

HOME GROUNDS

OSU
Collection

BEAUTIFICATION

CIR. 544



A 4-H CLUB MANUAL



HOME GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION

A 4-H Club Manual

by

J C GARRETT

Extension Landscape Specialist

Purpose of the project is to encourage boys and girls to:

1. Gain a knowledge of the attractive use of plant materials.
2. Develop a feeling of pride and joy in the home by making the surroundings more attractive.
3. Appreciate the landscape beauty of the open country, parks, and other surroundings.
4. Develop happy family relationship through working with the other members of the family in beautifying the home grounds.

Project Requirements:

1. Enroll in "Home Grounds Beautification."
2. Make a map of the home grounds at beginning of the project. (Scale 1"-10' or 1"-20')
3. Plan showing (a) Improvement of grounds that have been made. (b) Improvement of grounds to be made for usefulness and attractiveness. Work done each year may be a different color on one plan. Scale same as for the map in number 2.
4. Story (about 500 words) giving experiences in Home Grounds Beautification and benefits derived. Good photographs should be used to help tell the story.
5. Complete the general 4-H record on standard report form.

NOTE: Home Grounds Beautification projects can be enrolled in repeatedly year after year because improvements are made over a period of several years.

Some suggestions for discussion and demonstrations:

1. Steps in making a landscape plan.
2. Foundation planting arrangement.
3. Planning the outdoor living room.
4. Use of special yard features (outdoor fireplace, lawn furniture, etc.).

Group activity and project suggestions:

1. School grounds improvement.
2. Church grounds improvement.
3. Landscape observation trips to parks and native plant areas.

Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge the helpful suggestions from Robert P. Ealy, Professor of Landscape Design, Department of Horticulture, in the preparation of this circular.

The Home Grounds

The home is more than just a place to eat and sleep. Good planning can provide surroundings which are attractive, comfortable and useful.

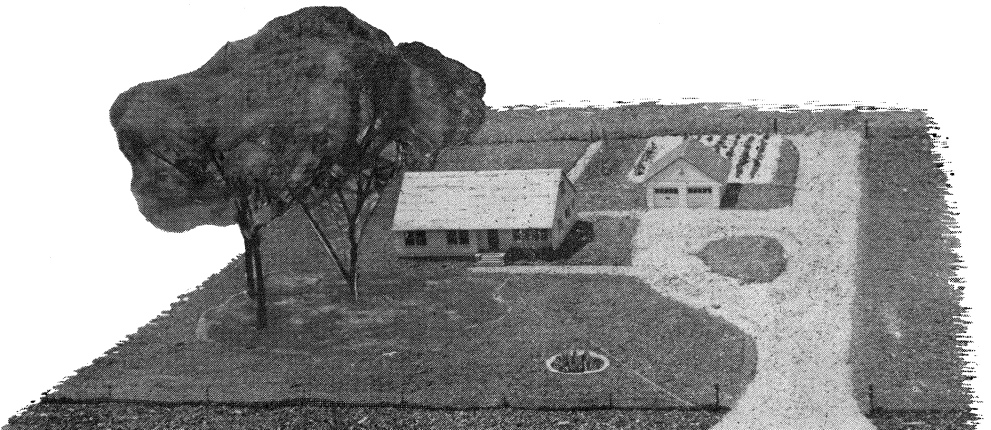
For every person who sees the inside of a home, several hundred persons might see the outside and surroundings. The appearance of the home grounds reflects the personalities and ways of life of those who live in the house.

The study of nature and the work done by others can help greatly in making landscape improvements. The person who is a close observer can gain much by merely seeing his surroundings. It has been said that a wise man sees more by a mere visit to a brook than a fool sees on a trip around the world.

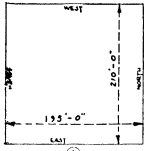
After studying bulletins, magazine articles, books, and other materials, one should ask himself some of the following questions about his home grounds surroundings:

1. Are walks and drives located in the most useful, attractive locations?
2. Is there a need for a general clean-up of front and back yard and surroundings? Is the trash and garbage disposal area hidden from full view?
3. Are there too many trees or are additional trees needed for shade, background or enframement?
4. Is there a good open expanse of lawn, free from scattered shrubs or flower beds?
5. Are foundation plantings too large; too close to the house; in need of thinning out; and correctly located for the house type?
6. Are existing fences and gates in good condition?
7. Is there a need for screen or border plantings?
8. Are shrub, flower beds, and other plantings located for attractiveness and ease of care? Are plant beds neatly edged?

