

Selected trees planted in groups, or as single shade trees, or as an avenue, will often serve a useful purpose in addition to supplying a crop of nuts. They should be planted in good well-drained alluvial land in a district with a comparatively low rainfall.

#### The Homestead Garden.

The planting-season provides the necessary opportunity for planting up shelter-belts and shrubberies in the new garden. Distances between shrubs and trees are usually 3 ft. to 6 ft. or 10 ft., according to the adult size of the subject or the purpose in view. On the windward side a shrubbery at maturity should present to the eye a comparatively close wall of foliage of various shades and shapes; inside are taller trees with an undergrowth of shade-loving shrubs and ferns; on the leeward margin the choicer shrubs and trees are placed, often in rather more open order, the more attractive features being set out in comparatively large groups. While the plants are small and of a similar size, planting should be done with the greatest care to obtain the best effect, for as the plants mature and reveal their character any defects in arrangement will be revealed. The art is best acquired by studying the native bush and public and private gardens and plantations in the vicinity, and noting the results of the various arrangements under the local conditions of soil and climate.

The established garden also usually receives great benefit from some consideration during the planting-season, for, as in the natural bush, there is no finality to the operations of sowing and reaping. With shade and shelter established, many climbers, ferns, palms, and shade-loving shrubs will find a congenial environment and grow away quickly with best results if planted now. And, as ripe pine and gum timber is removed for use, the vacant areas should be replanted where second growth is not expected. Not a garden has been planted but what improvement may now be made as a result of new experience which has been gained. In mild, moist western districts where rhododendron, azalea, camellia, hibiscus, hydrangea, palms, and tree-ferns flourish these should more usually provide the materials for some of the more outstanding features in the gardens. Most of the kinds of plants mentioned have a wide variety that provides for almost any effect which may be desired. In the drier atmosphere of eastern districts the rose, carnation, wattle, bignonia, bougainvillea, syringa, tamrix, magnolia, oleander, banksia, phoenix, and fan-palms are among those plants which readily make a good display under the conditions there: also most bulbs of African origin, and tubers and bulbs, such as irises, anemones, &c., from the Near East, if comparatively dry sites are chosen. The present season presents an opportunity of extending the more desirable features in garden-planting in the place of those less suitable.

In new gardens where the preparation of the land has not reached the planting-stage, the work should be continued when the land is sufficiently dry, with a view to sowing down lawns about the month of August and completing the planting of hard-wooded subjects by the end of September—especially in the drier localities.

—W. C. Hyde, *Horticulturist, Wellington.*

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Parasitic disease is responsible for considerable loss in young cattle. Many calves die or have their constitutions undermined by the action of internal parasites. In combating the trouble, the importance of the provision of extra nutritious feed in assisting the young animal to overcome the effects of the parasites cannot be overestimated. In this respect chaff, oats, and good hay will do far more good than drenching with worm medicine.—*Annual Report, Director, Live-stock Division.*