

OUTMODED FOUNDATION PLANTING HAUNTS LANDSCAPE DESIGN PROGRESS

By Fred K. Buscher and Jot D. Carpenter, area extension agent in horticulture and chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture respectively, Ohio State University.

Foundation planting is a landscape term which has been used for more than 60 years to describe a method of planting around the base of buildings. Before the turn of the century, foundation plantings were called base plantations, and later, base plantings. These plantings were designed to overcome the rigid architectural styles of the era and provided a more harmonious transition from the lawn to the base of the walls of the building with plants arranged in a natural manner.

The origin of the term "foundation planting" is difficult to document, but references to it can be found in articles on landscape gardening as far back as 1914. Plants have always been used near buildings, but planting a row of shrubs (deciduous or evergreen) in a straight line across the front of a building is a comparatively recent American idea. This practice has been condemned over the last 30 years as no longer necessary. Foundation plantings are criticized today when used in an eclectic manner instead of part of the landscape design of residential properties.

Unfortunately, the expression "foundation planting" has become so popularized by the horticultural press and landscape industry that planting the front of a house is one of the first considerations of the new homeowner. Consequently, much of this is overdone today. The problems of the foundation planting in today's landscape are still very real, as they were in 1900.

Many of the books written on landscape and garden design before and after World War I made an appeal to make the country more beautiful. The objective of these landscape books was to help in the artistic development of the home grounds of the suburban and moderate-size city lot homeowner.

There was little reference to landscape planning for the small city lot residential property where most of the people lived. Information for the small home gardener could be found in the garden magazines or larger homes in the city and suburbs could be used as models.

Another purpose of the garden design books was to provide horticultural information for those in the landscape business and those with a desire to know more about the beautification and improvement of their properties. Many persons engaged in the landscape industry today either grew up on a farm or lived in a small house on a narrow city lot with little planting.

Writers at the turn of the century recommended using more plants about the foundation area of the house. H. Kellaway, an early writer, suggested that most buildings would look bold and bare if they did not have some plants at their base. Plants would soften the sharp line and create a softening effect so the building would appear as part of the total landscape composition.

Base plantings were criticized before the turn of the century. One writer warned to avoid the



European influence on architecture following the Civil War, such as Victorian style (top), and the warm air furnace encouraged use of foundation planting. Misuse of foundation planting (bottom).

overuse of shrubs. The house should not look as though it grew out of a thicket or that the cultivation of shrubs was the owner's chief concern.

Instead, the late 19th century writers suggested the massing of plants in the angles of porches, steps and bay windows. To avoid the straight rows of plants, garden designers even suggested breaking

the plantings, allowing the foundation to be seen resting on the grass giving a semblance of stability to the house.

By 1922, foundation planting was well entrenched in landscape vocabulary. One definition of the term included: groups of shrubbery located along the base of a building. The objective of the foundation planting was to hide unsightly walls, soften the hard lines of the architecture, provide some measure of privacy, and unite the building with the ground. Some of the terminology is still used today to justify foundation planting, such as: to tie the building to the ground, to soften it, and to conceal scars. Landscaping the front of a house with a row of shrubs was highly criticized for not improving the appearance of the house. Instead the emphasis was always on irregularly massing shrubs at the corners of the house.

No base planting was considered necessary for houses which were set close to the ground. In this event, the lawn could extend up to the lines of the porches, but group plantings should be massed at the corners of the house. When enough of the foundation showed above grade, Gridland suggested that only dwarf plants should be used and larger types placed at the corners and in the blank spaces between windows. There was always concern not to plant in front of a window as this would interfere

with light and ventilation. Garden designers urged that base plantings should have curving lines and to avoid the monotonous rows of shrubs. The lines of the planting beds should extend out at the corners and recede into the face of the building. Both tall and low growing plants would add to the effect of this method of base plantings.

