

PRUNING STREET TREES.

in color ; fine in itself as a variety, but never producing such immense flower-heads as the *Grandiflora*.

H. Pekinensis—This variety came to us from France ; it is not yet widely distributed. In general habit of growth it resembles the *paniculatas*, the flower-heads are nearly flat instead of conical, the individual florets are white and exceedingly large, but the panicle is rather open and loose, not as prepossessing as it might be.

H. quercifolia the Oak-leaved Hydrangea, is a most beautiful shrub for foliage effects, but will not put up with the tumbles that the mercury sometimes takes here in Ontario. At New York and southward, however, it grows in all its beauty.

For this climate *H. paniculata grandiflora* is decidedly our favorite ; given a well enriched spot, and proper pruning, it will satisfy the most exacting.

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A Constant Reader, in last number of HORTICULTURIST asks when to prune street trees, and as this is a subject I feel very much interest in, and I have been experimenting in that line for 25 or more years, I have found to my cost that pruning in winter when the wood is frozen is a splendid way to destroy a good orchard. A neighbor of mine whose orchard had been neglected for several years, got a man who professes to be an expert in that line to prune his orchard in January, and he did *prune*, cutting large as well as small limbs and branches, and the proprietor has never had even a fair crop of fruit since. Besides, about 40 out of 100 trees died outright inside of three years. I find invariably that all deciduous trees do better when pruned in spring, but trees like the Maple and Birch, Basswood, Walnut and such varieties as flow sap rapidly, should be pruned about the time the leaf is coming out, after the sap is up. Plums and Cherries should be pruned about the first of April ; Apples and Pears a month later, and the wounds will heal sooner than if pruned at any other time of the year. Besides, if apples are pruned before growth starts, a large number of shoots start out where

the branch was removed. When I speak of pruning I mean the removing of branches that are one inch and over in diameter. Every Maple or other street tree should be regularly pruned till a trunk is obtained from 10 to 12 feet from the ground, when the top may be allowed to form. When a row of such kept trees appear on a street they are a "thing of beauty and a joy forever" to every passer by, who enjoys the beauty of Nature and Art combined. My experience is that nearly all fruit trees are allowed to form branches too near the ground, and the only advantage seems to be that the fruit can be gathered easier ; but I question if that is a sufficient reason to allow trees to be headed low thereby preventing any cultivation of the soil, which to my mind is of far more importance than the trouble of going up a step-ladder to gather the fruit. My advice to growers of ornamental or other trees is to prune regularly every season, and you will never have a large limb to remove ; and by pruning after the growth starts, no injury from loss of sap will appear.

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