

In many trees, however, the trunk seems to be branched near the ground, though this is more probably due to union of several trees when young, rather than a natural habit of growth. It is very common to find the trees of great diameter, and several which I took as representing the oldest trees, were found to have a girth of over twenty feet, this being a very common size. The largest trees measured, gave a circumference of twenty-seven feet at three feet from the ground, or a diameter of nine feet, in round numbers.

With regard to its timber qualities, little can be said as the result of exact and careful determination; but certain it is that the wood is held in high repute. When freshly cut, it is light in color, but by exposure assumes a darker hue, which usually becomes light chocolate or brown. Owing to the fineness and compactness of the grain, it is used very largely for indoor and cabinet work, as it is capable of a good polish. It is moderately light in weight, strong, easily worked, though not as soft as pine, tough and durable. These latter qualities are evident from the extent to which it is used by the Ainos for their canoes, largely in preference to any other wood.

In 1879, in a short communication to the Gardeners' Monthly, I stated that there would probably be little or no difficulty in establishing the tree in Massachusetts, and thus far the prediction has proved a correct one. So far as I know, the tree was first introduced to the United States by my friend Col. W. S. Clark and then by myself through seed in 1876 and 1877. The trees have been growing since that time, and give every indication of proving hardy, although there have been some very severe winters to try them.

Whether the tree will prove hardy here, remains to be seen, but I am very strongly of the opinion that it will, more especially as there are in the College grounds, trees which are of a somewhat more southern type, finding their extreme northern limits in Japan where the katsura is most abundant, but which so far have proved hardy. The great value of this tree makes it desirable that an effort should be made to introduce it here. Its propagation must be effected through seed.

*CIRCIDIPHYLLUM OVALE*—MAX.

Hab: High mountains of central Honshiu. Its more southern distribution renders it unlikely to prove hardy here. The tree differs in its foliage, from the preceding, by having longer or less rounded leaves.