
3. Freedom from disease, insect infestation, breakage in ice and windstorms, undesirable flowering and fruiting characteristics.
4. Color and size of leaf.
5. Flower color and period of bloom.
6. Fruit type, color, and season of attractiveness.
7. Other characteristics such as bark color or interest, longevity.

You could use the points above for a chart, outline, or a narrative statement. This could be the required check list of information regarding plant material for your notebook. If you decide on the narrative statement, it could be something like this:

Ginkgo Tree—65' to 80'

This historic tree has a picturesque, wide, fan-shaped branching habit with small, beautiful light green, fan-shaped leaves that turn clear yellow in the fall. It grows well in a wide range of soil types and is long lived. It is easy to transplant, resistant to ice and windstorms and remarkably free from insect and disease attack. Only male plants should be used as the fruit of the female tree has a very offensive odor when crushed.

LOCATING TREES

Properly located trees may serve two or three purposes, such as providing shade as well as framing the house. You will need to keep the following functions in mind to get the most from the trees you use.

Framing Trees

Trees in the public area frame the front view of the house. Keep trees in scale with their surroundings. Use a large shade tree to frame a two-story house, since a small flowering tree would make the house look smaller. Remember that a large tree may overpower a small house. Don't put trees where they will compete with or hide important buildings.

Trees used for framing usually are placed to the sides and front of the house. Make a simple diagram as in Fig. 2. First decide from which point you want your house to look its best. In this example a spot (A) on the street or highway was selected. It was opposite the front door. Two lines (B and C) each starting from point A and going to the outside front corners of the house were drawn in. These lines were thought of as guides for the general location of trees used for framing purposes. Trees may be placed near these lines but usually never inside the angle formed by the lines. This keeps the view open.

Trees may be used for framing desirable views in other areas of the yard. Make diagrams similar to the one suggested.

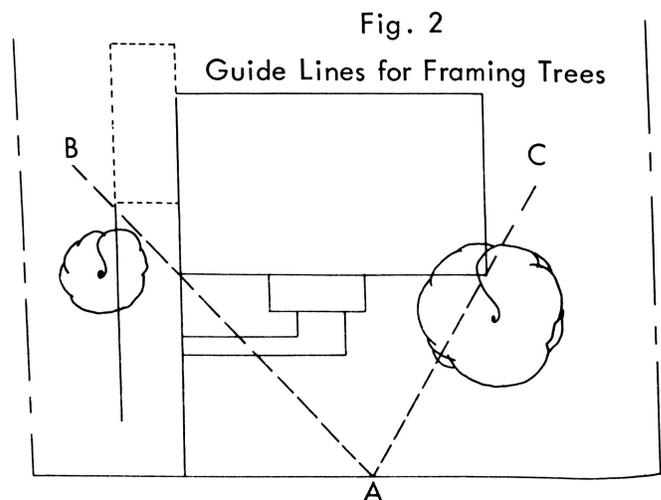
Shade Trees

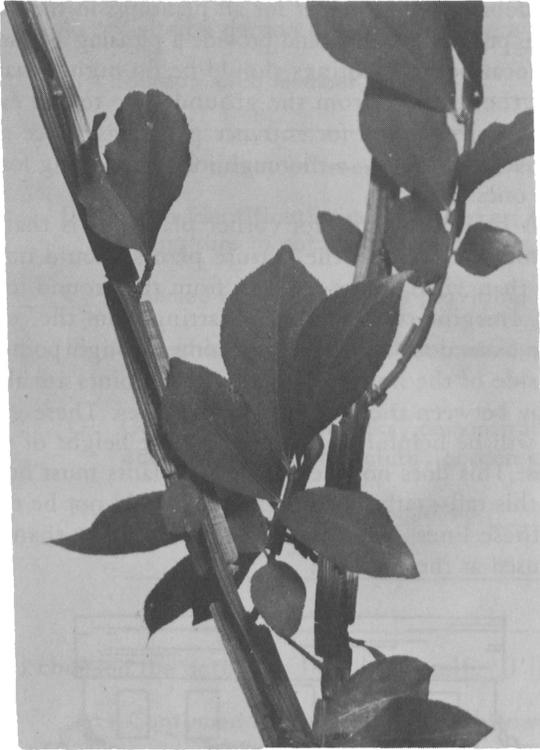
You will want shade on the patio or the outdoor living room, the children's playground, and a portion of the service area. Certain rooms of the house need shade, the bedrooms especially. The area to be shaded will determine the kind of tree to use. Remember that the sun is not directly overhead so shade is cast at an angle. Observe your own shadow at various hours of the day. You may be surprised to see how much this angle changes from season to season. What time of year do you need shade at a particular spot? The hottest hours of the day in summer are from noon until about 4:00 or 5:00 p.m.

