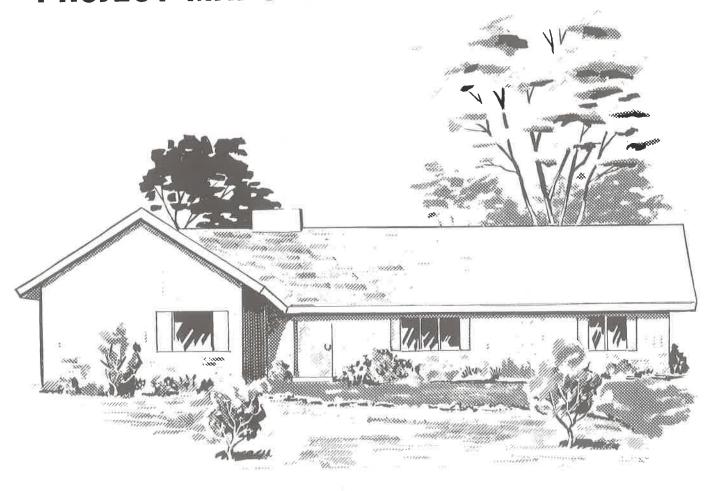
# 4-H HOME GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT MANUAL



Division of Agricultural Sciences UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

4-H-6015

# YOU'LL NEED THIS BASIC INFORMATION WHEN YOU START TO MAKE A LANDSCAPE PLAN

The landscape designer must have this information about the SITE, the BUILDINGS, and the FAMILY living on the land when he

starts work on a landscape project for home grounds beautification.

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				1.	Accurate location of all boundary lines on the property. (These are usually indicated by surveyor's iron pins driven into the ground at the
			_		corners of the property.)
					Location of adjacent and nearby streets, railroads, etc.
					Location of existing driveways, walks, etc.
					Location of existing vegetation (grass, shrubs, trees – their name, size, and condition).
				5.	Location of the north point (Orientation).
				6.	A topographic map showing by contours the lay of the land. If the plot is fairly level, this detailed information may not be necessary. A note
				7	relative to high and low spots, natural drainage, etc. may suffice.
					Location of underground lines (sewer, water, gas, others.)
					Location of above ground lines (electric, telephone, others.)
			-	7.	Views to and from the site, both desirable and undesirable.
В.	THE	RESIDE	ICE A	AND	RELATED BUILDINGS
				1.	Accurate location on the site.
					Accurate floor plan of building drawn to scale showing room arrangement, windows, doors, etc.
				3.	Elevation sketches or photos of all four sides of the house (especially the front elevation).
				4.	Height of first floor level above ground and heights of porches, doors, and windows.
				5.	Type of building material (brick, stone, wood, concrete, etc.).
					Color of building material.
<b>.</b>	THE	FAMILY			*
					Number, sex, and ages of members of the family.
			Annual Control		Their hobbies and special interests.
					Do they entertain a lot and if so, what type of groups?
				4.	Do they want to have a vegetable garden, small fruits, fruit trees, a cut flower garden, a rock garden, a rock garden, an outdoor fireplace, or a formal as informal the second in the decimal
				5	formal or informal theme followed in the design?
					Have they any special likes or dislikes relative to planning, plant materials or accessories?

# INTRODUCTION

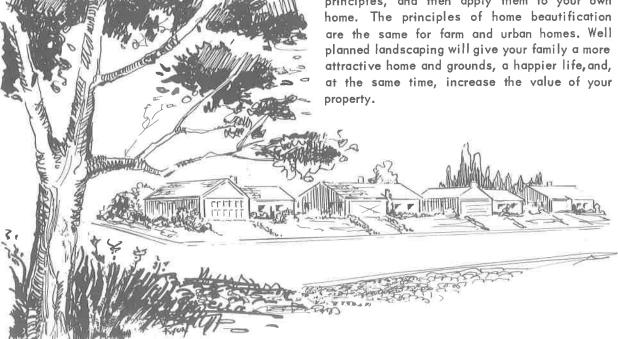


You can use trees, shrubs, and effectively placed walks and fences to make a beautiful and effective setting for your home. Books on landscaping and home beautification often assume that the area and home to be landscaped and beautified are bare. However, the area is usually overgrown because of a lack of planning in the

Before you start to beautify your home, drive or walk through a subdivision area just being built. You will see how many of the homes look alike. Then go to an older residential area and look at the homes. Note which homes have taken on an individuality. Ask yourself, "What makes some homes appealing while others, with similar architectural lines, are cold and uninviting?"