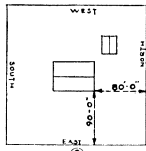
Fig. 1.—A “before picture” showing existing conditions of a home grounds area. Make several photographs at the beginning of the project showing full views and close-up views from different angles. Before starting an improvement plan, make a plot or map of existing conditions as shown in Figure 2.



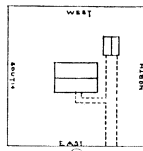
SUGGESTED PLOTTING STEPS TO FOLLOW



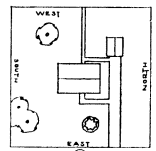
• MEASURE PLOT



LOCATE HOUSE AND OTHER STRUCTURES



SHOW WALKS, DRIVES, ETC.



INCLUDE TREES AND OTHER PLANTINGS.

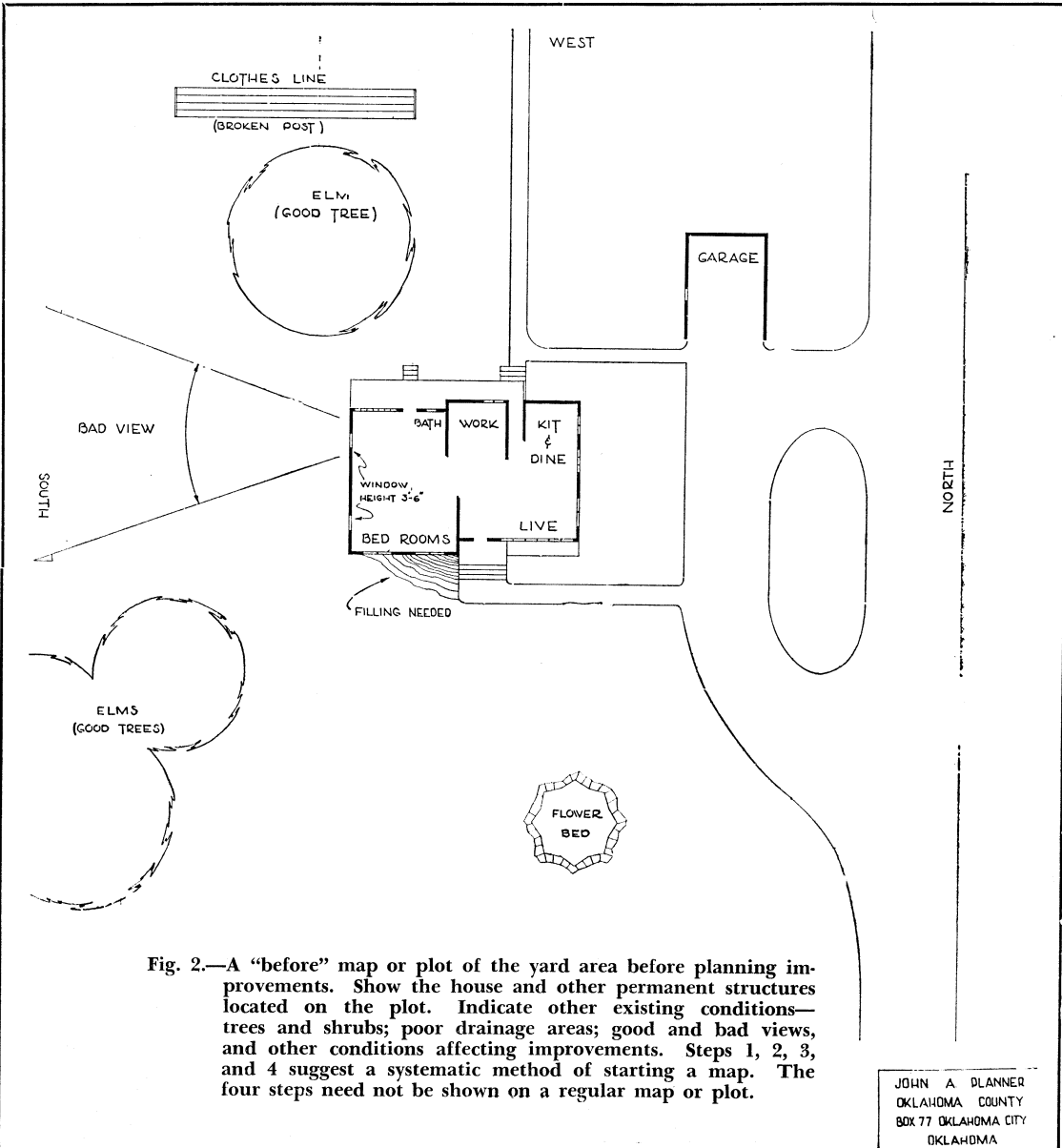


Fig. 2.—A “before” map or plot of the yard area before planning improvements. Show the house and other permanent structures located on the plot. Indicate other existing conditions—trees and shrubs; poor drainage areas; good and bad views, and other conditions affecting improvements. Steps 1, 2, 3, and 4 suggest a systematic method of starting a map. The four steps need not be shown on a regular map or plot.

JOHN A. PLANNER
OKLAHOMA COUNTY
BOX 77 OKLAHOMA CITY
OKLAHOMA

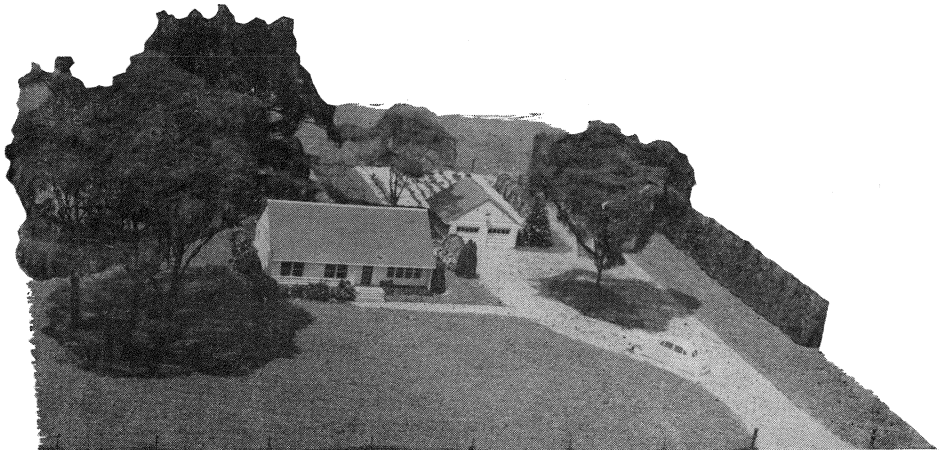
9. Does the family need some special areas such as outdoor living room, outdoor fireplace, or other features for better home living?

Make a map showing the existing conditions at the beginning of the project. Use a definite scale so that everything will be correctly located and spaced on the plan. Graph, or cross section paper, having 10 or 20 squares to an inch, makes the mapping job easier and more accurate. The following suggestions should help in developing a map of a home grounds area:

1. Step or measure distances with a tape measure.
2. Measure the length and width of the entire area to be mapped and decide on the scale (1"—10', 1"—20' etc.) to be used.
3. Draw the yard according to its shape and show its boundaries.
4. Locate house as a box within the general area. Use one corner of the house as a starting point, then draw in the rest of the wall lines from that point. Show all doors, windows, basement windows, porches, and similar structures. Also show the height from the ground to the bottom of the windows, porch height, and other similar elevations.
5. Locate all other buildings or structures on the plan.
6. Show the location of trees, shrubs, flower beds, or other features on the plan.
7. Show, with lines or arrows, the location or direction of good and bad views from the house.
8. Show drive entrances, drives, and other such features.
9. Make notes of possible improvements while the map is being made.
10. Show on the map (a) Name, Address and County (b) Scale used (c) Directions or north point (d) Include a list of plants on hand.

