

**STOUT MANUAL TRAINING
SCHOOL; A HANDBOOK FOR
PLANNING AND PLANTING
SMALL HOME GROUNDS**

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Stout Manual Training School; A Handbook for Planning and Planting Small Home Grounds by
Warren H. Manning

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A HANDBOOK

FOR

PLANNING AND PLANTING SMALL
HOME GROUNDS

BY

WARREN H. MANNING

*WITH A LIST OF NATIVE AND COMMONLY CULTIVATED
PLANTS THAT ARE REPRESENTED IN THE COL-
LECTION UPON THE STOUT MANUAL
TRAINING SCHOOL GROUNDS*

PUBLISHED BY
STOUT MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL
MENOMONIE, WIS.

1899

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1872 1872

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PREFACE.

THE Stout Manual Training School, a complete system of travelling libraries, a travelling art gallery, with the collection of plants referred to and described in this handbook, and the other educational influences grouped about the school and leading out from it, have all grown out of the desire of a citizen of Menomonie to benefit a region wherein he has lived and which has contributed to his successful business career. It is worthy of record, too, that the town wherein this school is located, its leading citizens, and especially its women, have heartily coöperated with their benefactor in the rebuilding of the school since its total destruction by fire in 1897, the women alone agreeing to raise the money required for grading the grounds.

Menomonie, Wisconsin, is a city of about 7,000 inhabitants, on the Chicago & St. Paul line of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway systems. Also on a branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. Its principal industries are the manufacture of lumber and brick. There are extensive deposits of clay also found near by, suitable for the manufacture of pottery and porcelain.

A building on the High School grounds was erected and equipped by Mr. J. H. Stout, of The Knapp, Stout & Co.

Company, for a full year's manual training course for twenty boys, and for teaching sewing and cooking to girls. It was opened Nov. 1, 1890. After this experiment had made it clear that it was desirable to incorporate this work into the school courses, a new building, with a larger and much more extensive equipment, was constructed adjoining the High School. After the destruction of these buildings by fire in February, 1897, an additional block of land was secured and plans were made for a much larger brick and iron building, which was completed in 1898, and has been fully equipped by Mr. Stout with the best obtainable appliances, and a very ample provision made for future growth.

The manual training is a complement of the public school work, the High School scholars have one exercise in it per day, the lower schools two per week, while the teaching in the kindergarten begins the manual training.

It is intended that the collection of plants on the grounds and this handbook shall take their place as a part of the educational equipment, and that, in addition to the facilities offered by the plants for nature study, the pupils may gain knowledge of the arrangement, planting, propagating, and care of plants, and of the arrangement of their home grounds, that will help to make them better citizens.

PLANNING AND PLANTING HOME GROUNDS.

NOW and then in a city, usually about the home of a humble workingman, and occasionally in the country, one sees a little front or back yard or a flower-garden patch so brimful and overflowing with a generous abundance of flowers and vines that flaunting weeds shrink modestly into the background. What oases of beauty such places are in the desert of monotonous and well-to-do commonplace grounds about them! Here you recognize a labor of love; that love of beauty born in every child which has not been repressed by a slavish adherence to the custom of the neighborhood. You know that the honest mechanic of the spade and hoe who builds all his work to one pattern has not been consulted but compelled to do the bidding of the presiding genius of the home, who by simply trying has learned that there is no mystery about the making of a garden, only good dirt, good seed, good plants, good attention. When the people learn this simple lesson, and make or direct the making of their own gardens and grounds, home life will not be confined to the four wooden walls of the house, with an occasional dress-up visit to the narrow piazza.

This little handbook is to induce people to study and plan the arrangement of their home grounds, however small these may be, to make them in pleasant weather as livable and attractive, as free from the gaze of the inquisitive stranger or prying neighbor, as convenient and accessible, as are the rooms of the house, and attractive at all times to look upon.

Another object is to show that by taking advantage of the native growth on the grounds, if such there be, by collecting and introducing native plants, by growing plants from seeds or cuttings, or by purchasing direct from the nurseries, per-

sons may with little labor and expense clothe waste places with foliage and flowers, and surround the houses and lawns with luxuriant and varied groups of hardy flowering shrubs, vines, and herbs, arranged to form attractive screens where screens are desired, cover objectionable views, invite outdoor rest and recreation, and give restful and refreshing views from the windows of the house.

Each person should study his grounds independently, considering and executing first the simplest arrangement, and leading from this to a more complicated arrangement from year to year. Ordinarily the principal subdivisions of a small place would be, first, an entrance section or front lawn; second, a living section or back lawn, and third, a service or working section.

The first would be the lawn space between the front of the house and street which is so often made continuous by the removal of front and side fences. If front fences are maintained, a border plantation may be made directly back of them to give the desired seclusion to the home grounds, and both front and back lawns may thus be thrown together. If fences are removed, then this semi-public front lawn should have nearly continuous groups of planting at the base of each house and from house to house, to screen persons on the piazzas and back lawns from the gaze of strangers in the street. Such plantations should not, however, break the continuity of this lawn area next to the street.

The second would be the lawn area at the side and back of the house which will be enclosed by the groups of shrubbery between it and the front lawn and the adjoining properties. This area should be so conveniently arranged and so readily accessible from the living rooms of the house that it will be used as freely during pleasant weather as are the living rooms. It may be a simple open turf, framed in by the screening and border plantations, or it may be subdivided into a flower-garden, terrace, game courts, etc., as space and means will allow.

The third or working section, which should be screened from the other parts by vine-covered fences, hedges, or belts of shrubs, and entered from the street by an independent walk or road, would embrace the kitchen yard, the kitchen garden, the laundry yard, and the stable and its yards, all so arranged as to be readily accessible from each other and from the kitchen and cellar.

Service and laundry yards.

In locating and defining the outlines of plantations, definite purposes should be had in view, such as the screening of objectionable views, giving seclusion, separating parts of the grounds, uniting buildings with grounds by a clothing of vines, and by planting about foundations, etc. Such plantations will usually be irregular belts and groups of large and small shrubs and occasional small trees, all selected

Purposes of shrub plantations.

with regard to height, habit, and foliage *at maturity*, and located to serve the particular purposes referred to. They should be arranged to leave the largest available central lawn space, in which there should be but few single specimens of shrubs and trees and no formal beds of flowers, it being best to confine such beds to a special flower-garden or to use flowers in broadenings on the edges of shrub borders. Usually the edges of borders next to the lawn will have an irregular outline, for the larger plants required in places to make a tall screen would need more room to spread than would the low varieties selected for other positions.

Preparation of shrub beds.

Of course, to secure the best results the whole space to be occupied by plantations should be thoroughly manured and spaded up, for shrubs will not do well in grass.

In the first selection of plants for such plantations, better effects at a less cost can be secured by using a few good kinds in considerable quantities rather than many kinds in smaller quantities. Later more variety can be added from season to season by introducing herbs and other shrubs that will extend the flowering season.

Few kinds required.