Going further back in history, there was little concern by the average homeowner over extensive landscaping plans. For example, before the Civil War, the front yards of the smaller houses were usually only 6 to 10 feet deep. Some of the larger houses were set back from the street. Most houses had fences for protection from livestock running at large. A visitor to New York in 1850 complained that pigs rooted in the gutters and that cattle were herded in droves through the streets.

After the Civil War in America, changes began to occur in architectural style and residential construction which had some effects on the types of landscape planting. The expression "front yard" was used to describe the area around the house open to the public view. The term was not the most appropriate, but at that time, a garden was considered a place for vegetable or flowers to be kept out of public view in the back.

The picket fences started to disappear from the American landscape scene as pioneer conditions

Cut, Roll, Slab or Fold, 24 hours a day, wet or dry weather, all sod conditions.



With a Brouwer Harvester you do it all with time and money saving efficiency.

Over 1000 Top Turf men around the world use Brouwer Harvesters to assure themselves of top profit.

The Brouwer line of Harvesters is engineered by a Turf Grower for Turf Growers. **They're economical to acquire, labour saving, and they eliminate waste.** Available in 15, 16, 18 and 24 inch widths and a choice of pallet sizes.

You get a more uniform cut, less down time, less top soil removal, and a harvester that operates off the uncut turf. Brouwer Harvesters are easy on your sod. Write for our free Harvester brochure.

BROUWER

The Turf Equipment People

Brouwer Turf Equipment Limited, Woodbine Ave., Keswick, Ontario, Canada L4P 3E9 Tel: (416) 476-4311

Circle 122 on free information card



began to fade, although some fences remain to continue the customs. Houses were set further back from the street with larger, more open and showy front yards. It was during this period in American History that the front yards became a major feature in residential landscape design. The habit of living in the garden, as was also the custom in England and Europe, began to decline in America, and with it, the need for privacy in the front and back yards was less important.

Between 1850 and the early 1900's the influence of Andrew Jackson Downing and his followers dominated American landscape design and thought. They advocated the so-called natural style of landscape planting of the larger estates and parks. This involved curving drives, walks, and isolated planting beds, at times placed without good reason. The natural style featured several exotic ornamental trees or shrubs in the front yards such as the copper beech and weeping birch. Later, the electric blue spruce was a front yard feature. Even shrubs were planted as single specimens or in beds in the front lawns. Later, the native plants began to replace the exotic European specimens once considered to be more important.

The end of the Civil War brought an end to the Greek and Roman revival style of architecture in America. Architects and builders began to experiment with the Gothic, the Egyptian, the Romanesque, the Byzantine, and the contemporary French. Out of all this, a Victorian style developed.

This was also a time when new materials, new tools, and manufacturing processes became available to the builders. Low-cost steel replaced handwrought iron. The manufacture of Portland cement boosted brick and masonry construction. Plate glass manufacture was industrialized. Wood was the most abundant building material of this time. There were new power tools to cut, turn, twist, and shape the wood into the symbols of the Victorian period.

The European influence on residential architecture began to show up in the homes of the newly rich after the Civil War. This was considered the darkest period of American residential architecture. It was the time of the pseudo manor, Victorian, Gothic and French Mansard along with beds of geraniums and cannas, iron deer, and open lawns. At the close of the century, authentic revivals of architecture began again and brought an end to the excesses of the Victorian age with improved domestic architecture.

The custom-built houses with high foundations occurred about the same time houses were placed further back from the street and set in an open lawn. Thus, the planting of shrubs and vines next to the base of the house and porches began, and foundation plantings became the style. In those years, such a foundation planting was deemed necessary to hide the foundation and otherwise soften the break between the house and lawn.

Another fact that contributed to the building of exposed basement foundation walls was the new concept of central heating and introduction of the warm air furnace. The basic heat sources before the gravity warm-air furnace were steam or hot



It's Powerful ... Safe ... Versatile!

Princeton's mighty "Piggyback" has solved many of the problems that have always plagued heavy-duty, field quality material handlers. The remarkable "Piggyback" is light...strong...fast...durable...AND completely stable on the job!