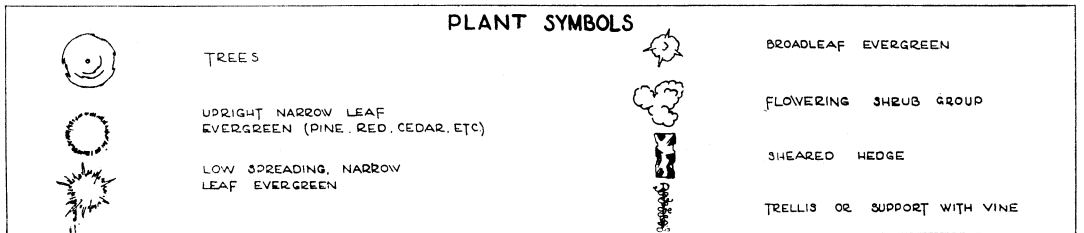
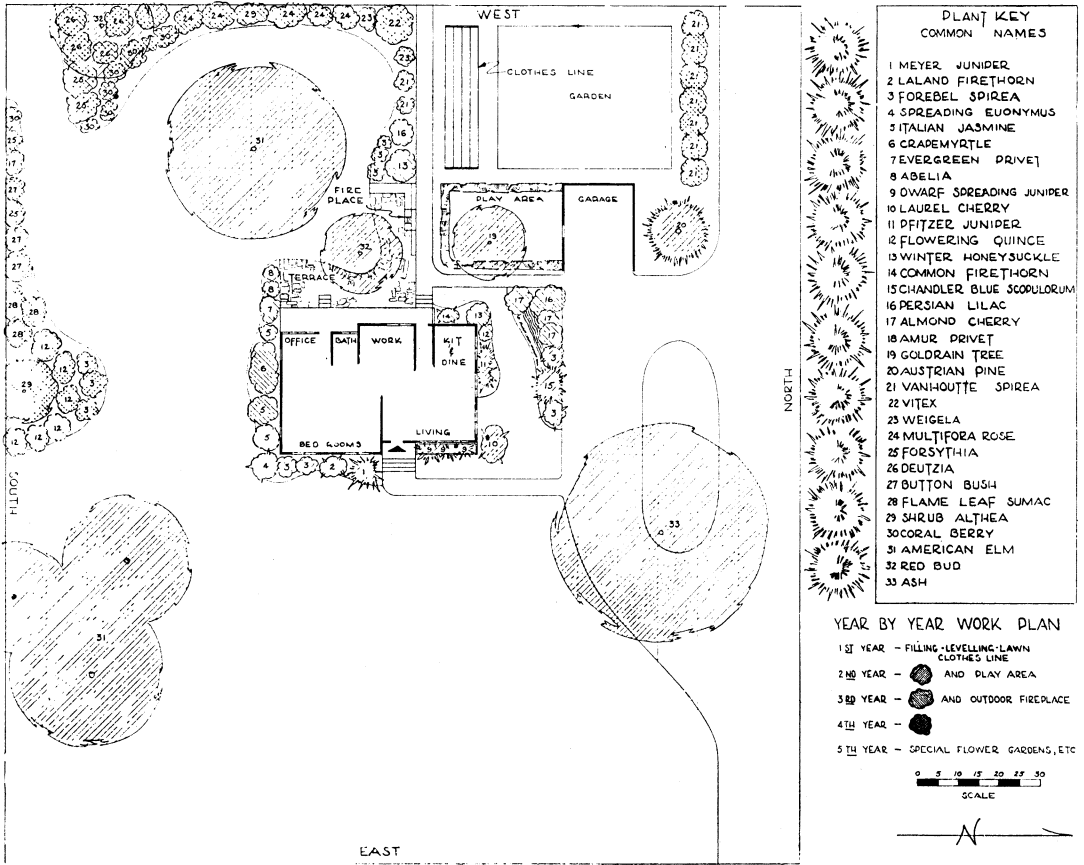
Fig. 3.—An “after picture” showing effective landscape plantings.

Follow a plan for successful results. Improvements can be made step by step over a period of several years as shown on the plan in Figure 4. Make additional pictures as the work progresses.



Make a landscape improvement plan, even though its completion on the grounds might require several years. Make the plan the same scale as the map of existing conditions. Instead of making several

Fig. 4.—An “after” plan showing landscape improvements to be made over a period of several years. Study the plan carefully and note the various details such as plant list, plant groupings, tree locations and other features. Each year’s work may be shown in different colors. Plant symbols are not necessary on every plan, but are shown here as a guide for drawing the various plant types.



plans, each year's accomplishments can be shown in different colors. Include a list of adapted plants to be used.

Photographs should be taken at the beginning of the project. Take several pictures from different views and mark the camera locations on the landscape plans so future progress pictures can be taken from the same locations. Make an effort to get good, clear pictures which tell a story. Include a few full views of the house and surroundings from different angles as well as some close-up views of corner plantings, entrance views and other improvement views.

The Story of Home Grounds Beautification should describe the condition of the surroundings at the beginning of the project. Describe some of the most important changes or additions needed; filling and levelling of the yard; soil improvement; family cooperation; amount of lawn started and cared for; number of trees, shrubs, and vines planted or transplanted. Give the source of plants whether from nursery, native plants, cuttings. Discuss the use areas developed and used such as outdoor living room, fireplace, trash disposal area. Include methods of pest control, cultivation and any other information which would make the story more complete.

