



# AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING NEWS LETTER

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## Garden Furniture to Beautify the Home Grounds

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Landscape architecture has been defined as, "the art of fitting land for human use and enjoyment," or "the art of arranging the land and objects on it for the most practical use and beauty." It can readily be seen by these definitions the part that garden furniture plays in the art of landscaping.

It is a pity that every garden, large or small, has not been equipped with a good, comfortable seat—a seat where the owner and busy housewife could enjoy the fruits of their labor in the garden. Who is more entitled to the comfort and beauty of their surroundings than those who have created them? It is with this thought in mind that the statement is made, "the first piece of garden furniture for any garden should be a seat."

What should the requirements be for a good seat? To conform with the definition of landscape architecture, it should be, "for human use and enjoyment" as well as for "practical use and beauty." To be practical for human use it should be substantially built and capable of holding the occupants without danger of collapse. To be enjoyable it must be comfortable, and allow for complete relaxation; and it should also be ornamental to aid in the beauty of the scene of which it is to become a part.

The seat shown is only one of a great many desirable types. It is not presented as "the one and only," but rather as a simple, easily made seat that meets the

preceding specified requirements. Make it up in your spare time or evenings, and enjoy your garden this coming season.

Another piece of garden furniture which could be improved upon at the average home is the clothes line post. At most homes, the clothes line posts are used only half a day each week to support the family washing and then remain the other six and one-half days as a necessary eye sore. Think of using them only 26 days a year and then tolerating them merely as necessities for the remaining 339 days. How much better it would be if an attractive piece of garden furniture could be so designed that on wash days it could readily be converted into a support for the family washing. Just such an idea has been worked out, and the results are presented here. This clothes line post is not only provided with a wide comfortable seat but it also has lattice work sides and back over which climbing roses or other vines can be trained. It has been tried and proven practical as well as ornamental.

In selecting the kind of wood to use in the construction of garden furniture, it should be kept in mind that it is to be subjected to the weather. The wood should stand exposure and not warp, check, or decay readily. It should be easy to work for only the ordinary hand tools will usually be available. Redwood, cypress, and white pine would be desir-

able. Cypress and redwood are especially resistant to moisture.

The weathering effect on nails and screws should also be considered and plans made accordingly. Unless galvanized nails are used they will rust off in only a few years time. All nails or screws should be set or countersunk and the holes filled with plastic wood or putty. If any screws must be left exposed, they should be made of or coated with some rust resistant material.

The painting should be thorough. White or ivory are the predominating colors for garden furniture because of the contrast provided by the green foliage of their setting. A priming coat of paint should be applied before the boards are assembled. This paint can be made of white lead and oil and mixed quite thin with turpentine. Enough turpentine should be added to cut the pitch in the wood and make the paint penetrate readily. After assembling, all cracks and crevices should be filled with plastic wood or putty and at least two coats of outside paint applied.

The placing of garden furniture should receive more attention than it sometimes does. Too often, after a year or two, it is leaning or tipping over at an angle, which greatly detracts from its appearance. Garden furniture should be plumbed and leveled and either anchored to a concrete base or set on top of leveled concrete slabs. It should not only be placed in the most attractive location but also properly and securely anchored.