First, you may decide that some houses have no trees or shrubs around them. Then, you may see a house so overplanted that it looks as if it were in a jungle. Find a house that is especially attractive. What makes that particular house appealing to you? Is it well painted? Are the fences neat and well kept? Is the lawn free of weeds? Are the shrubs pruned rather than roughly sheared? There are other questions you may ask yourself.

This bulletin will help you appreciate what makes a home well landscaped. Learn the principles, and then apply them to your own property.



# THE PLAN

Home beautification has two parts: first, the landscaping of a new home; second, the upkeep of plants, buildings, and grounds. Whether your situation consists of one or the other or a combination of the two, a detailed plan should be made. Keep your plan simple. Strive for unity between the house and its surroundings. Make them look as if they belong together. Your plan is your guide. If well made it will save you time, effort and money.

Page 2 lists the basic information you will need when starting the landscape plan. Even though some of this information might not seem to pertain to your particular problem, you should answer the questions before starting the plan. Pay particular attention to the questions listed under "The Family." Talk them over with all of your family so that when the landscaping is finished everyone will be satisfied.

STEP 1. Make a scale drawing of the house and grounds. The easiest way to do this is with small-scale drawing paper. The scale drawing will help you select plants in proportion to the house and grounds. An accurate scale drawing will keep you from planting a shrub which will

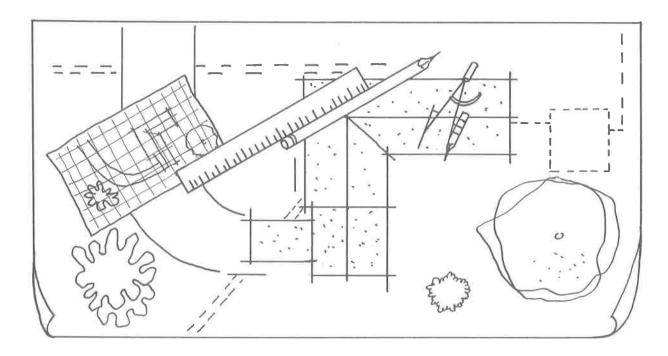
grow rapidly to a width of ten feet in an area which can only contain a shrub with a maximum growth of four feet.

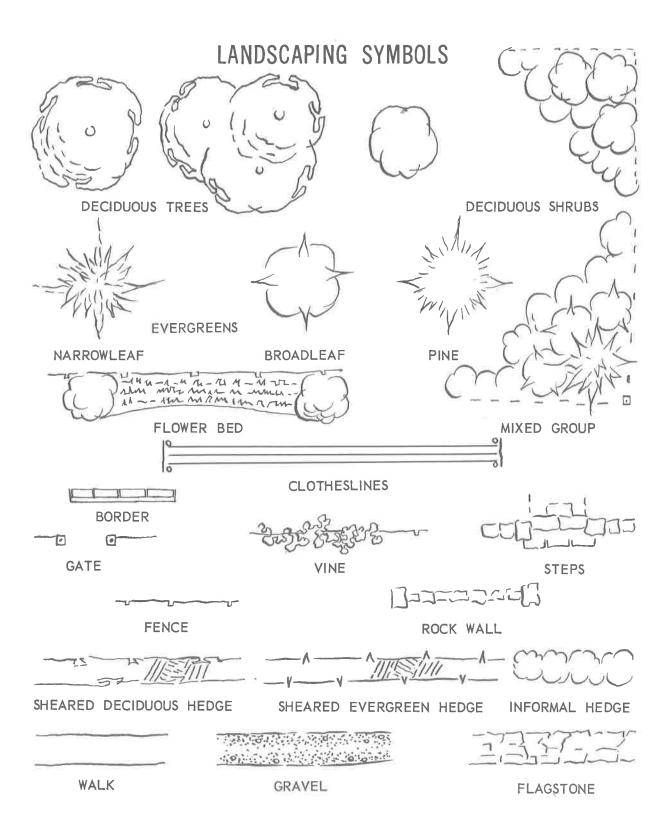
Pace off the area you want to landscape. Locate the north point, so that when you start selecting the plants for your plan, you won't select a sun loving plant for a shady north location. Then locate and draw in the following:

- 1. Buildings.
- 2. Drives, walks, fences and gates.
- 3. Trees, shrubs and other plants.
- 4. Locate and place on drawing, using dotted lines, sewer or septic tank lines, water lines, power and telephone lines.

