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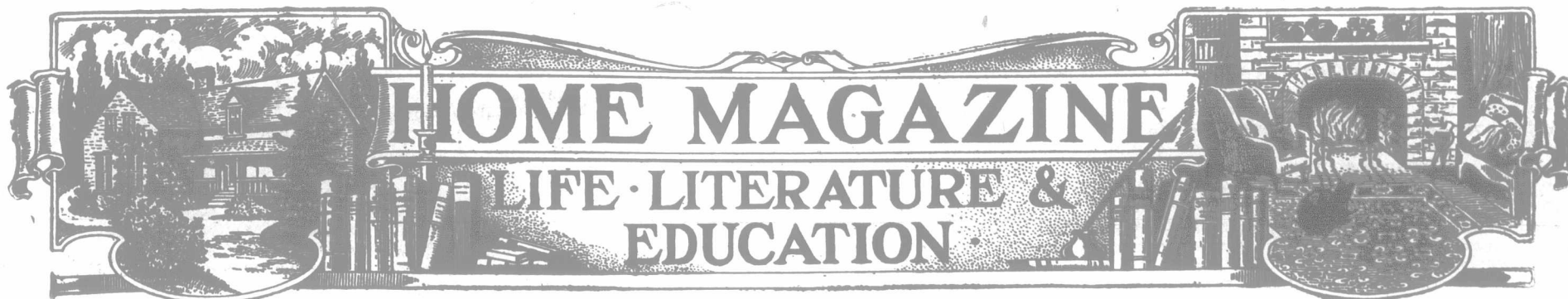
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He Who Plants a Tree.

There is fine patience and broad charity in the man who plants a tree. No single action better typifies the real purpose of our living.

From the first the tree has furnished man with shelter and fuel. Under its leafy dome the greatest charter of human rights has been signed; the world's greatest treaties have there been written; and the surrender of great armies has been concluded there. But for the tree, human history would be a thin tale soon told.

Beneath the tree the weary have rested and found strength and hope; there lovers have trusted ever since love first illumined the world; there our first parents were tempted and lost paradise, and there children have played and restored it; to the soothing shade man ever has turned from his troubles and found calm and peace.

He who plants a tree may never enjoy its shade or gaze upon its full-grown splendor; but he is doing what he can to make the world a wholesomer and happier dwelling-place for those who came after him.

He who plants a tree plants shade, rest, love, hope, peace, for troubled ones who will come his way when he is gone.

There is nothing in which God asks so little of us, and gives so much, as in the planting of a tree. He gives the soil, the seed, the moisture, the sunshine, the air—yes, and the selfless impulse to do our little part of just planting it.—Charles Grant Miller.

Some of the Best Native Plants for Cultivation.

[Abridged from a paper written by W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.]

There is no difference of opinion among lovers of plants as to the beauty of the Canadian flora. The great variety, the charming forms, the lovely colors, and the blending of the whole when under natural conditions, give us innumerable and varied pictures of which we may well feel proud.

There is a growing sentiment in Canada in favor of Canadian things. We are becoming more proud of our country every year. We are looking for an individuality which will stand for Canada, and one of the best ways we can impress our individuality on the people of other countries and our own, is to make Canadian trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants a prominent feature of our landscapes. We have too often in the past planted our parks and public grounds with plants which were native of other countries, when we might have made them beautiful with our own.

The Norway Maple, *Acer platanoides*, is a good shade tree, but it is not as desirable for street planting as the Hard Maple, *Acer saccharum*. The chief drawbacks to the Norway Maple, as I have observed it, are that it forms too low a head, and if pruned up does not look well. This tree is being planted in greater numbers every year, chiefly due, in my judgment, to the fact that it grows rapidly in the nursery, and hence is a more profitable tree to grow. But let us stick to our Hard Maple, the best maple by all odds. It grows to a great height and size, and its brilliant coloring in autumn gives Canadian cities an individuality.

As the Hard Maple is the best

maple to plant, so is our American Elm, *Ulmus americana*, the best elm. The rapid growth of this tree in most soils, the great height to which it grows, and its graceful form, make it one of the most desirable trees for street planting. The higher the American Elm is pruned the better it looks when the tree is large, and this is a very important matter.

