

Selecting and Planting Shrubbery

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IN a preceding article on the planting and cultivation of shrubs which appeared in the December issue of the NATIONAL GREENKEEPER, I mentioned the advisability of grouping or classifying such shrubs to serve two purposes. One of which I have dealt with in above mentioned article, and the other purpose which perhaps is the most important, is that of planting in the vicinity of the clubhouse.

Do Not Crowd Your Plantings

When the problem of planting shrubs is in view there are several important points worth considering. One point is that shrubs are not a thing for today or tomorrow only, but to continue for an indefinite time, therefore it is advisable to avoid overcrowding. This will save time later on and probably some heart-burnings. One good plant is worth half a dozen scrubby ones. The space allowed between each shrub should be determined by soil conditions and form, or habit of such shrubs to be planted. As a guide I may say that the dwarf type may be allowed from two and a half to four feet, medium from three feet to six feet, and the tall and spreading

type five to eight feet apart. It may be worth while to draw my readers' attention to the diversity of form among nearly all shrubs, even of the same genus. Take *Lonicera Tatarica* (Bush Honeysuckle) for example. This shrub assumes an erect and somewhat globular form, while *Lonicera Morrowii* is spreading and irregular.

Choose Suitable Locations for Each Variety

Another important point which should not be overlooked is when planting shrubs or climbing plants close up to a building, a clubhouse for instance, one should take notice of the color of the walls. From an artistic point of view what is more hurtful to the eye than to see a pink or red flower showing against a red brick wall, or on the other hand what is so inconspicuous as a mass of white flowers close to a white wall. To be able to blend the colors of flowers so that they harmonize is a great aid to successful gardening.

There is no doubt that there is a great difference in the space available for garden work at most golf clubs, so that one cannot lay down any hard and fast rule as to the formation of such gardens. The thing to do would be to take advantage of whatever scope offered. There may be objectionable views to shut out and on the other hand some fine view one would wish to keep open. It is advisable when planting shrubs to give the more showy or important varieties the most advantageous positions. One often sees such plants put in some obscure corner, or location wholly unsuited to their requirements, and a less valuable and more vigorous plant in a prominent place. The result is indifferent or poor growth, few flowers and little satisfaction.

The collection of shrubs named in this article is selected from some of the earliest and latest flowering varieties, giving a wide range of color and some of them producing bright colored foliage and berries in the late summer and autumn.