**STEP 2.** Draw your plan again on a large piece of drawing paper (white butcher paper will do), transferring the dimensions from the scale paper, but using a larger scale (one inch equals ten feet). The larger scale is much easier to work with.

**STEP 3.** Locate new and planned construction. Before moving on to Step 4, let us study the three conventional areas—public, service, private.





#### THE PUBLIC AREA----



is that area from which the public gains its first impression of the home. Plantings should not detract from the house. The center of the public area is usually kept in open lawn, with trees and shrubs placed on either side to frame the view. A few wellplaced and well-chosen shrubs should be placed around the foundation of the house.

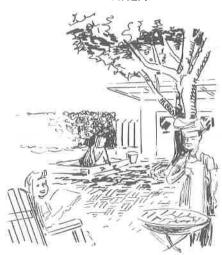
Many homes today have the garage close to the street. When the doors are left open, exposing a dirty floor and cluttered walls, a careful landscape plan is of little value.

#### THE SERVICE AREA



is also called the "service-access area." These facilities should be in the service area: laundry yard, trash receptacles, vegetable garden, compost box, butane tank, and kitchen door. Plan efficiently. Save steps in the service area.

#### THE PRIVATE AREA



is used outside as a living room is indoors — as a place to entertain guests and for leisure activities for all the family. Sometimes part of the private area is designated the outdoor living room. Special attention should be given to making this area private as well as attractive. The family activities which go on here are not for the public to see. It is important, therefore, to enclose this area by a dense shrub border, hedge, fence with vines, or a wall.

In California, the patio and outdoor barbecue are important parts of many outdoor living rooms.

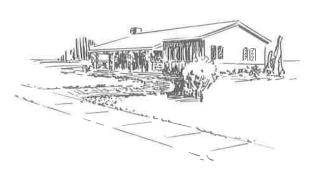
The play area is an important part of the private area. It should be located where the mother can watch over the children. With the reverse plan of living now popular in California, it may be difficult to locate the play area close to the kitchen. In this case, it may best be located near the outdoor living room.

LAWNS – Among the several bulletins and circulars listed on the back cover, is one on establishing and maintaining lawns. Study it and keep these points in mind.

- The lawn should slope away from the house.
- Someone has to mow the lawn. Unless time can easily be given to this chore, keep lawn areas small.
- 3. Keep the center of your lawn open. This

makes the lawn area appear larger. It also makes it easier for you to mow the lawn without having to dodge and duck around and under shrubs and trees in the lawn.

STEP 4. Locate drives and walks. All drives and walks should lead directly from one place to another. Do not put curves in a walk unless they are there for a purpose. Even in a back yard, the family will walk on the lawn if the walks curve and meander without reason.



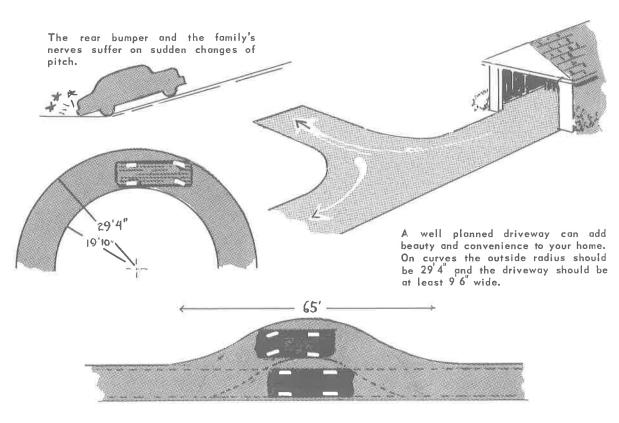
If you want a curved walk, place a shrub on the outside of the curve, as a reason for the curve. A college in the southwest placed no walks around the Student Union until the students made paths. When the concrete walks were placed, they were quite natural, and the gardener did not have to put up any "keep off the grass" signs.