Plant a fishing pole or some other similar object to help you visualize how a tree will look in a certain location. You will have to "imagine the spread" of the tree or use your ingenuity to create something. Check the view from inside the house as well as from different spots in the yard.

Background Trees

Background trees are planted behind the house. They soften the harsh lines of the house and other buildings, utility poles, and wires. Where groups of trees are





Euonymus, Winged



High Bush Cranberry

eaves and the ground. Foundation plants should fall within these lines when fully grown.

Round-shaped plants tend to direct the eye to the ground and to break up vertical lines. Avoid using sharp-pointed plants. If upright evergreens are used, add some low spreading ones to give a desirable transition between the house and the natural surroundings. Just for fun draw a house with some "inverted ice cream cones" for shrubs. See how much they distract from the picture. They tend to create a feeling of activity. We call it a "busy" planting. It is undesirable.

The amount of space available and the size of the house will determine the size of the plantings. Experiment with drawings before you make your decision. There are tricks you can play on your eyes. For example, you can extend the corner plantings out into the lawn at a pleasing angle to make a small house look larger (Fig. 4). Can you think of some other way you can change apparent sizes or heights? Does your house have some objectionable features you should try to overcome?

A specimen plant is one that has special qualities that make it desirable to use as an individual shrub. A specimen is usually a perfect example of the type it represents. A single specimen shrub can take the place of a small tree. You can often use specimen plants at special points to frame a building, to accent a corner, or to add interest to an open lawn. Too many are distracting, so use sparingly.

Accent plants are closely related to specimen plants. A specimen plant usually stands alone, while an accent plant is part of the shrub mass, but of a different height. It may also differ in form, color, and texture from the shrub mass.

When developing your plans, remember you are dealing with a cube of space. This space, like a room in the house, has sides, a ceiling, and a floor surface. You can create an outdoor living room from this space by enclosing the sides with a shrub border. This can be a background for flowers and serve as a screen if you need one for privacy or to block out objectionable views.

Border plantings add color and beauty in many places. Often they are used along a drive, a fence, or a building. If you plan a border carefully, you can have something in bloom from early spring to late fall. Shrubs, as well as perennials and annuals, are at home in a border.

Have a definite idea of the silhouette you want in your shrub border. Select a few varieties and group them at several locations to get a unified effect. Avoid spotiness that results from using one forsythia, one mock orange, and one spirea. To avoid monotony, introduce accent plants of greater height or different habit or form of growth.

In choosing hedge and screen plants, select those that have thick foliage that cannot be seen through. Select plants that can survive crowding. Hedges can be clipped or left to grow naturally. You must be sure you have the *time* and *desire* to keep a clipped hedge—it takes both.

KINDS OF SHRUBS

Since there are so many shrubs, it is impossible to list them in this small publication. For reference material, include bulletins and fact sheets which you can obtain from the University of Missouri Extension Center. Catalogues and magazines are other sources for information. Visit your library and see what is offered there. Arrange tours (either as a group activity or as an individual one) to see the actual shrubs since this is the best way to become acquainted with them.

Try to plant at least one shrub that is new to you. For example: Do you know the High Bush Cranberry pictured here . . . or the Winged Euonymus? The birds will thank you for planting the Cranberry and the fall coloring of the Euonymus will be the talk of your neighborhood.

PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING TREES AND SHRUBS

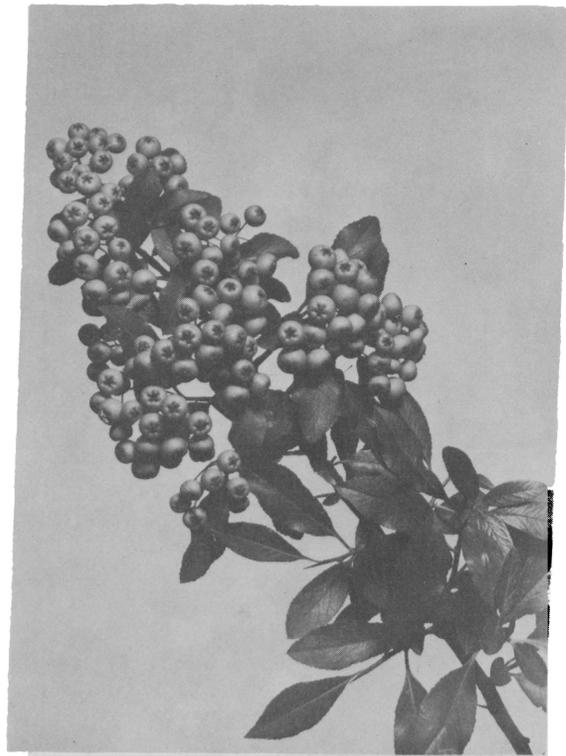
Trees and shrubs usually are planted or transplanted in the spring or fall when they are dormant or inactive. Potted plant material can be moved at any season but must have special care. Watering is a must!

Follow specific instructions provided with plants. If there are none, ask advice from your leader and other gardeners.

Make a list of things regarding planting which you want to remember. Include this in your notebook. It might be something like this—

Pointers On Planting

1. Plant a 50¢ shrub in a \$5 hole—never a \$5 shrub in a 50¢ hole.
2. Locate framing trees 25 feet or more from the house.
3. In general, space trees no less than 40 feet apart.
4. Choose deciduous trees for shading the house. The dense foliage in summer keeps the house cool and the lack of leaves in winter allows the sun's rays to help heat the house.
5. Arrange trees and shrubs informally, with the exception of street plantings, wind breaks, and hedges—place these in rows.
6. Plant evergreens the same depth as they were in the nursery.
7. Plant deciduous trees and shrubs one to two inches deeper than they were in the nursery.



Pyracantha



Weigela



Mock Orange

8. *Leave burlap on balled plants, but loosen it at the top. Remove plants from containers, but keep the soil around roots intact.*
9. *Pack soil around roots of plants so there are no air pockets.*
10. *Leave a basin around the trunk of the tree the first season for watering.*
11. *Mulch some plants in summer to conserve moisture, keep the ground cool, and discourage weeds.*
12. *Mulch some plants in winter for protection from freezing.*

Consideration of these pointers and others that you and your group will add can do much to prevent making some of the more common mistakes you may have observed. Have you seen overgrown shrubs cutting out light and air from a window? Or a low growing plant completely lost behind a large one? At one of your project meetings, make a list of "mistakes" you have noticed. Suggest corrections.

Woody Vines

You can use vines in your garden in many effective ways: for green foliage, screening, shade, overhead protection, or simply for their beauty. They are especially desirable in a small garden because they need little space

to grow. Refer to Manual 54, "Suggested Plantings for Missouri Homes," for description of various vines.

Ground Covers

Ground covers are plant materials that improve the appearance of the ground and, in some cases, hold soil and prevent erosion. They are often used in place of grass since they may thrive in areas where grass will not grow. They can be used in front of shrubbery, in shrub-bed areas, or in a large panel to increase the scale of a small area.

The selection of a suitable ground cover material depends upon the area where it is to be used, the exposure to the sun, and the kind of soil. Your leader will have Circular 737, "Ornamental Ground Covering Plants," for detailed information on kinds and uses.

Your Flower Garden

The goal of most gardeners is to have flowers blooming throughout the growing season. In previous projects you have learned much about flowers. Refer to Circular 175, "Fun With Flowers," and 4-H Circular 177, "Flowers And You," for information regarding classification and use of flowers.

As to your requirements, the ten you grow may be old favorites—but the 25 you identify are to be new to you. Catalogs and magazines are two of your best sources for information on flowers.

If you were asked to summarize what you know about flowers, would you include these suggestions? What others can you add?

Planning The Flower Garden—Arrange flower beds with a background—a fence, a row of shrubs, a wall or a building. Plan a bed or border at least 5 feet wide. One much larger than 8 feet is hard to work. Improve the soil if it needs attention. Group plants by size, low plants near the front and tall ones to the back of the bed. Irregularity in the grouping is good. Plant in broad irregular masses—group uneven numbers of flowers of one kind and color together rather than an individual plant scattered here or there. Mix a few annuals with spring bulbs and perennials. Plant flowers where you can see and enjoy them from the living room, dining area, or terrace. Scale flower groups to surroundings. Remember that most flowers like plenty of sun.