Other trees recommended are the Red Oak, *Quercus rubra*; Basswood, *Beech*, *Yellow Birch*, *Canoe Birch*, *Mountain Ash*, *White Ash*, *Hickory*, *Scarlet Haw*, *Honey Locust*; the *Silver* and *Red Maples* for wet ground; the *Sycamore*, *Tulip Tree* and *Sassafras* for South-western Ontario.

Canada is rich in evergreens, and why the Scotch Pine, *Austrian Pine* and *Norway Spruce* are used to the almost exclusion of our native pines and spruces, can only be explained by the apparent preference for something exotic. The Scotch Pine cannot be compared in beauty with our White Pine, which is the most beautiful pine that grows. The Scotch Pine is stiffer in habit, to begin with, and soon becomes scraggy and unsightly, while the beauty of the White Pine increases as it grows older, if given plenty of room, so that it may hold its branches to the ground.

The Austrian Pine is a fine tree, but it also has a stiffer outline than our Red Pine, with which it may be fairly compared. We usually think of Red Pine, *Pinus resinosa*, as it is seen in the woods, a tall tree with a clean trunk, and apparently a few leaves at the top, but well-grown specimens of Red Pine branching to the ground are most attractive.

The Norway Spruce is a beautiful tree when young, being a rapid grower and very graceful, but for permanent effect it cannot be compared with our native White Spruce, particularly those with a bluish tinge. The Hemlock is a very graceful tree, and while a rather slow grower, there is no other tree which does well in Eastern Canada that looks anything like it. From British Columbia we have the Douglas Fir, Bull Pine, and Englemann's Spruce, all fine trees, and doing well in Eastern Canada.

Among the most ornamental Canadian shrubs I mention the *Viburnums*, of which there are eight good species which succeed under cultivation. Perhaps the best of these is the High-bush Cranberry, *Viburnum opulus*, which is ornamental both in summer and winter, the brightly colored fruit being very attractive. Our wild roses are very useful, among the best being *Rosa lucida*, the glossy leaves of which make this very ornamental, even when out of flower. Flowering dogwood is a very effective shrub in spring in Western Ontario, while the *Amelanchiers* (Juneberry) make masses of white in the early spring. For autumn effects the *Aromatic* and *Staghorn Sumachs* cannot be beaten.

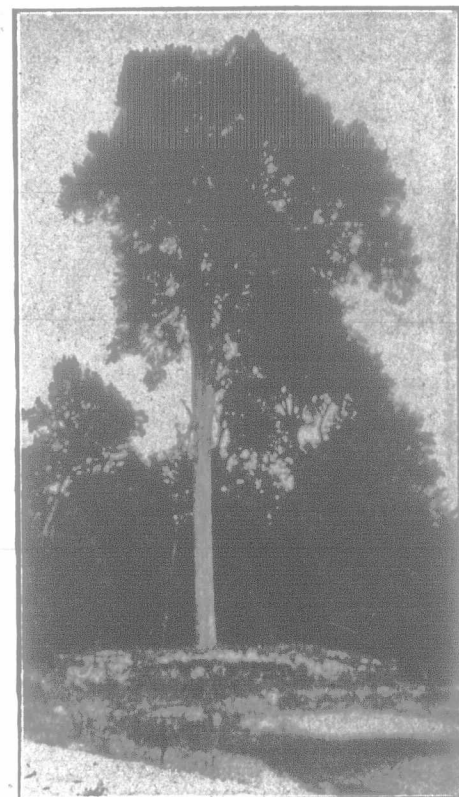
Among the hedge plants there is no evergreen so satisfactory as the native American *Arbor Vitæ* or Cedar. The White Pine is also proving an excellent hedge plant at the Experimental Farm. The Hemlock makes a very fine hedge if rapid growth is not desired, being compact, and of a pleasing shade of green.

Among the climbing hardy plants we have three native woody species which can scarcely be excelled. These are the *Virginian Creeper*, the *Wild Clematis* or *Virgin's Bower*, and the *Climbing Bitter*

Sweet, and to these might be added for some purposes the *Wild Frost Grape*.

