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## ORNAMENTAL TREES.

NOT NATIVES OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,  
BY CHARLES GIBB, ABBOTSFORD.

I am glad to see that the Journal of Agriculture has taken up the subject of ornamental tree planting, and that Mr. Chapais is following it up by continually drawing attention to it. M. Chapais' notes, giving the experience of M. Auguste Dupuis at St. Roch des Aulnaies, L'Islet, are especially interesting.

Our neglect of tree growing is not owing to lack of native species, but from something lacking within ourselves. In ornamental planting, native species should form the ground work, to be supplemented to the utmost we can by kinds of foreign origin.

The great drawback to the planting of trees, not found in our forests, is the fact that so few are propagated by our local nursery men, hence extra cost; and besides this, importing, unless done with a fair knowledge of the kinds chosen, often results in the selecting of tender kinds.

All the trees in this paper are trees that I have seen, and the descriptions given are from my own notes taken on the spot, except when otherwise stated. A large proportion of them I have on trial.

### ACER.—Maple.

*A. Campestre.* English or Cork barked maple.—This may be seen on the grounds of McGill College, as a shrub, sometimes passing a winter with but little injury and more often a good deal hurt. The terminal buds never push properly.

Mr. Wm. Brown, many years ago, at his nursery, at Côte des Neiges, had 40 or 50 young trees of it. Some of these were planted about his grounds, and grew to a height of 10 or 12 ft., and seemed hardy. There are hardy trees of the species, as it is found growing in Northern Asia, and also along the shore of the gulf of Finland, and about St. Petersburg.

*A. Colchicum Rubrum.* Red Colchicum maple.—Is a native of Japan. It has bright colored tips and is quite ornamental, but it suffers where the winters are even less severe than here.

*A. dasycarpum.* Soft or Silver maple.—Among a number of these trees, some will be erect, others drooping. It is from this tendency to sport that we have so many ornamental varieties of it. Further south, it is more pendulous than

it usually is here; though this may be partly accounted for by longer growing seasons and often richer soils.

In Washington, I asked what variety of the soft maple they were planting in their streets and was told it was only their common kind. There is an avenue there, 4 miles long and two avenues of 3 miles each, of this drooping soft maple, though, for street planting, it is not as great a favorite as either the Norway or the Sugar maple, partly because it is more brittle. These pendulous soft maples seem to be tending towards the mean, of which Weir's Cut-leaved is the extreme.

*Var. Argenteum Striatum.* Is a pendulous variegated leaved variety, but from the specimens I have seen, it did not appear to be constant. (1)

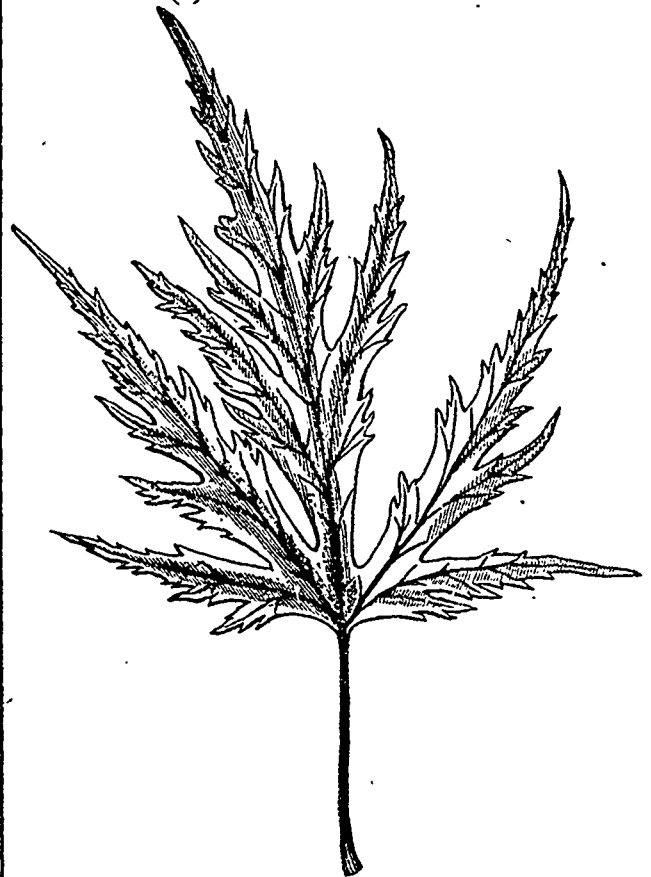


Fig 1.—Weir's cut-leaved Maple.

*Var. Heterophyllum Laciniatum.* New Cut-leaved Silver

(1) If the adjective is to agree with acer it must be in the neuter, if with varietas, in the feminine gender. Catalogues always seem *incerti generis*.—A. R. J. F.