

Home Improvement Guide '66

Spindles Serve To Cover Glass

If your front door is flanked by full-height glass panels that allow too much view into the house, cover the glass with a grille made of stock spindles or balusters.

The spindles are available at any retail lumber yard. Mount the spindles vertically in a frame of 1x4-inch pine boards using as many tiers as needed to cover the height of the glass.

The grilles are effective used either indoors or outside. If used outside, paint them to match the house siding or trim. Indoors, coordinate them with the entrance hall decor.



By Betty Frankel

GARDENING WITH SHRUBS
What is a shrub, and what can the gardener do with shrubs? By definition a shrub or bush is a branching woody plant, generally with many stems rising from the ground. It is a type of plant with which everyone is familiar. No simple answer, though, can be given concerning their uses because they are plants that can be used in many ways. Roughly

they serve two functions. They can be used singly as specimen plants, or they can be grouped and massed to form the very structure of a landscape design.

When they are grown as individual specimen plants, they serve as an accent and should be used sparingly. Too many accents here and there all over the yard would give a cluttered look and totally destroy what might otherwise be a good design. Select specimen plants that have a naturally beautiful form. Give space enough to develop. If pruning is needed don't shear them into stiff, blocky shapes that could be anything. Keep the form that gives the plant its particular character as a species and its own individual grace and charm.

GROUPS OF SHRUBS are the most effective material for boundary planting. Because they have an irregular outline and a soft texture they can be used to border the yard without giving a feeling of rigid enclosure. Group three or more of the same kind of shrub. Plant in broad sweeping curves, having low shrubs in front of some of the tall plants to create promontories with bays between. This creates the illusion of greater space. Have some plants or groups of plants taller than others to create a varied and interesting skyline.

Shrubs can be placed to separate one area of the yard from another. They can be used to screen an unwanted view. They can be used as a ground cover. They can also be used as part of the foundation planting.

The same restraint must be used when planning massed shrubs as when planting individual specimens. It is not necessary to ring the foundation of each house with shrubbery. Foundations need not always be concealed, and in fact should rarely be completely hidden by plants. Partly concealed and strategically revealed will give best results.

BOUNDARIES, TOO, do not always need planting. Sometimes the yards in an area can flow together to form a larger unit, or in other cases the yard might have a view that would be lost by boundary planting. In such cases a group or two of shrubs wisely placed might give a suggestion of demarcation.

Many shrubs, such as lilac, honeysuckle, and cotoneaster get leaves early in Spring and provide a welcome touch of verdure.

The flowers produced by shrubs are one of their prime attractions for the gardener. They are the shrub's main excuse for being, but for the gardener they should be only an extra and the main points to be considered are size, form, texture and color of foliage. But who can resist the sunny yellow of Forsythia flowers? They are the essence of Springtime. Bush cherries, too, have a fragile early Spring beauty. Lilacs and mock-orange come a bit later in the season but have been favorites for generations. June bloom comes on honeysuckle, weigela and beauty bush while mid-summer finds bloom on only a few shrubs such as caryopteris and tamarix. By late summer Rose of Sharon is the star performer.

ANOTHER LONG season highlight is offered by the conspicuous fruits or berries borne by many shrubs. The red-berried elder has fruit ripening in June. Later comes black and red berries on cotoneaster, and orange fruit on Euonymus. Un-

forgettable are the glowing clusters on cranberry cotoneaster. Barberry's red fruit hangs on the branches throughout the winter.

Winter joy can come from colored bark such as the laquer red of red Osier dogwood or the bright green of Kerria. Snow accents and highlights the color. The texture of the bark can be of interest, too, especially that of burning bush, Euonymus alatus, which has long corky wings along the branches.

Before buying shrubs, check the catalogs and books. Many have beautiful colored illustrations. It's fun to choose an assortment that will suit the requirements of your landscape plan. Know the mature size before planting a shrub. Some grow only a few inches tall. Others three to five feet are called "small," those six to eight feet "medium," and "tall"

are ten to fifteen feet. Space them far enough apart. Planting is not difficult as most can be moved with bare roots.

REMINERS

Yellow flowers of forsythia herald the arrival of Spring planting season. Plant all leaf-losing trees and shrubs as soon as possible. . . . Planting season is soon at hand for evergreens. . . . Perennials can be transplanted. . . . If plants are infected with pine shoot moth, spray or dust with DDT. . . . Prune evergreens before growth begins. . . . Pruning keeps the plants dense and compact. . . . Plant hardy vegetables. . . . Wait until after the middle of May to plant tender flowers and vegetables. . . . Take a last careful look at branches and twigs to check for borers, scale or other pests.

Paneling on Ceiling Eases Stark Walls

Like stark white walls? They are nice with today's jewel-colored furniture fabrics. But if walls are white, the ceiling needs extra design attention to keep the room from becoming a cell-like cube. . . . Paneling the ceiling with western lumber—fir, pine, hemlock—is one excellent and easy solution. The lumber panel boards add texture and warmth.

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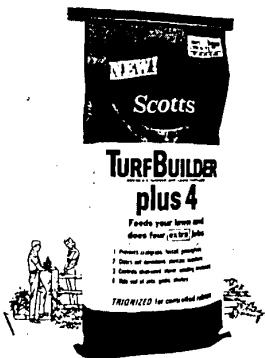


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