The Piggyback will lift and load up to 4500 lbs. at a time ... turn quickly in its own length ... navigate curbs, logs, and other obstacles with ease...trudge through gravel, sand and mud, but float over normal soil...and then load itself onto your truck for a piggyback ride home at the end of the day.

How is it Possible?

The Princeton "Piggyback" provides an extremely low ratio of weight to carrying capacity...with complete stability. Stability is achieved by carrying the load weight between the drive wheels instead of in front, as with other fork lifts, and by special hydraulic stabilizer legs. Load is lifted to truck bed height, then rolled over truck bed by a horizontal carriage.

Heavy-duty high torque wheel motors allow the "Piggyback" to operate on steep grades or in adverse ground conditions and to drive easily over normal loading area obstructions while fully loaded.

The Piggyback's 28 h.p. Murphy 2-cylinder diesel provides superior power for all adverse operating conditions.



Loaded for Piggyback ride home.

For additional information or demonstration, write, or call collect:

Rodger Osborne, Sales Manager
955 W. Walnut St., Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110
(614) 837-9096

Dealer/Distributor Inquiries Invited

The "New Concept" People

princeton
mfg.
company



Civil War era home without porch, or tall foundation, or base plantings.

water. The warm-air furnace was the least expensive to install, and by 1894 was a fairly well developed basic source of heat in houses. The hot-air furnace was installed below the rooms to be heated requiring a relatively deep basement.

To reduce digging to make sufficiently deep basements, some foundations were laid at ground level, or a little below grade. The excavated soil was terraced against the exposed basement wall. High foundations were not always considered problems. It was considered much better to have a shallow basement than one dug too deep, as the height could be overcome by planting at the base of the house when there was sufficient soil for the fill.

Porches also had influence on the foundation planting. The trend for out-of-door living after the turn of the century brought about another change in house design. It caused architects to complain that porches were the greatest trial they had. The porch was absent in the homes of early America, England, and France. By the 1920's, the typical house was the two-story "packing box" cube with a porch across the front. This was one of the most difficult houses to plant successfully. With this type of building, the landscape designers were justified in suggesting a foundation planting where previously it would have been condemned.

Although the steam heating system was first developed by James Watt in 1770, a major drawback in its development was high cost and a lack of trained fitters in the smaller towns and villages to install the system. The hot water system paralleled the development of the steam system, and by the early 1900's, both heating methods were used in residential and commercial buildings in addition to the less expensive gravity warm-air furnaces. With this system the leader or warm air round pipes radiated out from the top of the furnace to the first

floor registers and second floor stacks. Leader pipes and cold-air return ducts were designed to be short and direct, necessitating the large furnace to be placed in the center of the basement.

The long front porch was not a family center of activity, but reserved for afternoon, good clothes, gossip with the neighbors, and a place where the ladies did their hand sewing. The porch was also an outgrowth of the social needs to observe the passing scene of the neighborhoods daily life. Most porches were ugly from an architectural standpoint and difficult to add to a well designed house. The houses which are the most pleasing visually have stoops but no porches. Front porches are a part of the passing scene today. However, the plants which once were used to hide the open porch railings and lattice work between the supporting posts of houses of that architectural style still exist. This type of "left-over" foundation planting across the front of most residential houses today serves no real purpose.

When the trend for privacy and garden living again became desirable, the porch was moved to the side or rear of the house in conjunction with a patio. A new mode of landscape design slowly began to develop about 40 years ago when gardens and the landscape were suggested as places to be lived in, rather than looked at.

Authors such as Waugh, writing in the 1920's, show there is still tremendous agreement among today's authors with many of the principles in the older books and articles on landscape architecture and garden design. Careful consideration of the basic principles of good design and approaches to solving environmental problems used in the 1920's show that only the styles of the language and vocabulary have changed. The directions for the development of the small home grounds, however, were written primarily for the well-to-do owners of larger properties in the city or suburbs.

