proof window screen is seen in Figure 6. This screen is made with an inside frame of quarter-inch round rod. The netting is carried around this frame and is held in place by the outside moldings, which keep it stretched tight. And as the netting is brought in contact with rounding surfaces only, there is no danger of it being cut by sharp edges. The outside moldings form a neat, narrow frame which, though strong, is not too rigid to prevent its conforming to any irregularities in the window frame. Being all metal, the screen does not shrink, swell, warp or twist as do those with wooden frames.

The screen is made with either steel, copper or bronze moldings, the steel frame being first thoroughly galvanized and finished in a hard enamel. Solid bronze wire cloth is used for the netting, as this is considered the most economical and durable. It is a special composition, rust-proof and practically indestructible, which does not require painting to preserve it, and hence allows for perfect ventilation. The wire is finished in a rich antique color. The standard screen is 14 mesh, or 14 openings to the inch; but for special work, or in the South, a finer mesh is often needed—16 or 18 mesh. For windows in laundries and other places from which it is necessary to exclude fine particles of dust, 24 to 40 mesh may be employed.

Figure 7 shows a vertical cross-section of a double-hung window fitted with one of these metal screens, which slides in the groove as indicated. This window is also made with the tightly locking weather strips previously described.

**PLANTING NEW GROUNDS**

A FEW well-chosen annual plants placed on newly graded grounds will do much to take the place of trees and shrubs until the latter may have time to grow, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture's specialist. It is often a question in a new community where slow-growing vegetation has not had an opportunity, as to what may be done to make grounds seem less bare. A lawn can be made in a few weeks and its appearance may be greatly increased by the addition of a few wisely selected annuals.

The specialist suggests as particularly suited for this purpose the following plants, which may be grown in most parts of the United States:


The general appearance of plants on the home grounds or in the garden is more or less dependent upon the condition of nearby lawns. Lawns are the foundation of all decorative planting.

Owing to the variety of soils which will be encountered and the special treatments which they need, only the broadest generalizations can be given here. For localities north of St. Louis, Mo., and Richmond, Va., lawns can be formed chiefly of bluegrass, redtop, and white clover. South of this point Bermuda grass and St. Augustine grass will have to be relied upon chiefly, although it is said that in some places alfalfa has been employed with good results.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has a bulletin on “Lawn Soils and Lawns” (No. 494), and a bulletin on “ Beautifying the Home Grounds” (No. 185), which will be sent to applicants as long as the supply lasts.

**“FOUR WINDS’ RANCH,” A DANISH HOUSE IN DAKOTA:**

**BY HELEN MOORE**

"I DOUBT it," said the carpenter, and shed a bitter tear." In fact, he not only shed tears but actually gave up and left for parts unknown. However, I was sure the little hut could be built to fulfil the requirements of the homestead law as to a “habitable dwelling,” even in the midst of the prairies, far from the luxuries of skilled labor. To revel in simple materials and to know that one could not become involved in the horrors of mill-turned gaw-gaws, would be, I knew, a positive joy.

The suggestion contained in an article published in The Craftsman on Scandinavian log huts, was the chief factor in the success of the home at “Four Winds’ Ranch.” Logs being unattainable, common fir timber such as is found in even the most primitive lumber yards, was used in their stead. The chief materials consisted of 2 by 4 and 2 by 6 timbers, roof sheathing, and shiplap to enclose the porch. The house
was 12 by 16 feet with a porch the length of the building and 6½ feet wide, and the floor was made of ship-lap laid on 2 by 6 joists set 16 inches apart.

This done, and the studding up, we were ready for the low-pitched rafters, which ran from the roof peak to the edge of the porch, where they were left exposed beyond the protecting sides. The same roof construction was used at the rear.

Roof sheathing, building paper and shingles completed the four walls outside, while the porch was enclosed by 8 inch ship-lap running up and down. The openings were cut out with a keyhole saw, and the center of each coming on the edge of the boards made the work easy, obviating troublesome turns. The apertures were placed only sufficiently close to give light to the porch, the south window and door of the house. Then with the oblong open spaces between them, plenty of sunshine was admitted and the remainder of the enclosure kept the hot south wind from scorching too fiercely.

The roof, framed by 2 by 4 timbers placed at the outer edge, held a thick carpet of sod which was the crowning comfort both summer and winter. A layer of tar paper was put down over the roof sheathing, and the sod placed with the grass side down, making a difference of 10 degrees in the temperature of the room.

You enter the porch by pulling a string and lifting a latch, and are admitted to a charmingly furnished outdoor room arranged for sleeping as well as for daytime enjoyment. A turn to the right, and you are in a veritable living room, where a stone fireplace is the keynote in color, being built of small, curiously formed boulders with dull green, pink and white agates embedded in them, giving the whole an appearance of the soft gray of the rolling hills and buttes where they were found.

The rough, sand-finished plastered walls were left in the natural color, while the rafters and under-side of the roof sheathing were whitewashed. The casement windows with their diamond-shaped panes were the only extravagance, but amply repaid the expenditure by breaking the monotonous view of rolling prairies. The inside trim was plain four-inch lumber, painted white; the hardware—a barn-door latch for the door, and small T-hinges for the windows.

The lumber yard furnished material for furniture, too. A settle was made with a linen-chest under the seat, convertible into a table by turning down the back, and the washstand was arranged to shut its contents out of sight. A long, low cupboard hid the cooking utensils and groceries.

The house cost the ridiculously low sum of two hundred dollars, which included the wages of a cow-puncher called in off the ranch to take the place of the departed carpenter.