The width of the walk depends on the amount of traffic it will carry. Designs and recommended dimensions for various walks are shown on page 11.

Drives are easy to design. However, there are rules to follow so that the driver can approach the street safely. Curves should be gentle so that the driver is not forced on the grass or over the boundaries. Recommended dimensions for curves and turnabouts on drives are illustrated below. If the house is located on a busy road or if the view is obstructed, provide a turnabout so that the driver will not have to back into the traffic lanes.

Parking areas should be located off the street when possible and close to the house. Plan them so that several cars can be parked and removed without moving the others. Plan them so that cars and machinery can be moved easily.

Locate fences and walls so that they serve some purpose — to keep out stock, for screening, or for protection from views or wind. In locating fences and walls, be sure they blend with the house and surroundings. Gates should be easily accessible. Consider carefully the location of gates to save steps.



## LANDSCAPE DESIGN

The preceding steps have been concerned with the mapping of the grounds and the location of the permanent structures. In the next

phase, the type of landscaping desired is considered. There are two types of landscaping—formal and informal.

FORMAL LANDSCAPE



Formal landscape design is popular abroad. It has not been in vogue in the United States for many years, although good examples of formal planning can be seen in many parks in the larger cities. Formal landscape design is based on geometric designs and straight lines. This type of landscape is aften used with two-story houses, buildings with steeply pitched roofs or with homes built in European styles of architecture.

The plants in a formal plan are usually sheared into geometric shapes (balls, cubes, triangles). In some of the famous Old World formal gardens, plants have been trimmed to look like birds and animals.

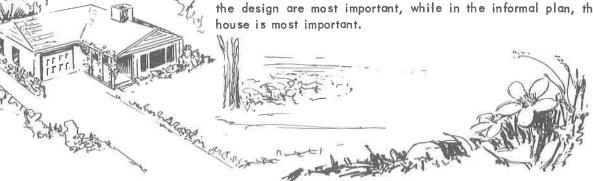
INFORMAL LANDSCAPE.

THE MANUFACTURES

The popularity of this type of landscape depends on several factors—naturalness, curving lines, free-growing shrubs and trees, ease of care as compared to the formal scheme, and adaptability to the casual living enjoyed in California. Informal landscape enables the homeowner to make good use of many plants native to California.

Many informal landscape plans lose their effectiveness because the homemaker has not drawn up a plan or has selected trees and shrubs without considering the maximum growth. Lack of planning leads to two common mistakes: (1) the house that seems to be growing from a bramble patch and (2) the house with a harum-scarum look. It also leads to a mixture of formal and informal landscaping which is not pleasing when plants have to be sheared to keep them within the size intended.

The lawn in an informal plan is open in the center. The formal plan usually has a bird bath, a statue, or sheared tree in the center. Such an object serves as the focal point for the rest of the plan. In other words, in the formal plan, the statuary and the design are most important, while in the informal plan, the house is most important.



## SELECTING THE PLANTINGS

The Planting Key—As you select your plants, place them on your plan, using the symbols shown on page 5. After you select all of the plants, assign each plant of a variety a number. Then on one side of your plan write PLANTING KEY. Under this put in numerical order the number selected, the plant that the number represents, and the number of plants required for the planting.

TREES are permanent and require more thought than any other of the plant material before planting. Trees are used for framing views, for shade, background, and display. Select trees according to size, form or shape, foliage in spring, summer and fall, flowers, fruit or cleanness.

REFER TO YOUR PLAN WITH THESE POINTS IN MIND BEFORE PLANTING TREES:

- 1. Do not plant over septic tank lines or sewer facilities.
- 2. Do not plant over gas or water lines which may need servicing later.
- Do not plant extremely large-growing trees under telephone or power lines, since, as the tree grows, considerable pruning will have to be done to keep the branches from interfering with the overhead wires. Such pruning results in a poorly shaped, unsightly looking tree.
- 4. Do not plant trees in straight lines. Have them appear to be growing as naturally as possible.