Selecting the Kind of Flowers—Choose plants by types: annuals, biennials, perennials, bulbs, vines, gourds, and roses. (You may wish to select plants from each group even if they do not bloom during your project year; for example, spring bulbs.)



A leaf toter is handy.



Janet improvises name tags from coat hanger and foil.



Pruning is a part of your maintenance program.

Choose for long season blooming, from crocus in the early spring to chrysanthemums in the late fall. Provide for a sequence of bloom—avoid having everything bloom in May and June. Select flowers for the spots they like best, some for sun, some for shade.

Caring For the Flower Garden—You see Janet raking the leaves onto a “leaf toter.” (This is simply a large piece of burlap with rope handles.) This is a fall chore, but there are things to do all during the year. Add your ideas to this list:

Clean beds in the spring. Remove leaves and other debris, mulch, cut off the tops of old plants, prune roses.

Check beds for winter loss.

Cultivate as needed.

Provide supports and name tags. (This could be an interesting project for your club. You can select commercial ones or improvise as Janet is doing.)

Cut back plants to maintain a neat appearance and to encourage more bloom; for example, trimming will help chrysanthemums.

Water as needed.

Dust or spray to avoid disease and insect attack.

Keep a record of plants.

Have fun with a fall clean-up.

Put the garden to bed.

INDIVIDUALIZE YOUR GARDEN

Your plants and planting procedures may be similar to others in your club—but for the most part, they are strictly yours. Include as many individual activities as you can do well. Since these will vary, no attempt will be made to give specific information. Rely on your leader for assistance. Make use of material from the University Extension Center, the library, commercial concerns, qualified people in related agencies and friends with “green thumbs.”

For example, if you are interested in lighting an area of your garden for safety or beauty, how many of these sources can you use? In most communities you will find all of the ones listed are interested and willing to assist you. Those who are specialists in matters pertaining to electricity are certain to tell you, along with other things, that all outdoor installations require the use of rubber-covered cord with water tight connections. In other words, they will supply you with the latest technical information, if you will consult them.

Enjoy creating a garden that will give you, your family, and your friends pleasure. Plan and plant for beauty so you, too, will be able to gather flowers by the armful as Janet is doing.



Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. C. B. Ratchford, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.



plan and plant for beauty

Record Blank



Name _____ Address _____

Age _____ Club _____

Years Enrolled in Home Grounds _____ Leader _____

Parents' Name _____

My Participation:

Club meetings attended during year _____. Project meetings held _____. Project meetings attended _____.

Number of demonstrations given at: project meetings _____, community club meetings _____, county meetings _____, district meetings _____, and state meetings _____.

Number of times participated in judging work in: project meetings _____, county _____, district _____, state _____, interstate _____.

Number of exhibits made in: community _____, county _____, district _____, state _____, interstate _____.

Participated In:

County Achievement Day _____, District Achievement Day _____, State Achievement Day _____, national contests _____, county fair or show _____, district fair _____, State Fair _____, Interstate Show _____, marketing days _____, county camp _____, district camp _____, State Club Week _____, National Club Congress or National 4-H Conference _____.

Number of news-stories published _____. Number of radio and T.V. programs participated in _____.

Number of public speeches made _____.

Served on _____ standing committee in club.

--PROJECT REQUIREMENTS--

If you enroll in this project, your club leader will expect you to complete the following:

1. Identify a minimum of ten deciduous and three evergreen trees --- fifteen deciduous and five evergreen shrubs --- three woody vines --- three ground cover --- twenty-five flowers.
2. Compile a notebook -- include check lists of information regarding plant material -- drawings of areas to be planted -- record of work done -- and other things related to this unit.
3. Plant and care for a minimum of three shrubs (could include vines or ground cover) -- ten kinds of flowers -- one shade or flowering tree (may be planted on property other than your own).
4. Assume some maintenance responsibilities such as mowing the yard.
5. Carry out at least two group activities and four individual ones.

I certify that _____ has met the requirements of this

Member's Name

4-H project as outlined.

Signed _____

Project Leader

