

Individuality Of Colour in Variety Of Avenue Trees

"New Plymouth grows coniferous trees better than any other district in New Zealand," said Mr. T. S. Waugh, well-known 2YA gardening expert, who has just completed an extensive beautification scheme at the Brooklands State home settlement. For that reason he chose largely from those varieties in establishing avenues that when grown will grace the area and give dignity to the settlement.

An idea of the effect, with each block planted with a different selection of trees, can be gained from a description of a typical street. The avenue at one end of **Somerset Street** will consist of the following series of trees: *Acema floribundi*, *puriri*, *retinospora leptocladu*, Victorian waratah, Japanese maple, scarlet oak and *retinospora ericoides*. The other side of the street has a selection so different that each tree, while fitting in perfectly with the general plan, will form a contrast in both colour and appearance.

Particular Hues.

Similarly, the next block will carry on the mixture of foliage and its own particular range of hues to mingle with those of the following block. Individuality in colour and shade has in this way been given to each section of the settlement, but, viewed street by street, the general appearance will be one of beauty unknown to other parts of New Plymouth.

Clovelly Street is a short driveway that ends in a circular sweep. As with other streets, some houses are set back in relation to the frontage and their neighbours are close to the footpath. The sequence of trees that will form the avenue here is particularly attractive. In order they run: *Rhododendron* (the type that grows 20 feet and more in height), *cryptomeria*, *idesia* (the wonder tree with red berries), *retinospora*, *acacia wattle*, *librocedrus*, *phebalium*, *retinospora plumosa* and *styrax japonica*.

Although the State Housing Department has laid the foundation of a beautiful suburb, every encouragement will be given to tenants to develop their gardens. Already many houses that have been occupied for some months have their neat lawns and flower gardens, and much rivalry has sprung up between adjoining households in attention to their front areas. In the contract just completed, which represents only about two-thirds of the settlement, about 280 shrubs, more than 6000 hedge plants, and nearly 100 trees have been established. Last year the older part of the settlement was beautified by Mr. W. Pettigrew, Stratford, and next season Mr. Waugh will return to finish the planting of sections not yet ready for occupation.

Excellent Start.

Mr. Waugh has with him two permanent employees and has engaged the services of two other experienced men to get the work done in good time. He is pleased with the rain that fell on Thursday night, which will give all the plants an excellent start in their positions. All the shrubs and trees were supplied locally, so that it is not expected there will be any difficulty in acclimatisation.

Apart from their beauty, trees have been planted to add to the comfort of State house dwellers. Where a biting southerly wind can reach a section of the settlement a protective barrier such as a large-leaved privet hedge has been planted. When this grows to reasonable height it will combine with the row of *lawsonianas* established by the Pukekura park committee along the boundary of Brooklands to give adequate shelter to all households.

At Patea Mr. Waugh will have a different problem from that imposed in the selection of plants for New Plymouth. Because of the prevalence of salt spray and sandy soil, he will choose such species as *olearia traversii* (Chatham Island ake ake with a silver leaf), salt bush, *pittosporum crassifolium* (karo) and *pohutukawa*. He has in mind also the use of a variety of *esculoria marcantha* in the scheme he has planned.

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