SOME DO'S If one of your trees is slow growing, plant a fast growing tree close to it. Plan to remove the fast growing tree when the slower growing tree is high enough.

If you live in a suburban area talk to your neighbors about your tree planting plans. Trees planted in groups on the back of a lot with some of them in your neighbor's yard, the rest in yours, may be more effective forboth homes than two separate plantings.

FOUNDATION PLANTINGS are shrubs planted at the foundation of your house and along walls and fences. They accent corners, flower beds, doorways, and windows. Select your plants carefully in order that you do not get large growing shrubs in front of windows or close to walks. In either situation, much cutting back will have to be done to keep them within their bounds, and the plant will lose its natural beauty.

#### OTHER STEPS TO FOLLOW:

- Plant shrubs at least one half their mature spread from the house. Many good shrubs have been ruined by planting them too close to buildings. When it came time to repaint, the shrubs were severely cut and trampled.
- Use both deciduous and evergreen shrubs to avoid monotony in your plantings and give color during the winter.
- Avoid plant collections. Do not plant several plants of similar color, size, and foliage in a mass.
- 4. Allow the lawn to meet the house occasionally.
- 5. Plant shrubs, where possible, in groups rather than singly.

SCREENING PLANTS are planted to block out undesirable views, for wind protection, or to separate areas of different use. They can be border masses with different plants planted in rows or varying levels, with the highest plants in back and the lowest in front. They can be made with natural growing or sheared hedges. Screens can be made using vine-covered walls, fences or lattices. Avoid straight lines when possible. Strive to have the screens growing in gentle curves.

ACCENT PLANTS are planted to emphasize a point of interest in the yard or a pleasing view.



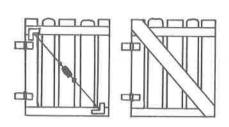


Maintaining plants is as important as careful planting. Plants, fences, and walks which are not maintained can soon become unsightly. Prune plants every year to avoid having them become leggy. Remove some of the older branches so newer branches can continue to grow at the base of the plant. Prune hedges so that they are slightly narrower at the top to prevent them opening at the base. This lets sunlight penetrate the bottom of the plant, and encourages more vigorous growth.

Watch the plants carefully for signs of insects and diseases. Control them as soon as they are noted. Watch the plantings carefully for signs of excess water or drought.

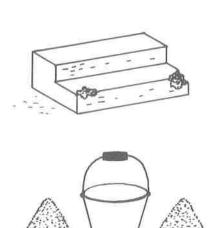
Remove plants that have outgrown their usefulness. Say "No" to your neighbors when they want to give you cuttings, seedlings, and plants which they are removing from their landscaping scheme. If your neighbor's gifts do not fit your plan you do not want them.

# CLEANUP AND REPAIR



GATES: If a gate has started to sag, take it down and tighten it. Add replacement boards where they are needed and reset all nails. Use a wire and turnbuckle to brace most gates. If you use wire, be sure the ends are fastened with metal plates.

Notice that a brace starts at the top on the hinge side and connects to the low swinging side. This brace will help keep your gate from coming apart. A half-inch clearance in your gate will keep it from sticking in the rainy season. Paints and oil stains will also help preserve your gate.



STEPS: Repair concrete steps that are chipped or broken. First, clean the area to be repaired. Do not try to smooth the area as new mortar will stick better to a rough surface. When you have the area clean, mix a mortar of sand and cement. Use one part of sand to one part of cement. Do not use too much water. This mortar has to be very dry. Test it by squeezing some of it in your hand. It should form a ball but you should not be able to squeeze any water out of it.

You can plaster this kind of mixture in place with a trowel. After the patch has dried, go a step further. Mix a slurry mixture of plain cement and water to the thickness of cream. Then paint the steps with this mixture. This is a good way to smooth rough areas and cover cracks.

Always check around for other repair jobs before you start on new construction.

#### CONSTRUCTION

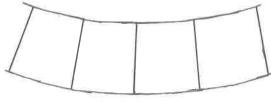
WALKS: There are several ways to build walks. The amount of use determines the construction to use.

