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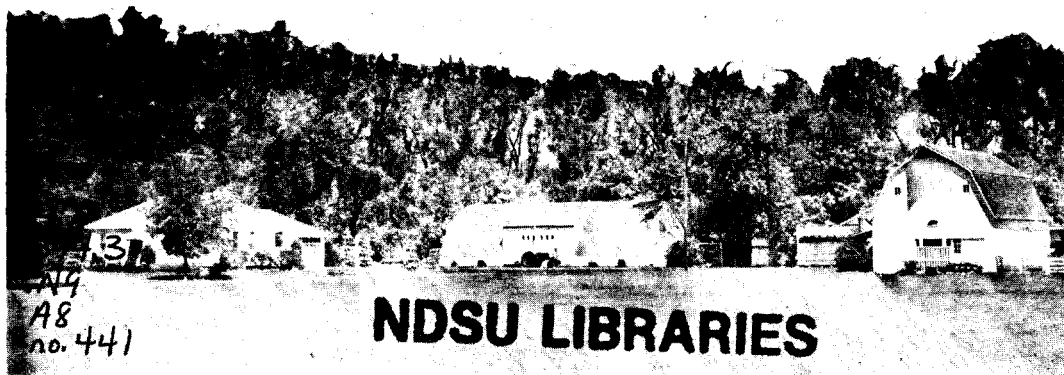
# More Attractive Farmsteads

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NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
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## A Few Simple, Basic Rules for Improving the appearance and Convenience of Farm Yards

### LANDSCAPING

Landscape your farm home plan to accomplish these two things: (1) Improve the appearance of your home and (2) make your home grounds more convenient and useful.

**Plan on paper** before you do any actual landscape work. You can see mistakes much easier when the plan is drawn out on paper. Changes can then be made before landscaping is begun.

**Clean up the yard, and keep it clean!** If you want your farmstead to be attractive, it must be clean and neat. A general clean-up of the place is the first job, before landscaping. Dispose of brush, stumps, rubbish, broken machinery and tumble down buildings. Fence the poultry away from the house area, if possible.

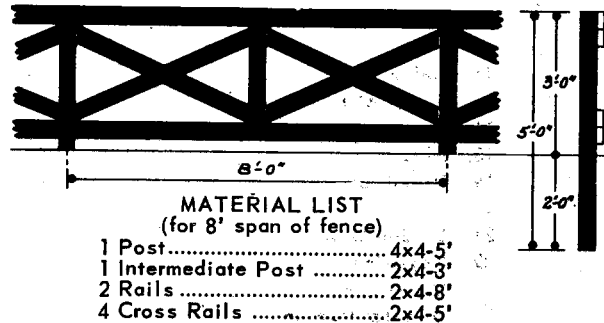
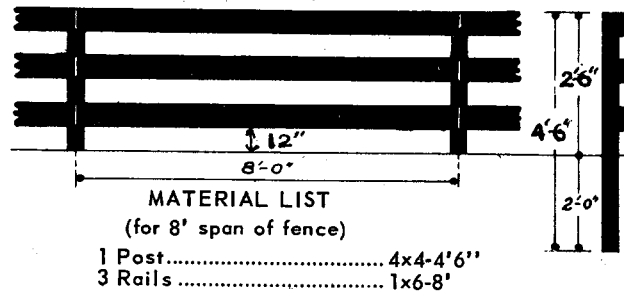
**Trash barrels aid neatness.** Establish trash barrels at convenient but inconspicuous locations about the yard. When possible these barrels should be just inside the door of the garage, barn, granary, shop or machine shed. An old 50 gallon oil barrel with one end removed is excellent for outdoor use. Punch several small holes in the bottom of these trash barrels to prevent moisture from collecting. Thirty gallon barrels are large enough for restricted areas indoors. Paint outdoor trash barrels to harmonize with their nearby outdoor surroundings.



**The driveway.** The driveway has a great influence on the impression visitors get of your farm. The driveway should go direct to the farm courtyard around which the farm buildings are grouped. Plan for parking space out of the line of general farm traffic, and within easy distance of the front door of the house. A walk from this parking lot to the front door will encourage visitors to come to the front door of your farm home.

