

and weeping birch. They were only twelve feet apart and beginning to crowd each other, consequently in about three more years the two outer ones will be lop sided and the middle one a spindling scrub. I have seen thousands of fine trees ruined in the same way. Indeed it is only in rare instances they are given sufficient room to display their natural beauty. I speak only of ornamental trees and will not encroach on forestry, at least, on this occasion.

Another objectionable practice is that of clipping or trimming evergreen trees into various fanciful shapes. When trees are grown for ornament and given plenty of room they usually take a natural and graceful form, which is always more pleasing to those who have acquired a correct taste than any distortion that may be given by pruning. I have known some otherwise beautiful landscapes sadly marred by the stiff appearance of some barbed trees.

Another common mistake is made in giving preference to all foreign species belonging to the same genera as some of our native trees. The European larch is of more graceful habit than our native tamarack, and the white birch, with its weeping varieties, is certainly more beautiful than any of our common birches; but the European linden is not by any means preferable to our basswood as an ornamental tree, neither is the English elm for beauty or for shade to be compared with some of the varieties of our own white elm. Particularly is this noticeable on some of the streets in Toronto where the different species are growing on opposite sides of the street. The horse chestnut is a magnificent tree when grown to perfection, but in my district it is too short-lived; even if it lives for 30 or 40 years it loses its beauty when branches begin to die.

There is perhaps no tree more unsuitable for ornamentation than the silver poplar, (Chinese abele,) yet about many farm houses it is the only tree planted. When once planted it is there to stay, for it continuously sends up suckers enough to destroy every other kind of tree near by. The down it throws off, after flowering, is an abomination. The Lombardy poplar is admired by some, but it deserves no place on ornamental grounds. Whoever will plant poplars let them plant the aspen; it possesses some beauty, but it would be folly to plant it unless for the sake of variety.

When asked which of all trees I prefer for the ornamentation of a lawn I invariably recommend the cut-leaved weeping birch. I have lost many fine specimens of it through the depredations of the sap-sucker, (yellow-bellied woodpecker) yet if I had but room for one ornamental tree I would plant this one. Next I would prefer the purple birch, Weiss' cut-leaved maple, European larch, red cedar, blue spruce and Norway spruce; after that the European mountain ash, the Imperial cut-leaved alder, the basswood and the dogwood. On extensive grounds I would of course plant a large variety and would include the yellow locust. The only objection to it is its tendency to send up suckers. The sweet perfume from its flowers in the month of June entitles it to a place on the pleasure grounds.

The wild black cherry is seldom planted as an ornamental tree although it is remarkably suitable for the purpose. It is beautiful in flower as well as in fruit. I have never seen it affected by the black knot, but have found it to be one of the most enduring.

The hickories, as a class, are of slow growth while young, but their foliage is exceedingly beautiful. In exposed positions they endure and thrive well, while many other kinds would be injured. The ash-leaved maple is quite as hardy but it requires a richer and moister soil. For a large growing, wide spreading tree for shade the common birch is unsurpassed. The white ash, when grown as a single specimen with plenty of room, is a noble tree, well suited for an extensive landscape.

Many others might be added, but I fear I have already occupied too much of your valuable time. I have mentioned nearly all the most beautiful of our native species, at least a sufficient number to make any country home as cheerful and beautiful as the most refined taste could desire. I believe one of the chief reasons why so many farmer's homes look desolate is because the owners have become discouraged through the imposition of unscrupulous vendors who have urged the purchase and planting of trees utterly unsuitable for locality and conditions. Nurserymen who allow their agents to sell unsuitable trees are also blamable and they make a mistake, because success with suitable trees would certainly lead to increased demand. I have been selling trees for 35 years and by selling