The landscape architects, gardeners, and writers played a major part in the landscape improvement of the communities during the 1930's but their suggestions were beyond the reach of the majority of Americans who lived in small houses on narrow city lots, on farms, or in small towns and villages. Much of the gardening information for the "average" American was obtained from the garden magazines where the original source of information came from the garden and landscape books. The pattern for landscape designs of the small houses was copied in a selective manner from the larger homes, but without the changes necessary due to scale and site differences.

By the early 1930's many of the people in the towns and cities of the United States lived in multi-family dwellings. From the time when foundation-plantings were used to cover the exposed masonry of houses and up to and beyond the middle 1930's, the average American lived in small houses. The characteristic of the small urban home is compactness in high density population. The houses were most often two-family. Single houses were on narrow lots of 35-50 feet wide and 100-150 deep. These properties had small front and back yards with a minimum of space for gardens and shrubs.

Continues on page 72

The suburban home of this period was set closer to the ground with less foundation showing on a larger lot of 7,000 or more square feet. These suburban homes had a great deal of planting area around them with room for flowers or vegetable gardens in the rear. The American suburban home of the mid-thirties had a wide variety of modern architectural planning and design features comparable with most of today's houses except for the split-levels. The exterior architectural appearances were varied and derived from a great number of styles such as English, Colonial, Spanish, Georgian, or a mixture of these in an American Style.

Most of the circumstances which led to the development of the foundation planting as described in the preceding paragraphs have changed, but the practice of planting the front of houses lingers on. In general, the high foundation is gone from today's houses, but the planting is still there. This method of planting does not meet today's need. However, it is a custom that will die slowly with the landscape nurserymen and home gardener. Eckbo, in his book *Landscape for Living*, stated: "Foundation-planting; that great technique for moving miscellaneous nursery stock purports to 'tie the building to the ground, soften it, conceal the scars,' etc." Landscaping is very apt to be sold as beautification which may cover up damage to nature or mistakes of architects or builders.

The professional literature has been full of references that criticize the concept of the foundation planting. In 1935, Bottomly wrote: "The continuous foundation planting is wrong mainly because it is overdone and because the connecting plants are so high and so positive as to destroy the effect of the functional plants at the entrances and corners." Writers on landscape, in general, have said the only reason for any form of foundation planting should be used to soften the lines of the building and help blend the building into the surrounding landscape.

One way suggested to focus attention on any fault in a foundation planting was by taking a picture of the front of the house, framing it and hanging it over the fireplace. If something was wrong, the problem would show up easily, since, generally, tall shrubs should be planted at the corners of the house to soften harsh lines and create a transition to the landscape and some accent be made at the doorway. The old practice of accenting the doorway was simply to plant six spireas each side of the front door.

Landscape architects writing for the benefit of the home gardeners mentioned there were more poor examples of foundation plantings in America than any other type of planting. They were critical of the many reasons given for using foundation plantings such as fitting the house to the surrounding area, or harmonizing the vertical lines of the building with the horizontal lines of the ground. Other reasons listed to justify foundation planting were to soften the lines about the house or to accentuate or decorate. These were all worthy purposes, but the landscape critics questioned how much softening or harmony there was in the monotony of stiffly spotted evergreens or



Porches moved to the side or rear of the house, but the plants remained as before.

deciduous shrubs planted around a building. One recommendation was to forget about the foundation planting entirely as the major reasons for its existence had passed into oblivion. What it does is set the house on a ruffle of fluffy foliage, or if the plants have been sheared the house sits on an Alice in Wonderland set of machine-like cubes, spheres, and pyramids.

In any discussion on the good or bad features of foundation plantings, it is the house which must be considered the most conspicuous object in the landscape. Plants are one of the elements in the landscape that best create the harmony between the ground area and the building. The foundation area is where plants can be located to create this harmony.