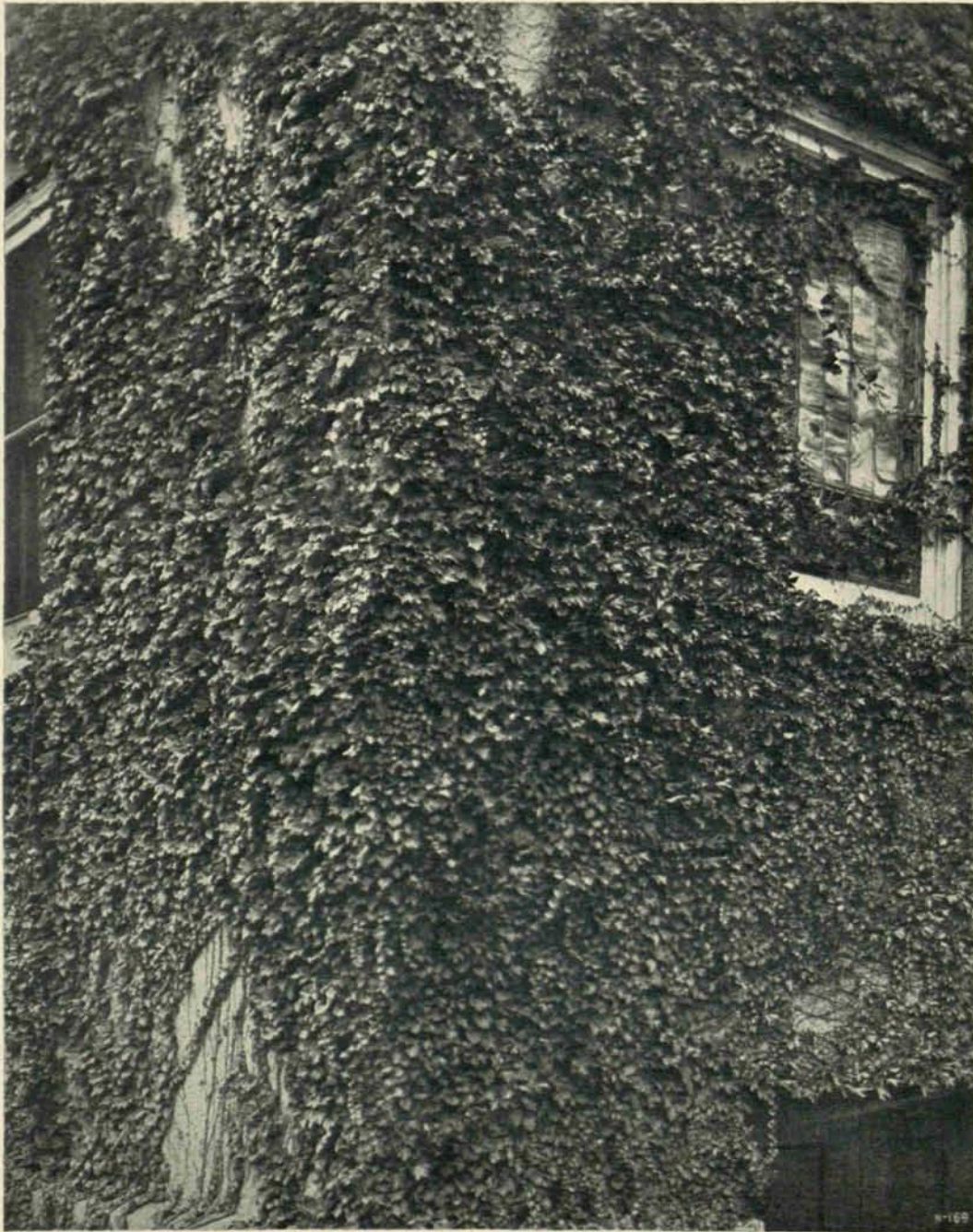
Pruning Shrubs

This is a subject that requires much study and some years of practical experience before one can make himself proficient in this work, that is, looking at things from a general standpoint. There is an old adage which runs thus—"You can always cut out when you cannot put back." Therefore, unless one has some knowledge of pruning it is perhaps wise to let well enough alone. Anyone can cut off a straggling limb or branch, or cut



Spiraea, Van Houttei

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Ampelopsis Veitchii

back some prominent growth, but the art of pruning calls for more than this.

Much depends upon what a shrubbery is intended for apart from its beauty, if for a wind break or screen, or if a formal appearance is desired. In the former case less pruning would be required as the shrubs may be allowed their freedom of growth. To maintain a formal appearance a certain amount of pruning must be performed regularly.

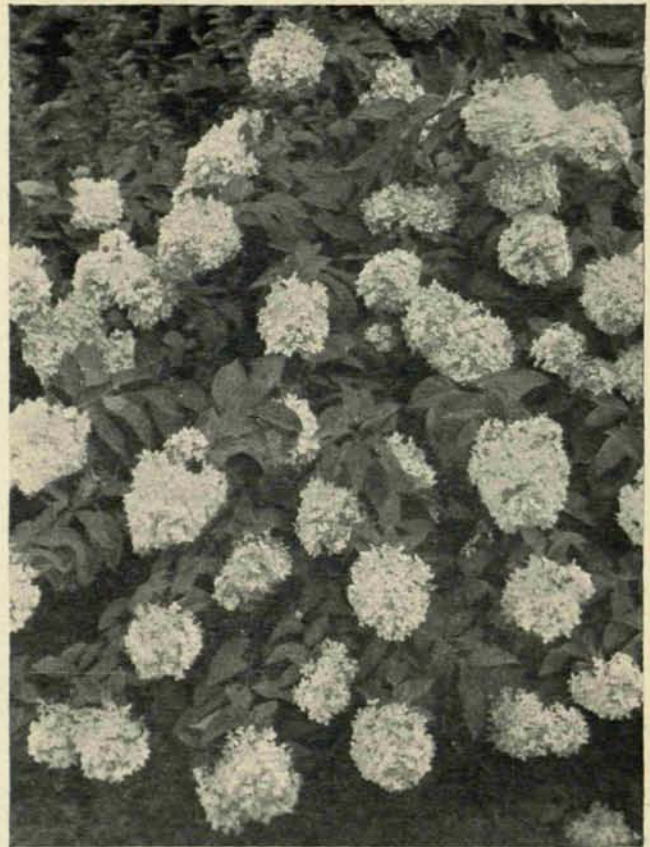
In explaining the method and reason for pruning and to make myself more explicit it may be of interest to some of my readers if I take some of the better known shrubs in detail rather than collectively.

