

## \* Forestry. \*

## TREES FOR AUTUMNAL EFFECT.



THE Kentucky coffee-tree is one of the most attractive of deciduous trees, with its peculiar trunk and branches and its light, feathery, graceful foliage. The broad rounded contours of that loveliest of deciduous trees, the *Cladrastis tinctoria*, *Virgilea lutea*, or yellow wood, increases the variety with curious branching and beauty of yellow, fading foliage.

All kinds of beeches are fine in the fall. The cut-leaved, the purple, and the common American and European beeches are all most effective and green until winter; but the noblest of all is the celebrated weeping beech. Its great gleaming masses of foliage assume all kinds of fantastic shapes and reveal bowers and recesses until the leaves of almost every other tree have taken their departure. The foliage of the American beech (*Fagus ferruginea*) is delicate in finish and it lies in an arrangement of layers that is peculiarly attractive.

Scarlet is a color almost unknown to the normal foliage of hardy plants. The most familiar example of this rich chord of color is found in the autumns of the swamp, or falsely named scarlet maple (*Acer rubrum*), and in the common sugar maple. Of all the forms of maples, except the shrubby *Polymorphum* from Japan, these are the only species remarkable for their red color in fall. How beautiful they are, thousands can testify, who have stood entranced before the sugar maples of the hills of Vermont, or the scarlet maples on the banks of the Delaware. Sugar maples sometimes color grandly, especially on hillsides. The scarlet or red maple is the richest in autumnal color of all maples, if not of all trees. It seldom fails during any autumn to change more or less splendidly, and therefore deserves to stand out a single flaming monument in the van of all autumnal color. There is something quite indescribable in the glow and intensity of tint often displayed by this maple. Is it ignorance, or the want of seeing eyes, that causes its lack of employment on the lawn? It is true, the scarlet maple is slower growing than the sugar maple, of less regular and pleasing outline, and certainly less beautiful and satisfactory at other seasons of the year. But in fall, it simply reigns supreme.

Scarcely less beautiful than the scarlet maple are some of the oaks. Many of them, like the Turkey, English, and pyramidal oaks, are grandly effective with their solid dark green tints. But the white, red, and scarlet oaks, American species, all take on the most distinguished and glowing autumnal colors. All oaks are too much neglected in lawn-planting. Whether for form, color or rugged longevity, they are invaluable for ornamental purposes. The golden oak (*Quercus Concordia*), although too apt to lose its beauty somewhat before the Indian summer, another color than red becomes, by its intensity, almost the