There is no reason to completely encircle a house with a continuous mass of shrubbery unless the house has an ugly foundation. High foundations of stone or brickwork are often attractive, at least in part, and can add a pleasant view if made visible. With today's architecture, whether modern or traditional in style, standard construction brings the facing material (wood, brick, etc.) to within 6 inches or so of the ground, showing little or no foundation, so there is even less need for foundation planting.

The criteria for a good foundation planting may be that it should never call attention to itself; felt, but not necessarily noticed, so that the facade of the house will be accented to harmonize with the entire landscape development. Too often the opposite is seen where the foundation planting becomes a collection of plants with different shapes, contrasting textures, exotic colors of foliage and flower, as though the plants are being grown for the sole purpose of cultivating a small arboretum.

The foundation planting should not be treated as a separate unit of the landscape, but as part of the entire house and garden design. Perhaps it would be better to forget about the foundation planting and consider the overall setting of the house, its background and foreground, and the ground area as one unit. When this happens, the plantings about the walls of the foundation will be less prominent, with fewer varieties and quantities of plants, so that attention is directed to the house rather than the planting. Today, houses have attractive walls that can be enhanced with shrubs, not concealed, and the landscape is supposed to be lived in, not just to be looked at.

The contemporary approach to foundation

planting is to treat it as part of the total planting design, not as a separate unit. At one time, plantings in front yards were designed to be viewed as a picture to be seen while walking or traveling by in a car or carriage. Today, the front yard should be considered, not as a picture, but rather as a space for people to use — a part of the entry to the home.

Some authors have suggested a number of simple rules as guides in solving design problems of the foundation planting. These rules included planting corners; doorways of the home; suggestions on shapes, widths, and lengths of planting beds; and selection of plants to fit the building and environment. (How do you design a set of rules that can apply to all styles of architecture and house?)

Part of the problem we have today in residential planting design is the application to all types of architecture of a concept developed years ago for a single type of architecture. We no longer build houses with high foundations, but the same type of planting is still placed in front of colonial, cape cod, (which authentically would have no foundation planting) ranch, or split level houses.

The use of plants in foundation planting to create a transition from the building to the ground or to accentuate, decorate, and soften the harsh lines about the house, etc., have been primarily thought of as the artistic part of planting design one of sim-

plicity, scale relationship, balance, sequence, and focalization.

More important is the functional role of plants to solve environmental and aesthetic problems in the landscape. Contemporary planting design uses the functional spectrum of plants which includes architectural, engineering, climate control, and aesthetic use of plants.

Architecturally, plants can be used to form walls, canopies, or floors by taking advantage of their different growth habits and foliage characteristics. They can be used to define or articulate a space, provide privacy, screen an unpleasant view, or reveal or frame a significant view or object.

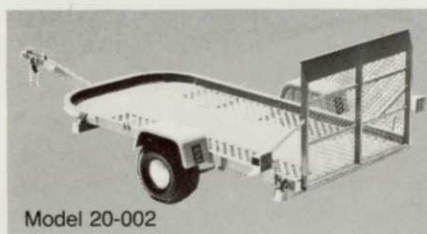
Plants used for engineering purposes can reduce the glare of lights, or create a better traffic pattern for movement of people and cars. The engineering spectrum of plants can also include sound control, air-conditioning, and erosion control to mention just a few.

The climate control spectrum might use deciduous shade trees to screen the hot sun or in winter, to permit the sun to penetrate to the ground. Plants used in climate control can act as windbreaks, increasing or decreasing wind velocities and directions, can reduce the impact of precipitation, and can change solar radiation levels.

Continues on page 75

Snowco Utility Trailers

...now even more versatile!



Model 20-002



Model 20-006



Snowco

Division of Beatrice Foods Co.
4386 McKinley, Omaha, Nebraska 68112

Ideal for hauling grounds maintenance equipment, golf cars and other bulky, hard-to-handle items, the proven Snowco line includes eight flatbed trailers with loading ramps or tilt decks, plus a box bed trailer with tailgate.