Forsythia

These are about the earliest of spring shrubs to flower, producing an abundance of soft, yellow flowers on the previous year's growth. *Elegans*, *Fortunei*, *Suspensa* are about the best and though different in form require the same treatment. As these shrubs flower in a nude state, that is before the leaves appear they are seen to better advantage if they have a background of some evergreen. Prune directly after flowering is over by cutting out all weak, thin wood and reduce flowering wood to two, three or more wood buds or shoots as desired. The pruning may be done with shears or knife. The latter is to be preferred, as with the former there is generally a bruise, especially in the hands of a novice.



Japanese Barberry



Hydrangea, Paniculata Grandiflora

The cut made should in all cases be slanting and close to the bud or shoot. As growth takes place, this will enable the cut to heal over. This is a very important point especially in fruit trees.

Hydrangea (*Paniculata Grandiflora*)

This is probably one of the best known shrubs, therefore needs no description. Worthy of a place in any garden and one of the best positions. Prune in early spring after danger from severe frost is past. The weaker growths may be cut hard back to two buds, the strong growths about three or four. This method will prevent the plant from getting "leggy" and produce better results.

Spiraea

If anyone had to limit themselves to one class of shrubs, I doubt if another could be found that would provide such variety of form, flowers and period of flowering as *Spiraea*. They are not particular with respect to conditions of soil, situation, etc. and are therefore easy to grow. Some varieties are splendid for hedges.

For the latter purpose *Spiraea Van Houttei*, commonly known as bridal wreath, is extensively used. Undoubtedly the best variety for either a wind break or hedge is *Spiraea Opulifolia*, a tall vigorous grower.

oftentimes making five feet of growth in one season. This variety should be cut back in early spring, reducing the growths about half their length. If full length is allowed to remain it will be seen that growth will commence at the top (as in most cases) causing the buds at the lower part to remain dormant and giving the plant a barren or leggy appearance. This variety will often throw up vigorous growths from the base and in this case it is policy when pruning to cut one or possibly two of such growths hard back. This will insure a certain amount of strong young growths and keep the shrub in a healthy flowering condition, later on, to allow a lot of exhausted wood to be removed thereby letting in more air and light. This method may be adopted in a great many cases.

Spiraea (Froebeli)

This variety is quite distinct from many of the same family bearing flowers in panicles of dark violet red in color, besides having highly colored foliage in spring and autumn making this a very desirable variety.

Spiraea (Anthony Waterer)

A popular, dwarf growing variety suitable for planting in the front of borders, producing large heads of cerise colored flowers, lasting well into late summer. Both these varieties require pruning in early spring and the same treatment accorded them. Prune out all puny wood and as these subjects grow in a natural form, the center growths may be left slightly longer than the outside ones.

Syringa (Lilac)

The common, tall growing form of this shrub is seen practically everywhere, and judging from their numbers, both single and double flowered being cultivated, they have proved themselves to be a general favorite. As their large bold trusses of bloom freely produced are extensively used for cutting, these subjects receive a certain amount of pruning that many shrubs do not get at the time of flowering, and on that account will probably give less trouble.

Shrubs that are better suited for specimens are—*Aralia Spinosa*, *Cratoegul* (Hawthorne), *Rhus Cotinul*, *Prunus Triloba*, and *Magnolias*. The latter blooms in a nude state and makes a magnificent specimen with its large tulip like flowers.

Other shrubs suitable for massing in borders, etc., are as follows: *Berberis Ilicifloia*, *Thunbergii* (*vulgaris stropurpurea*); *Buddleia, variabilis*; *Cydonia* (*Japonica*); *Ceanothus, Americanue*; *Deuteziae, (Eleagnus)*; *Prunus, Pissardii*; *Sambucus, Auresis* (Golden Elder); *Tamarix, Africana*; *Weigelias*.

If there is one shrub that I might draw my readers' attention to more than others it is *Berberis Thunbergii*. Of dwarf, dense habit, very hardy, easy to grow and very low priced. This variety should secure a place in any garden. One hardly knows which to admire most, the gorgeous colored foliage or the profusion of crimson

scarlet berries, the latter oftentimes persisting right through the winter. I have counted on one of the branches (which are slightly pendulous), eighty-four oblong berries. I may say this shrub requires little or no pruning, also it is fortified with numerous and very sharp spines and on that account it may not be a first favorite. I have on several occasions used this shrub as a "keep off" sign.

Climbing Vines

These vines lend themselves for many purposes other than the covering of walls, dwelling houses, etc. for use on trellis work to shut out some objectionable view, dead trees, garden fences and walls, archways, steep banks or to cover over some necessary outhouse. They are more suitable and effective than trees or shrubs, at least in many cases.