Solid walks are most practical for heavy use. For solid walks you will have to build forms, and use solid boards and stakes to prevent the forms from bulging. Two by four material is expensive, but does an excellent job. If you use redwood, you may leave the boards in the finished walk to act as expansion joints. These help to block off small areas so that pouring and finishing will be easier.

Gravel walks made by spreading gravel between forms or borders are attractive but require continual maintenance.

The informal and charming stepping stone walk is very easy to make. Be sure the stones are in harmony with the rest of the yard.

There are several ways to make stepping stone walks. Choose the way that is easiest and best for your yard. No matter which method you use, plan the walk first. Determine the size and number of stones you will need. Cut patterns of paper or cardboard and try them where you think you want stones. Move them around until you are satisfied. This will save many a headache from trying to move the walk later.

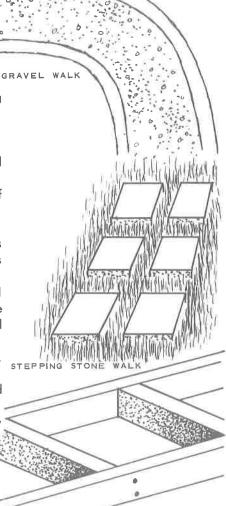


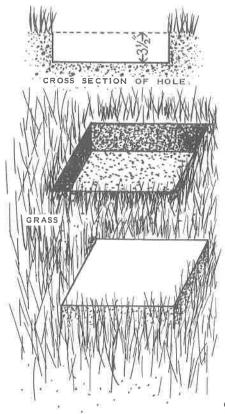
SOLID WALK

Here Is an Easy Form You Can Build For Casting Stepping Stones. You will need 2 by 4 material, a saw, hammer, square, and some nails. Follow these directions:

- 1. Use paper patterns to determine what you want.
- 2. Cut the short pieces of 2 by 4 the length the finished block is to be. Make sure the blocks will be square. Use two lengths to measure the spacing for the rest of the short pieces.
- 3. Place the form in dirt before filling with concrete. Seal all leaks with dirt on the inside. Sprinkle the areas under the form before pouring the blocks. This keeps them from drying too fast and makes them stronger.
- 4. After the concrete is in the form, work it with a trowel to get out all the bubbles. Use an edging trowel all the way around the edge to make the corners strong and
- 5. Sprinkle the stones a few hours after they are poured. This will make them stronger.
- 6. After the stones are dry, remove them from the form and use it to make another batch.

After you have made your stones (or perhaps you may buy them) you will set them into the ground on a flat surface.





You Can Save Yourself the Trouble of Placing the Stones by Using the Direct Method of Making a Stepping Stone Walk.

- Determine the size and number of stones you want. Use
  the paper pattern method described earlier. If stones are
  to be placed on a flat, well-turfed lawn, cut excavations
  directly in the lawn. Don't try this method if you want
  stones over 15 inches wide. To make larger stones, you
  will need to make the form described on page 11.
- 2. Cut holes in the ground where the stones will go. Use a square spade. Make clean cuts and square the sides and bottom. Make the holes 2½ to 3½ inches deep.

If the soil is sandy, line the hole with waterproof paper.

- 3. Mix the mortar. A wheelbarrow makes a good mixer. Three or four parts sand to one part cement makes a good mix. Do not mix too much at one time. Mix the sand and cement dry first, then add water slowly. Do not get the mortar too wet. Sand works better without gravel and is easier to finish.
- 4. Trowel the stones smooth. Use an edging trowel to make firm corners. To get a smoother, tougher finish on the blocks, sprinkle a little dry cement and use your trowel to draw the moisture up to the surface. You can add coloring the same way. This will save mixing a separate batch of colored concrete.

This direct method is a real advantage in making borders around your lawn. It will allow you more freedom in putting graceful curves in your landscape design.

BORDERS: Borders help keep your lawn where it belongs. They help keep water where you want it. They also provide a solid foundation for one wheel of the lawn mower that is level with the lawn.

Lay out your border design by using paper, a hose, or boards where you think the border will look best. Use hose to design graceful curves to blend with the rest of the yard. Try to avoid straight lines.