The design of the popular ramp loading trailers—with perforated steel decks—has been improved for increased versatility. Three models are offered with capacities of 1,150 and 2,100 pounds.

Five tilt trailers with perforated steel decks are offered with capacities of 1,000 to 3,500 pounds.

The steel box bed trailer—capacity 1,200 pounds, is available with an optional canvas or fiberglass cover.

Please send Utility Trailer information. WT

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Circle 116 on free information card

MARCH 1980/WEEDES TREES & TURF

73

Plants have been used traditionally for beautification (aesthetics). This has unfortunately been considered the major or only reason for plantings around buildings by most people.

Aesthetically, plants can become a piece of living sculpture, as when placed against a wall to give an interesting shadow pattern of branches. They can be used as a background for other plants, or to help blend together unrelated objects, buildings, or structures. They provide an environment for birds and wildlife and enhance our surroundings. An important aspect of aesthetics often overlooked is the impact on senses other than sight - smell - touch and hearing. Examples might be the sound of the winds in the pines, the scent of a linden grove in spring or the feel of new clover on a sunny hillside.

An alternative to foundation planting can be to design the front yard as a public access area in such a manner that visitors or family pass from the public street to a doorway garden designed to suggest a degree of enclosure and a sense of arrival. The passage from street to door can be through trees, shrubs, fences, hedges, flowers, and over surfaces of pavement, grass or ground cover designed as a door-yard garden providing a feeling of separation from the street to the privacy of the home and all in the name of foundation planting.

The planting for the front yard becomes an extension of the entryway of the house and in some ways part of the living room. It is at the point of entering the lot or front yard where the preparation begins for the social interchange which later takes place within the house. For example, in years past, some religious shrines were located within a beautiful woods setting. The walk through the woods prepared the worshipper for meditation and prayer. Likewise, the walk from the car to the house should be a time of preparation for the social interaction or activity that is going to happen inside the home. If the transition from the street and automobile is a comfortable and pleasant experience for the pedestrian, then guests will feel more comfortable and pleasant once inside the home. On the other hand, if the transition from street to house is not pleasant, the guest may subconsciously have an unfavorable attitude about the host and surroundings.

Good planting design thus considers the front yard, not just foundation planting, and relies heavily on the functional spectrum of plants. The landscape design process is used to create the kind of entry place or front yard we want and will result in the use of plants, pavements, and structures. Pattern, textures, scale and form of these elements (plants, pavements, and structures) must be considered in the development of

the design. We can create that certain feeling of privacy, personality, or sense of place we want our yard to express. However, certain environmental and space design problems must be solved by considering the functional spectrum of plants and applying the five design principles: simplicity, balance, scale, sequence, and focalization. Examples of apply-

Continues on page 78

3 PARTS



These three parts are the only ones you're ever likely to need. They're always in stock at our distributors or factory, enabling us to ship the same day.

Simpler servicing, rugged reliability and high performance means lower operating costs for you. That's why at Reinc: "WE MAKE IT EASY".

THAT'S ALL IT TAKES TO REPAIR ANY

Reinc HYDROGRASSER

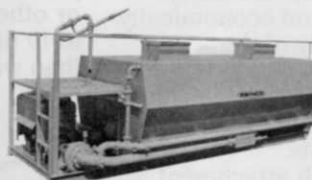
FOR QUICK, EFFECTIVE, AND ECONOMICAL ONE STEP SEEDING, MULCHING AND FERTILIZING: HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION, MINE RECLAMATION, GOLF COURSES, COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE.



- Model HG-8 (A)**
- Total Volume 950 gallons
 - Two acres of seeding and fertilizing in less than one half hour
 - Spray distance 80 feet
 - Available with skid mounting



- Model HG-15M**
- Total volume 1850 gallons
 - Over 3 acres of seeding and fertilizing in one load
 - Distribution distance 175 feet.
 - Handles high quality of cellulose fiber mulch.