It has been my experience and doubtless that of many others to see where there has been difficulty in getting vines to thrive and cover walls of buildings. In this respect and in frequent cases it is the nurseryman who gets the blame. A great many people have the idea that because a vine will creep or climb they will do so under any condition. This is far from being true. For the benefit of some allow me to relate the following incident.

Investigate Your Sub-soil

Some time ago a friend consulted me with regard to a well known vine, *Aristolochia Siphon* (The Dutchman's Pipe), which had failed to grow on three occasions, that is, it had been replaced three times. On making inquiries as to soil, etc., conditions were supposed to be good. On excavating we found that appearances were deceiving. After the first foot of soil had been removed we found the source of all the trouble, and this I may say is responsible for many failures. The conditions were a conglomeration of debris left over from the builders mixed with subsoil and almost powder dry.

By this I do not wish to intimate that this is always the case. Just to show that it pays to excavate and examine conditions and replenish with good soil before planting.

Much might be said about choosing different aspects for different vines to cover walls on buildings, also about different trellises, wood versus iron and wire, training and tying, but as a treatise on all things pertaining to a garden is practically inexhaustible, one cannot hope to condense it into a few lines. As in the case of shrubs in our locality, so we have to be guided in our choice of climbers to suit the climate.

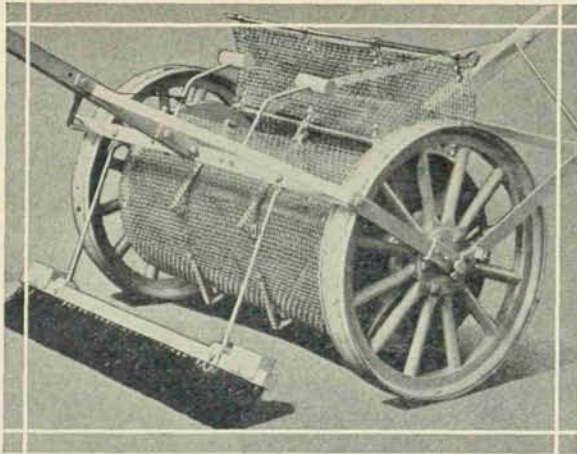
Give Each Variety Its Proper Support

To save knocking any wall about by driving in nails for support, it is advisable to make a light though strong trellis work to support the vines used, wood for preference.

About the only vines we have that will cling to a wall

(Continued on page 29)

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Planting Shrubbery

(Continued from page 12)

without support are the well known Ampelopsis and Bignonia radicans.

Other vines that will probably meet all requirements are: Actinidia arguta; Aristolochia Siphon, Celastrus Scandens; Clematis-Lonicerae (Honeysuckle), and Lycium europeum (Matrimony Vine).

The last mentioned is a strong quick grower, oftentimes making ten to twelve feet in one season, bearing purple blooms and later on scarlet berries.

Wisteria Sinensis is one of the best, but I have never seen it in flower in this part of the country.

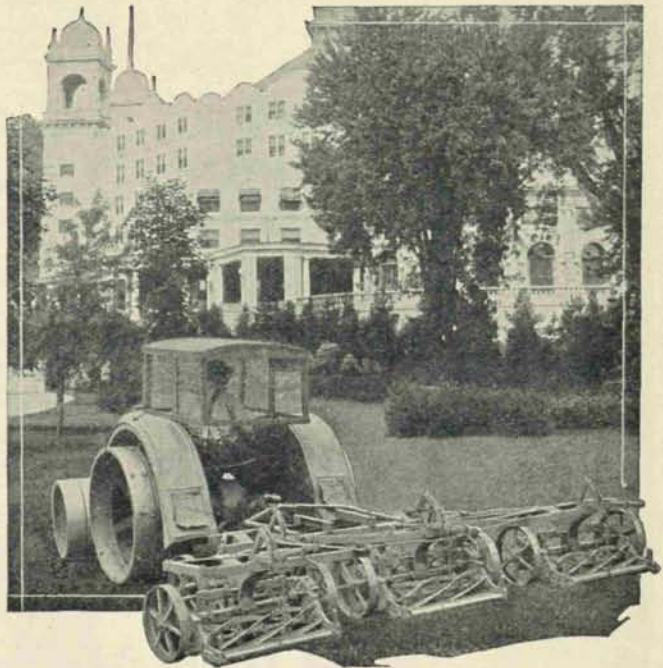
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