Records should be kept of home grounds improvement activities by the day, week, and month. Do not wait until the end of the year's work and expect to remember all the details of accomplishments.

Terms commonly used in Home Grounds Beautification:

Border plantings—Plantings of trees, shrubs, or flowers which not only show the boundary area, but may also serve as screens or backgrounds.

Screen planting—Plants grouped to hide an unsightly view, or provide privacy.

Foundation planting—Plants located around the foundation of the house.

Accent planting—A plant or group of plants that, because of color, texture, or shape, point out a certain feature, part of a house, or area.

Focal point—A view which stands out as the center of attraction. May be a flower border, special tree or group of shrubs, bird bath, or similar feature.

Special features—Special ornaments such as bird baths, pools or bench.

Scale—The proportionate unit of measure used on a drawing to represent a given unit of measure on the ground, such as: 1 inch on paper stands for 10 feet on the ground.

Public Area—Front part of home grounds most commonly seen by the public.

Service Area—Home grounds area which includes such used features as clothes line, trash disposal, and others.

Private Area—Home grounds area for private activities, often called the outdoor living room.

Balled and Burlapped plants—Plants transplanted with a solid ball of earth on the roots and covered with tightly pinned burlap.

Bare rooted plants—Plants transplanted without a ball of soil on the roots.

Deciduous plants—Trees, shrubs, and vines which shed all their leaves in the fall and winter.

Perennials—Plants that send up new top growth from the roots year after year, such as Shasta Daisies.

Biennial—Plants which have the seeds planted one year and flowers the next year. The Hollyhock is an example.

Annual—Plants which must grow from seed to maturity each year. Zinnias and Petunias are examples.

- Hedge*—Plants spaced close together and sheared to a definite shape.
- Facer plants*—Low growing plants used in front of taller plants.
- Background plantings*—Plantings which show the stopping point for a view. May be trees, shrubs, or vines on a support.
- Edging*—A definite line which divides the lawn from shrub or flower beds.
- Narrow leaved evergreen*—Evergreens having needle like leaves such as the Pine or Juniper.
- Broadleaved evergreen*—Evergreen plants such as the Magnolia, and Nandina, which hold their leaves the year round.
- Mulching*—A layer of material such as compost, peat moss, or old hay, on the soil for protection against loss of moisture, and freeze damage.
- Botanical name*—A standardized method of using one standard genus and specie name instead of many locally common names for plants.
- Native plant*—A plant which is a natural part of a certain geographical area.

For more information on planning, use of plants, plant lists and other materials, read Extension Circular E-556, "Landscaping Home Grounds," and other circulars, bulletins, books and special articles. The following book list represents only a few of the available books for reference study:

- COMPLETE HOME LANDSCAPING & GARDEN GUIDE—Korbobo**
LANDSCAPING THE HOME GROUNDS—L. W. Ramsey
HOW TO LANDSCAPE YOUR GROUNDS—Johnson
GARDEN PLANNING AND BUILDING—Ortloff & Raymore
NEW DESIGNS OF SMALL PROPERTIES—Bottomley
PLANTING DESIGN—Robinson
GARDENS IN COLOR—Pratt
THE GARDEN IN COLOR—Wilder
THE HOME BOOK OF TREES & SHRUBS—Levison
BOOK OF TREES—Hottes
BOOK OF SHRUBS—Hottes
BOOK OF PERENNIALS—Hottes
FOREST TREES OF OKLAHOMA—Oklahoma Division of Forestry

Reports for 4-H Home Grounds Beautification are judged by the following Score Card:

GENERAL SCORE CARD		SCORE
1.	Map of grounds at beginning of the project	10
2.	Plans showing (a) improvement of grounds that have been made, and (b) improvement of grounds that will be made for convenience and attractiveness (considering good landscape design)	30
3.	Results of work—general appearance as shown by "before and after" photographs or drawings	30
4.	General 4-H record on standard report form (minus "VII—Narrative Report") should include clear photograph of participant, preferably with project or demonstration	20
5.	Story (about 500 words) giving experiences of participant in home grounds beautification and the benefits derived	10
Total		100

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College and United States Department of Agriculture, Cooperating. Shawnee Brown, Director, Oklahoma Agricultural Extension Service, Stillwater, Oklahoma. Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914.