- Model HG-25**
- Total volume 2900 gallons
 - Seeds and fertilizes 5 acres in less than one hour.
 - Can handle 9,000 pounds of granular solids in one load.
 - Placement distance 200 feet.

Send for **FREE** seeding-mulching cost analysis and grassing equipment catalog. Or phone us...collect.

Reinc

P.O. Box 584
Plainfield, New Jersey 07061
(201) 755-0921

Circle 141 on free information card

Check out these energy savers from **SOLO**



SOLO's 426R riding mistblower is a rugged, lightweight 12.5-hp energy-saver for the fruit, berry, vegetable, or ornamental grower. Standard cleat or ATV tires.

PTO-driven 451/452 mistblowers cut hundreds of pounds from a tractor's load. 53, 80, or 105-gal. formula tanks available; centrifugal or piston pump.

PLUS . . . both save money too. SOLO mistblowers give better coverage with lower volume . . . better than any sprayer!

- **SAVE** with 8-nozzle discharge, adjustable in direction, flow rate. Install TELEBLAST nozzle for 50-ft. radius coverage.
- **SAFE** no-drift herbicide application with optional spray boom or hand gun

Send for free brochure or ask your dealer for SOLO



SOLO

SOLO INCORPORATED
5100 Chestnut Avenue
Newport News, VA 23605
In Canada:
Box 464
Burlington, Ont. L7R 3Y3

Circle **107** on free information card



Model 5210 C

For both Volume and Pressure

Use Hypro series 5200 Big Twin piston pumps.

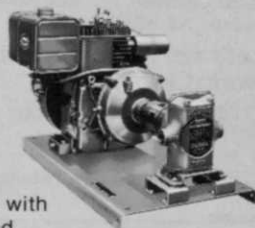
Here's a rugged two-cylinder piston pump that will deliver up to 10 gpm at 400 psi (600 rpm) for tree spraying, area spraying, fogging, or termite pretreating.

Handles many kinds of weed and pest control chemicals including wettable powder suspensions.

Available with solid shaft or with hollow shaft for direct tractor, truck, or jeep PTO mounting.

FEATURES:

- Leather or impregnated fabric piston cups.
- Heavy duty ball bearings.
- Suction & discharge ports tapped 3/4" NPT.



Also available with gas engine and mounting base.

Hypro
A DIVISION OF LEAR SIEGLER, INC.
347 Fifth Avenue NW, St. Paul, Minnesota 55112

Circle **109** on free information card

Foundation

from page 75

ing the design principles might include:

Achieving focalization through the use of specimen plant, metal or wood sculpture, a light, the seasonal interest of flowers or foliage changes of autumn.

Achieving scale by creating walks which are wide enough for the use and space, fences which are the right height or plant masses which relate properly to the entire width of the space.

Achieving balance by considering the relationship of a large oak to another oak or to two or three small trees so that volumes are roughly equivalent.

Each planting design is unique and must be developed for the style and lines of the building, its materials and colors, and equally important, for the people who live there. The selection of plants should be based on whether or not the plant fits the design, not upon the individual characteristics of the plant. It is more important to know what is needed in a plant, and then find the plant that fits those needs, not vice-versa.

Modern day planting design attempts to integrate plants and architecture with the surrounding environment by allowing those things which need dominance to become focal and those things that are subordinate to fit into the background where they are appropriate. Even though the architecture has an important place in the development of the landscape design, it may be necessary to forego architectural dominance in order to create a solution that will make the program work. A building with excellent architectural features actually needs very few plants to accentuate its characteristics. However, to accomplish the design needs of the total property, a great many plants and structures might be necessary.

If on the other hand, one has a structure which is not architecturally pleasing, it may be necessary to use many plants to draw attention away from the architecture, by making the landscape dominant. However, if the program requires a very simple solution, it may be necessary to live with a highly visual dominant architectural element because of the nature of the needs and how one wants to develop the site. **WTT**