



ON STEEPLY SLOPING LAND, the planting of shrubs and vines helps to prevent the damage of wind and water. About 180 million acres of land lose precious topsoil through erosion each year in this country.

nature the areas with certain typical conditions are known as "habitats." A marsh is one kind of natural habitat. A pine forest is another. Other natural habitats are dry meadows, stream-sides, beech-maple woods, and oak-hickory woods.

Because of the conditions of climate, soil, moisture, drainage, etc. each of these natural habitats has developed its own particular group of plants that are adapted to the conditions. They thrive under these conditions, and might not survive in the conditions of a different habitat.

Your yard consists of habitats, too. They are not natural habitats, since the process of clearing the land and building your house has altered the soil and drainage and perhaps other factors, too. However, certain types of soil prevail. You have land that is flat or sloping, well drained or poorly drained, rich and fertile or poor and infertile.

Some of the conditions around your yard can be altered. You can improve or replace poor soil. If your

yard is too shady you can cut down a tree. But because of the house and garage you will always have at least one shady area to deal with.

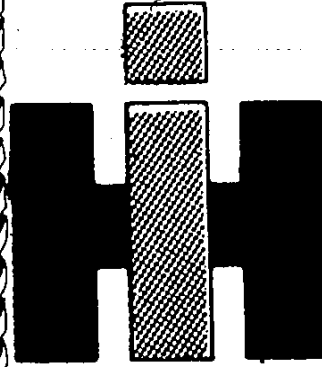
DRAINAGE IS DIFFICULT to change, but it can be done. Drainage depends on the slope of the land and the kind of soil and also on subsoil conditions. A layer of "hard pan," --soil that is compacted so it is as hard and impervious as cement --makes for poor drainage no matter how porous the top layer of soil is. Conversely, a bed of gravel below the surface facilitates drainage.

Wind can be modified to some extent by screens or plantings, but in general it is a factor to be reckoned with.

For best results, become familiar with the conditions your yard has to offer. Know what potential habitats you have on your lot. Then choose plants that like those conditions. There are attractive plants for all situations.



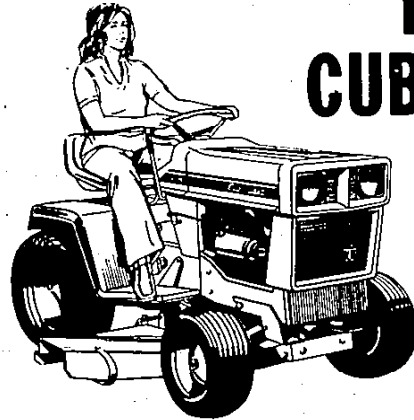
HOME GROUNDS are enhanced by the beauty and practicality of trees. Trees provide cooling shade in summer, and shed their leaves to let warm sunlight through in winter. They are nature's most effective dust traps and sound barriers.



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