**House yard should be set apart.** The house yard should be separated from the rest of the farm yard by a hedge or fence. Fences are preferred. Fences need not catch snow, are effective as soon as built and are easy to keep up. A rail type fence is suggested because it is cheaper than pickets, easier to paint and if properly built will not trap snow. Three rails give more privacy; two rails are enough to establish the margin of the yard.

2 Suggested Types of Fences



A small parking lot in the right location will encourage visitors to come to the front door. A lot 16 feet deep and 36 feet wide will hold four cars. This lot should be gravelled.





Foundation plantings are not primarily to hide the foundation. They also "tie" the house to the lawn and contribute to the "picture" effect. Tall shrubs at corners soften harsh vertical lines.

## Trees and Shrubs About the Yard and Foundation Should Give A Picture Effect

**Foundation plantings** are usually made up of (1) low and medium shrubs such as the spireas, hardy dogwoods and junipers, (2) perennial flowers, such as peonies, and (3) a wide variety of annual flowers such as petunias, salvia and alyssum.

Low growing shrubs are used beneath windows and taller shrubs should be used to soften the harsh vertical lines of the corners. Medium shrubs should be used to frame the doorway.

**Frame and background trees** must be placed properly for the right effect. Small spruce trees in too many cases have been planted directly in front of the house. When these fine trees reach maturity they blot out the front of the house completely.

Thought must be given at planting time to the size all trees will be at maturity. For additional information on landscaping pick up a copy of Extension Service circular A-388, "Landscape Your Home".

**Windbreak trees.** A farmstead windbreak is an essential part of any well planted North Dakota farmstead. The windbreak trees form a background for the entire farmstead, and protect it against wind and snow.

**The lawn** is the canvas upon which your landscape picture is painted. Four to 6 inches of good topsoil are necessary in order to have a good lawn. Level your lawn and provide it with drainage before you plant your flowers, shrubs and trees. Information on lawns is contained in Extension Service circular A-244, "Your Lawn". Circular A-294, "Lawn and Garden Fertilizers" will be helpful, also.

#### LARGE TREES FOR SHADE, BACKGROUND AND FRAMING

American elm, Green ash, Colorado spruce, Ponderosa pine and Black Hills spruce.

#### MEDIUM OR SMALL TREES FOR LIMITED SPACE

Russian olive, Ornamental crabapples (Dolgo, Hopa, Almey, Red Splendor, Cranberry).

#### TALL SHRUBS FOR BORDERS, INFORMAL HEDGES, SCREENS AND FOUNDATION PLANTINGS

Tartarian honeysuckle, Lilac (other than common), Hardy dogwoods, Elder, Buffaloberry, Highbush cranberry, Red cedar, Juneberry and Thornapple.

#### MEDIUM SHRUBS FOR BORDERS AND FOUNDATION PLANTINGS

Bridalwreath spirea, Snow Garland spirea, Cotoneaster, Flowering currant, Flowering plum, Ash-leaved spirea.

#### LOW SHRUBS FOR FOUNDATION PLANTINGS AND FACINGS

Froebel spirea, Japanese barberry, Dwarf ninebark and Alpine currant

#### SHRUBS FOR TRIMMED HEDGES

Russian olive, Cotoneaster and Honeysuckle.

#### SHRUBS FOR LOW TRIMMED HEDGES

Alpine currant, Japanese barberry, Dwarf ninebark and Pygmaea caragana.

