PLANTING PRACTICAL GARDENS FOR BEAUTY: BY HAROLD D. PHELPS

Most gardens are made for the useful things which may be grown in them, vegetables, fruits and flowers; but that is no reason why they should not be beautiful at the same time. Just as it is a principle of Craftsman homes to obtain the beautiful by the proper treatment of the structural necessities rather than by added ornamentation, so in our gardens we should strive to use the things we grow for utility in such a way that they contribute an additional crop, beauty. And this beauty should be a constant crop, changing in its charm as the plants develop. Even the humblest patch of vegetables may have artistic merit, as many of our tiny school gardens show. But when the garden is extensive enough to include fruits and flowers for cutting, its beauty should be one of its valuable harvests.

The surest way to have a beautiful garden is to begin now, before it is warm enough for outdoor work, and make a complete plan suited to your individual requirements and the space available. Making a plan insures consideration for the garden as a whole. This is the keynote to success. When your whole garden, rather than some particular spot or planting, brings favorable comment from those who see it, you may know you have achieved unity and harmony. So in starting your plan consider how things will look and grow in relation to each other.

The boundaries and paths of a garden are its framework, and attention should first be given to these. Paths should be as many only as are necessary to aid in the garden work, and should be arranged to lead the gardener where he desires to go as quickly as possible. If the garden has but one entrance the main walk will usually lead from there to the opposite side of the garden, and its terminus is a good location for some permanent feature. From this side, paths may be made to divide the garden intoplots for the various crops. Plots of different sizes should be made for convenience. If a wheel cultivator is to be used often, long rows lighten the garden labor, but the length of the rows should always be proportioned to the habit of the crop and the quantity grown. Each variety
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should have at least one full row the length of its plot.

Boundaries should always be strengthened and emphasized with the tallest growing crops, unless there is one particular spot from the outside of which it is desired that a partial or complete view of the garden be obtained. In such a case plants should be chosen which do not impede the view beyond. Whenever we plant the largest growing things other than at the edges, with something else beyond them, we at once cut

variety of each crop must be studied in relation to the locality. Advice on this point may usually be obtained from some reliable person in the vicinity who has tested several varieties under similar planting conditions. If the area is limited, staple crops, such as potatoes and onions, of which good supplies may be purchased, should give place to the more perishable crops which taste so much better from one’s own garden.

Garden plans should always be made for

the garden into two parts and destroy its unity.

Often the boundaries of the garden may be used permanently for trellises on which grapevines, beans, peas or flowering vines may climb, or for rows of dwarf fruit-trees and cane fruits. Such planting as this adds interest, because it gives height to the garden. In larger spaces, where the framework is more complex, it should be remembered that the borders of the paths are the boundaries of plots and may require special treatment as such. The borders of the main walk are often the best places for such flowers as will not hide the crops behind them.

The choice of vegetables, fruits and flowers to be grown will depend upon family preferences, while the selection of the best

the individual area they are to occupy and for the family they will supply. Two typical plans are given here to illustrate the principles set forth and serve as guides on which to base a plan or as foundations which may be changed to meet special conditions.

A PLAN FOR A GARDEN 50 BY 80 FEET.

The typical plan for an area 50 by 80 feet is designed for a fairly complete garden in a limited space, but may be lengthened or widened as desired to give additional variety or quantity. In this plan, permanent boundaries are used at the ends; on one, blackberry hedges at each side of the entrance, and on the other, a simple grape trellis of posts and wire construction, with
an arbor of the same material terminating
the main walk. Room is afforded for six
grapevines, which may be of one or more
varieties. The blackberry hedges should be
supported by setting posts at each end on
which have been spiked crosstieces of 2 by
6 material about 18 inches long, 3 feet
above the ground, from which stands of
No. 10 galvanized wire run along each side
of the row. If the new shoots are kept
pinched back to a height of about 4 feet
during the summer and the old canes which
have borne fruit are cut out at the ground
in winter, no further pruning will be neces-
sary to maintain an attractive hedge, well
trimmed for fruit production. At the sides
of the garden the tallest-growing crops may
be raised, and, if a permanent support for
these is desired, posts supporting a wide
woven wire fence may be used. Woven
wire fencing is preferable to chicken wire,
but for peas a close meshed fencing should
be selected.

At each side of the main walk a 3-foot
border for flowers is reserved, broken at
the corners where the work paths diverge
by currant bushes; low growing flowers,
either annual or perennial, may be used.
Space for permanent crops such as aspara-
gus and rhubarb is obtained at the ends, and
the remaining space on one side is given
over to long rows of the largest growing
crops. On the other side, where the smaller
crops may be grown, shorter rows will be
found more convenient, so an extra path is
used, dividing this area into two equal
plots. Both may be used for such crops,
but if a strawberry bed is desired one plot
may well be devoted to that, using the hill
system of culture and the following rota-
tion.

Starting with the vegetables, as shown in
one plot on the plan, as these crops should
all mature by August 1, potted strawberry
plants may be set at that time about 18
inches apart each way. These should give
a moderate crop the first spring and be left
for another season, no new bed to be set
the second year. This allows the other plot
to be left free for vegetables that entire
year, and a late crop of celery, beets or cab-
bage may follow the early vegetables. The
following year the strawberry plants will
again be set to follow the early vegetables,
while the late vegetables may follow the old
strawberry bed after it has fruited and been
turned under. Some other rotations which
can be used to secure two crops from the
same ground are indicated on the opposite
side, and experience will show many tricks
of this kind by which a skilled gardener in-
creases his harvest. Only the commonest
plants are used in these typical plans, that
they may be simple and easy for the ama-
teur to experiment with.

**Plan for a Garden 100 by 150 Feet.**

The larger garden is planned for an area
of almost one-third of an acre, and is espe-
cially arranged to permit house cultivation
if desired, as well as plowing all the area
except that devoted to permanent crops.
This means a great saving of hard labor in
a garden of this size. Dwarf fruit-trees are
a feature of this garden; at the back a
full row of dwarf apples, which may be
grown as standards or trained to a trellis;
the dwarf cherries and pears at the front
do not form a continuous boundary, as it is
intended that partial view of the garden
may be obtained from outside. Hence the
trees, which should be standards in shape,
are spaced at sufficient intervals to allow
vistas between them, and these intervals in
the rows are utilized for currant bushes,
which will not grow tall enough to obstruct
the view.

Small fruits of considerable variety and
quantity are included, and additional rows
paralleling these may be added if desired.
This fruit border partially obstructs the
crops beyond it, just sufficiently to hide de-
tails and show distances. Because of the
 provision for house cultivation there are no
real boundaries at the sides, but if desired
the ingenious gardener can provide these
by planting at the end of each row, where
it will not obstruct cultivation, one or more
staked tomato or other plants of desired
height.

Will not gardens laid out in this manner
be more attractive than those which are
planned at the time of planting, the seed at
hand being used with little or no thought
for the appearance of the plants grown or
for the later planting? And will not a plan
made now, before outdoor work can be at-
tempted, save us labor during the growing
season, when the gardener's time is so pre-
cious? Surely by taking thought now we
can add beauty to utility without detracting
from our harvests or adding to our labors.

And if we lay out our garden with
thought for attractive grouping and harmo-
nious color schemes, the hours spent in its
cultivation will prove doubly pleasant.