

CULTIVATION OF EVERGREEN TREES.



It is wise to consider the habitat of each specimen and endeavor to supply similar conditions of soil and exposure, so far as is in our power. Because a tree succumbs in a given case, it will not do to pronounce its variety unsuited to our climate. Forests of timber trees of the Hemlock flourish far to the north of us, and yet the Hemlock is undoubtedly too tender for exposed positions in this vicinity. We should provide sheltering windbreaks for plants of doubtful hardiness. On the other hand we would not naturally select a too warm and sunny position for such dubious Firs of the Rocky Mountains as *amabilis*, *nobilis*, and *grandis*. We should infer that they would receive too much winter excitement and that a protected, but cooler and perhaps northern slope would secure more nearly favoring conditions. It is obvious that the Pines will take the lighter soils; the Spruces, Firs, and Junipers choosing the intermediate, while the Retinosporas and Thujas will thrive in even a wet soil, though by no means preferring this condition. Though there are increasing evidences of the hardiness of the Sciadopitys, yet I have observed that in full exposure to the winter sun its foliage is liable to lose its fresh, green color and to become brown. Specimens looking north and shaded from the sun do not have this appearance. There can be no question that the rich and varied colors of some of the newer varieties depend in a considerable degree upon the nourishment received from the soil. You have observed the deep, luxuriant color of the Purple Beech under high culture, in contrast with the dull brown of the same tree in a poor soil. Similar results may be expected with conifers. It is an exploded idea that they will not endure enrichment. Fresh horse manure is undoubtedly too hot for the surface roots, if applied in quantity, but cooler composts will heighten colors to a surprising degree. Youthful vigor may also be thus restored to older trees. I have found that the silvery sheen of the *Picea pungens* may be greatly increased if removed from a heavy soil to a floury, well enriched loam.

We are but beginning to appreciate how well-deserving of the highest cultivation are these enduring products of Nature. They are not limited to a brief glory of inflorescence; they are not confined even to an entire season. They are ever-verdant, furnishing a cool and varying shade in the heat of summer, and a sheltering warmth and cheerfulness, which can brighten and glorify even a winter landscape. —W. C. STRONG, before Mass. Hort'l. Soc'y.

PRUNING. —The general rule to be followed in pruning most shrubs is, to remove old wood rather than new, as the latter is most productive of bloom. In pruning hardy roses, which may be done after November 15, thin the heads out well, leaving no weak or unhealthy growth. Moderate growers should be pruned closely.