#### WOODY VINES FOR FENCES, TRELLISES, ARBORS AND WALLS

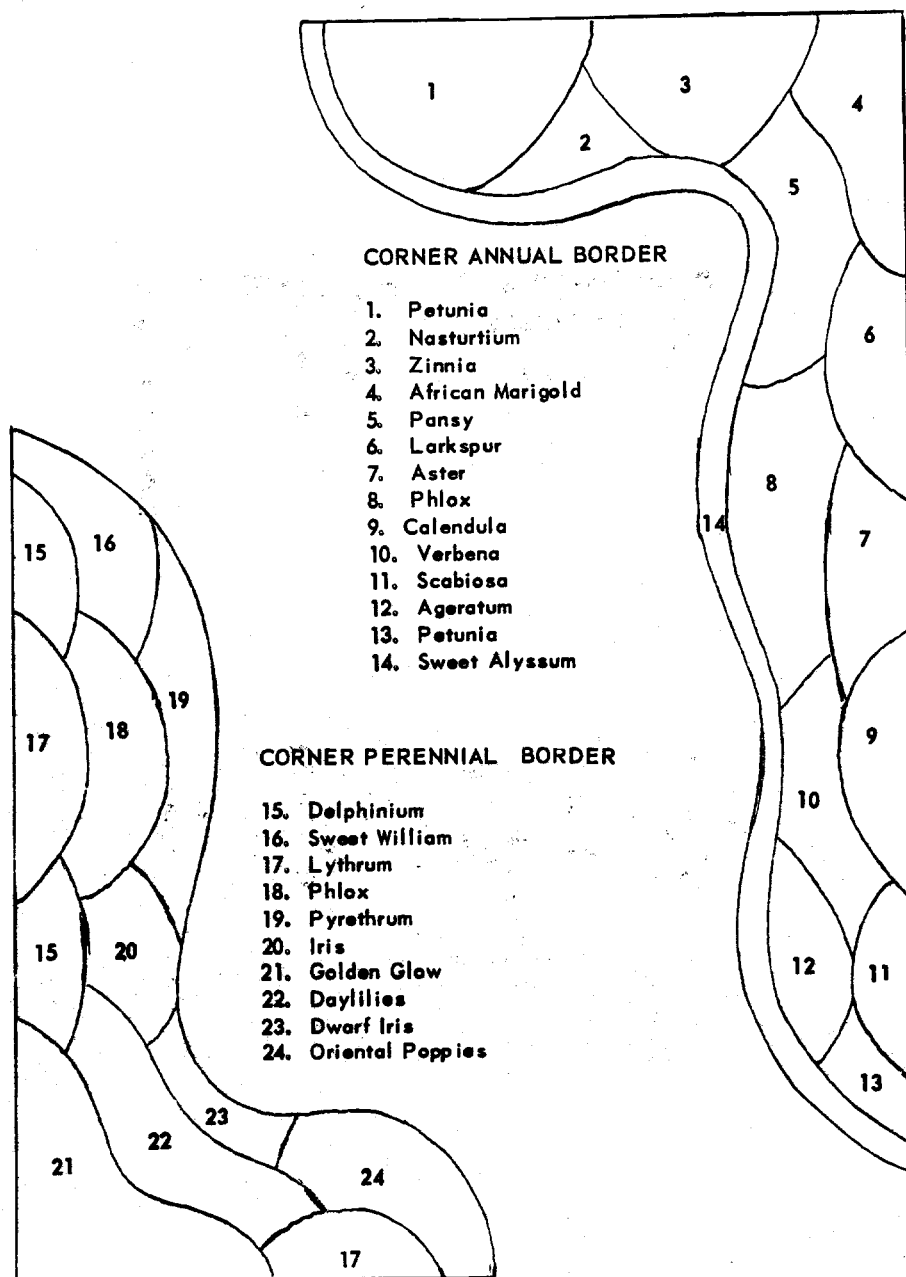
Engelman ivy, Virginia creeper, Grape (Native wild or Beta) and Clematis.

#### HERBACEOUS VINES FOR FENCES, TRELLISES, ARBORS AND WALLS

Morning Glory (Heavenly Blue and Pearly Gates), Wild cucumber, Scarlet Runner bean.

(For additional information on adapted plant material, secure a copy of Experiment Station Bulletin 399, "Woody Ornamentals".)

Circulars and bulletins mentioned in this publication are available from County Extension Agents or the NDSU Agricultural Information Department, Fargo.



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