

SHOULD CONSIDER AUTUMN FOLIAGE

In selection of trees for street planting one should consider their beauty in autumn and select trees accordingly—Making the city more beautiful.

In the selection of species for street and highway planting some consideration should be given to the colors which the leaves will display in the fall months, a matter as important as that of tree habit or graceful outline. Although a purely esthetic one, its importance has been urged at times by scientists as well as writers on woodland scenery. We hail with pleasure the green foliage of each returning spring, but the light none the less in the brilliant display made by the painted leaves in autumn, and so when we come to choose our trees for planting, everything else being equal, why not give a preference to the species which afford a pleasing aspect in both spring and fall.

In considering this question it is well to remember that, while certain species generally show the same color each fall, there is apt to be some variation in this respect. Occasionally some individual will exhibit an entirely different tint from the prevailing one of that species, while frequently several tints, and at times two or more distinct colors, will be found on the same tree. The red maple is noted for the scarlet hue of its leaves in early fall; but here and there a tree of this species will display a yellow foliage at that season. Then, again, the other soft maple, the white or silver maple, which generally turns yellow, will in some places present a single tree with leaves showing a red color to considerable extent.

Most of our oaks are a brilliant red or scarlet in October, but some of them change each autumn from green to russet without the usual intermediate bright tints that generally precede the russet. The hard, or sugar maple, cannot be classified under any one particular color, for it not only displays various ones on the same tree, but green, yellow and red are often found on the same claf. The leaves on some species—the white ash, for instance, show three or four successive tints during their transition, passing from yellow to a beautiful shade of brown. On some trees, noticeably the red maple, a single branch will assume a brilliant color, generally red in August, while the rest of the foliage is still green. This may be attributed to some lack of vitality in the particular branch thus affected.

formity of green. It would seem, however, that the annual recurrence of this lavish display is not appreciated as it should be, that little attention is paid to it aside from the few who delight in nature study. Thoreau very justly remarks that "if such a phenomenon occurred but once it would be handed down by tradition to posterity, and get into the mythology at last."

Like the procession of the seasons, the various tree species assume their autumn garb in regular order. In some localities it may be early or late, but, then, our spring or fall does not always arrive in accordance with the almanac. Here and there individual trees may be slow in donning their gay livery; and there are spots where winter lingers, though all around the land is warm with returning spring.

There seems to be a popular impression that the period in which our forests displayed their autumnal beauty is of brief duration. A little thought and observation will show that this is hardly the case. By the first of August, throughout New England and the Middle States, many of our soft maples display their scarlet standards of approaching fall; in September the forests on our mountain slopes and upland plateaus are at their best; in October the woodlands along our valleys and the trees that line our village streets present their most brilliant effects; and even in November the persistent russet leaves of the oaks are still in pleasing evidence, while here and there on some late maturing trees may be seen a faint glow befitting this twilight season of the year. Thus we have four months in which to study this pleasing exhibition of nature, a period nearly as long as that in which the vernal foliage retains its uni-

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