If you want a planter area around the lawn, make your border 8 inches wide. This allows for a row of bricks on the back edge as shown in the cross-section.

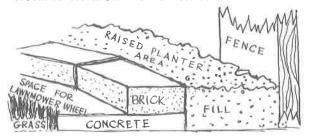
Here are the steps to follow in making the border:

- 1. Lay out a hose to plan the design.
- 2. Cut an 8-inch trench by following the hose. Use a square spade.
- 3. Mix a mortar of 3 or 4 parts of sand to to one part of cement.
- 4. Start at one end and fill the trench about 6 to 10 feet at a time. Trowel the

border as you go. Use edging trowel. Place bricks on the concrete before it hardens. Don't rush the job.

Notice that the bricks are laid flat. If you want a higher border, use two rows of bricks.

Notice that there is enough room for the wheel of the lawn mower. The bricks allow you to fill and raise the planter area. This gives the planter a more effective setting. These bricks can be placed in the border before the concrete sets. This will eliminate extra mortar under the bricks. Mortar between bricks can be put in after the bricks are set. Use an ordinary household broom to clean off excess mortar.



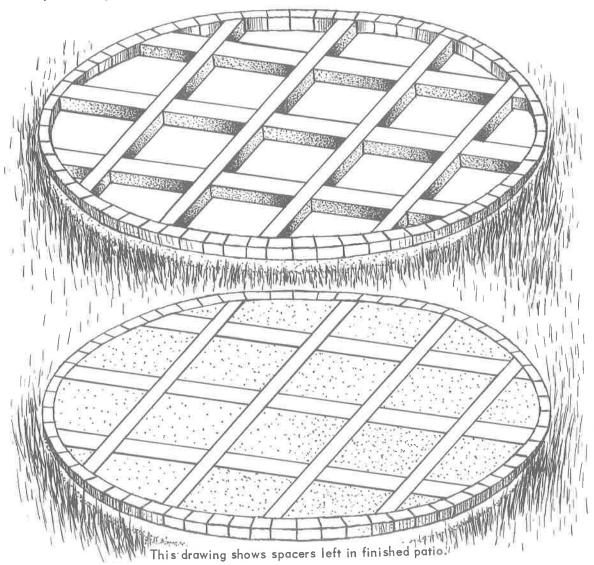
PATIOS: Do not try to pour large patios in one piece. Use redwood 2 by 4 spacers throughout the forms, and mix less concrete at a time. This also makes your finishing job easier.

Slope the patio one inch for each ten feet. Use long 2 by 4's (the full length of the slope) and run them in the direction of the slope. They should not be over four feet apart. Use shorter 2 by 4's to block off small squares. Remember these spacers will be left in the finished patio. They will keep your patio from cracking, and make the patio design more interesting.

This drawing shows spacers left in a finished patio.

Do not hesitate to use curves in your patio if you can handle them. If you want to keep from curving boards, use the direct border method and bricks to make the outside edge of the patio form. Make sure the border and bricks are set hard before you start building the spacers.

Here is a patio using bricks to form the outside curve, showing the spacers before concrete has been poured.

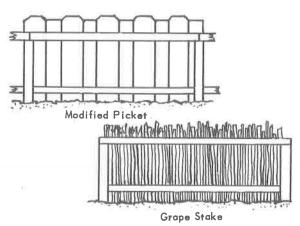


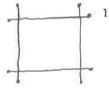
DRIVEWAY: It is usually best to let professionals pour a concrete driveway. You might make and brace the forms and then let a contractor pour and finish the driveway. You could

even make a gravel driveway by making borders and spreading gravel. Before you plan a driveway, check your plan for safety and efficiency. FENCES: Many different fences are popular in California. When selecting one for your yard, remember the reasons for the fence, then follow these suggestions:

- Redwood is popular because of its weather-resistance and beauty.
- 2. Solid fences usually last longer than basket weaves.
- 3. Horizontal lines make yards and low ranch-type homes seem larger.
- 4. An uneven top line helps blend a fence with the surroundings.
- Wind tends to go over solid fences and diffuses through louvers and weaves.
- 6. All fences should harmonize with the over-all design of the yard.

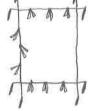
Many lumber companies sell fence material that is pre-cut to size. Compare prices before buying.