For beauty of autumn coloring the *Virginian Creeper* stands alone among climbing plants. Where leaf-hoppers are troublesome its attractiveness is marred during the latter part of summer by the withering of the leaves. There is, however, a self-fastening variety, brought into notice by the Experimental Farm, which is now becoming quite common about Ottawa. This does not need support, but climbs walls by means of its discs and tendrils almost as well as the *Ampelopsis Veitchii*. The foliage of this variety is somewhat downy, and the insects seem to be repelled by the hairs, at any rate they trouble it very little.

The *Virgin's Bower*, or *Wild Clematis*, is a very rapid grower, has clean foliage, which is very seldom affected by insects, and bears a profusion of small white flowers in summer. This, and the *European Traveller's Joy*, *Clematis Vitalba*, which is much like ours, if planted alternately, will give a continuity of bloom from early summer almost until *Clematis paniculata* is in bloom.



The American Elm.

One of the most ornamental of our native trees.

The *Climbing Bitter Sweet*, *Celastrus scandens*, should be more planted than it is, as it has a very clean, attractive foliage, and the orange and scarlet fruit in autumn and early winter lengthens its season of usefulness very much.

One might write much more about the beauties and advantages of our trees and shrubs. Something must, however, be said about the best native herbaceous plants.

It has often been remarked, especially by those coming from other countries, how few species of Canadian wild flowers are found growing along the roadsides or borders of cultivated fields in Eastern Ontario. If we take out the *Golden-rods* and *Asters* there are few prominent plants left. But one might say: "There is the *Canada Thistle*; that surely is common enough!" But the *Canada Thistle* is a European plant, and we

should protest against its being called under that name. Furthermore, practically all our bad weeds are European plants. The reason why so few attractive Canadian wild flowers are found along our roadsides and in our uncultivated ground is that most of our best wild flowers are woodland species, and when the woods disappear they disappear with them. To retain and make use of the many beautiful woodland species we must preserve the woods, or make for them in our parks and gardens conditions approaching those they get in their native wilds. But, fortunately, there are a number of beautiful flowers, among the best, in fact, that are available anywhere, which will succeed under cultivation without any very special selection of situation or soil, and first among these I mention *Trillium grandiflorum*. There is no other white-flowered perennial of its season of bloom which approaches it for beauty. It has a comparatively long season of bloom for a spring flower, quickly becomes established and multiplies rapidly. A clump of about three roots, planted ten years ago, now produces more than fifty flowers annually, most of very large size. These could be used with splendid effect in parks or private grounds if massed.

The *Virginian Cowslip*, *Mertensia pulmonarioides*; or, as it used to be called, *Mertensia virginica*, is another spring-flowering herbaceous perennial, which should have a place in every garden. The flowers which open at Ottawa during the second week of May are of a lovely shade of pale blue, and when in bud are pink at the base. This plant soon withers after blooming, and by early summer is not seen above ground.

Another charming wild plant which does well under cultivation is the *Wild Sweet William* or *Blue Phlox*, *Phlox divaricata*. This blooms at Ottawa from the middle of May to June 10th, and is one of the most admired plants at that time. The flowers vary from soft tints of lilac to mauve, and a white variety is found in Western Ontario which is very beautiful.

A dwarf phlox native of South-western Ontario is the *Moss Pink*, *Phlox subulata*, blooming early in spring, and particularly useful for rockeries. It can be had now in many varieties.

Although some of the best of the later blooming *Columbines* are not natives of Canada, yet two of the best early species are *Aquilegia canadensis*, and *A. coerulea*, which, if not so common, would be more appreciated.

Among the first flowers to open after the snow goes is the *Prairie Anemone*, or *Prairie Crocus*, *Anemone patens*, var. *Nuttalliana*. This is common in the *Prairie Provinces*. It is very showy, even in small clumps, but if massed would be very effective in early spring, and be a contrast to the early-flowering bulbs, which are in bloom at the same time.

One of the showiest native plants we have, and particularly attractive on account of its odd but pleasing color, is the *Butterfly Weed*, or *Pleurisy Root*, *Asclepias tuberosa*. The flowers are a bright orange, and the plant remains in bloom from early in July to early in August.

The *Oswego Tea* or *Bee Balm*, *Monarda didyma*, is a native, which is considerably used in planting in the United States, and could be used much more in Canada with good effect. The plant being from three to four feet high, and the flowers being