

## NATURE'S MANAGEMENT

Two vines were growing up two strings, eight inches apart. They reached out long tendrils across that space to the other string and wrapped around it. They did not send out tendrils in any other direction where there were no strings. Now, how did they know the other string was there?

A dozen cypress vines were up several inches looking about for some visible means of support. Some little sticks were driven into the ground and scraps of string tied to them; most of these reached the open work just under the roof of the porch, but three only reached the top of the railing around the porch. More string was promised when the vines should need them. This work was done in the evening about dusk, the vines were not touched. In the morning, every vine was wrapped tightly about its string. How did they know the strings were there?

The three vines on the short strings were neglected but they soon solved the problem for themselves. Each vine left its string with an inch or more above it unused and reached across to the right six inches and went up the long string with its neighbor.

A swamp willow came up in the back yard. It was forty or fifty feet to the neighbor's kitchen drain pipe; but that enterprising tree sent out a root to that drain pipe, went in and filled it with yellow roots for the space of six feet, as was discovered when the pipe was taken up.

A five leaf vine came up by the south wall of the house, covering it all in time and finding a crevice under the attic window went in turned up against the window. It could not cling to the glass but could to the window curtain. And all over the curtain were the little claws while the window was filled with large leaves.

In a neighbor's back yard is a lattice, a part of it under a maple tree. This lattice is covered with the wild cucumber vine. The vines under the tree grew straight up in the air and sent long tendrils up to the lower branches of the tree, and rioted happily over it. The vines at the other end of the lattice made no effort to

rise above it, knowing that there was nothing above them.

The plantain weed undisturbed grows a seed stalk twelve inches high covered with little round seeds. But the plantain weed in the yard with the frequent lawn mower, knows very well there's going to be no such time allowed for growing, so sends up a seed stalk one inch high, filled with tiny little seeds. It has work to do and is going to do it even with changed conditions.

Out in a park in Van Couver is a stump about eight feet high, for some reason level on top. Up here on top are two pine trees growing. The birds may have brought the seeds there, or the wind blown them there, but they found enough on the stump to develop and start growing. But they knew there was not enough there for permanent residence, so each tree sent down on opposite sides of the stump a root to the ground. When seen some years ago, these roots were the size of one's wrist and the trees were flourishing, about six feet tall.

The wire fence at the alley was set in fifteen feet to allow entrance at end of garage. Along this fence five elm trees are growing, about an equal distance apart. The whole length of fence is covered with a grape vine, on either side of this fence dozens of hollyhocks of assorted colors grow and bloom in season. Not one of these things had been planted. They did their own choosing as to location.

A locust sprout came up at the end of the front porch and grew into a pretty little tree and flourished several years, then died.

Promptly there appeared nine locust sprouts over the yard some fifty feet from the original root. Five were in a straight row and all in an equal distance from the sidewalk and about an equal distance apart. All were cut down but two, on either side of the yard walk.

Who could imagine locust roots such travelers?

With an appearance of rain at hand, the morning glory flower does not close unless it is going to rain.

Nature's resources of mind in managing in unusual situations.

—E. H., Kansas