1. Lay out fence with chalk line.

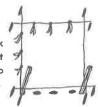
 Measure distances along chalk line for post holes. Tie rag where holes are to ap.



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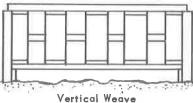
Dig holes.

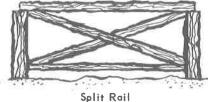
 Set corner posts using chalk line and spirit level to get correct depth. Use level to set in true vertical position.

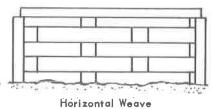


- 5. Set rest of posts to line up with corner posts.
- Nail top and bottom rails all the way along the fence before starting to add other design boards.









OUTDOOR FURNITURE: Redwood is popular for outdoor furniture. It is attractive, easy to work with, and durable.

Plan your furniture according to the use it will get — for example, a chaise longue for relaxing, a picnic table for outdoor meals. A portable barbecue is generally more useful than a permanent pit. However, a permanent pit adds charm to a patio and can be very useful if well located.

Weather can damage your outdoor furniture

and also be uncomfortable to you. Keep in mind the prevailing winds and the sun when planning artificial shade and screening fences.

The following drawings may suggest some methods of constructing outdoor furniture. Many good magazines and books are available for varied plans. Ask your local lumber company for individual plans. Many of them are free. Look at several plans before you decide on any one kind of furniture. Then use the same type for most or all of your outdoor furniture.

TABLES: With this table top you can use most any type of leg. You can buy wrought iron legs, or you can make your own. Crisscross legs are attractive but you will need a half lap joint where they cross. A modified "H" leg is easy to make and brace. It looks good and is strong. You can also use hinges so the legs will fold for storing. Another type of removable leg can be made by using galvanized pipe.

Three-quarter or one inch pipe makes a good strong leg if braced. Attach the legs with floor flanges and use caps on the bottom for gliders.

You may not find the furniture you want illustrated in this manual. Remember, native material, hand tools, and imagination resulted in some of the most practical furniture ever made. In fact, Early American furniture pieces are still copied and are popular.



The authors are Farm Advisors Paul D. LaVine, Stanislaus County, and Roswell D. Roberts, Tuolumne County.

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#### 4-H HOME GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

#### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. MAPPING Make a sketch showing the location of present buildings, walks, fences, drives, plantings, etc.
- 2. PLANNING— Make planting plan for flower bed, properly located.

  or

Make landscape plan for yard.

- 3. Take pictures at beginning of project and as work progresses.
- 4. Check work that needs to be done. Do at least six items needed. Select items from at least two divisions under work to be done.

WORK TO BE DONE	NEEDED	DO THIS YEAR	DO LATE
CLEANUP AND REPAIR			
Clean up yard by removing rubbish, leaves, paper, weeds			
Repair gates			
Repair fences			
Repair steps			
Repair house			
Repair out-buildings			
Repair walks			
Paint house			
Paint fence			
Keep livestock and poultry out of yard			
Keep machinery out of yard			
Check grounds for unsafe features and correct			
CONSTRUCTION		-	
Relocate or build walks			
Relocate or build drive			
Build fence			
Relocate or build steps			
Build patio or paved area			
Build outdoor fireplace			

WORK TO BE DONE	NEEDED	DO THIS YEAR	DO LATER
LAWN			
Improve present lawn			
Plant new lawn			
Care for lawn			
PLANTINGS			
Trim hedge			
Prune trees and shrubs			
Grow pot plants (at least six)			
Plant and care for roses (at least six)			
Plant and care for annual flowers (at least three different kinds)			
Plant and care for perennial flowers, including bulbs (at least three different kinds)			=
Plant and care for vines (at least six)			
Plant and care for shrubs (at least six)			
Plant and care for trees (at least three)			
Root fifty shrub cuttings			
YARD FURNISHINGS		=	
Make window or porch boxes			
Make a birdhouse			
Make a trellis for vines			
Build or select lawn furniture			
Build or select play equipment			
SPECIAL WORK			
Prepare six flower arrangements for house			
Enter two exhibits in flower show			
Visit four yards. Study landscape plan and plan			