

~~The Warelands,~~  
~~Norfolk, June 6, 1912~~

~~My dear Mr. Deane:-~~

" You asked me for some notes on Euphorbia Cyparissias L. in fruit. Since you called attention, a few years ago, to the infrequency with which this plant is reported in fruit, I have examined such colonies of it as I have chanced upon in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. In but one place have I found it in fruit, and that was in Greenfield, this state, on June 16, 1910. There I found two stations.

The first station was on one of the main residential streets when I was walking from my hotel -- the Welden -- to spend a half day on the near-by elevation known locally as the "Poets Seat". The plants were very numerous over an area of approximately thirty meters square, extending from the grassy street-side up a delapidated bank-wall and over a part of a lot of grass land, in another part of which was a dwelling. The plants carried an abundance of well developed fruit in such an advanced stage of maturity that on drying there was a strong tendency for the fruit to become detached.

On my return by a different route, I found on the margin of the settled portion of the <sup>city</sup> ~~town~~, two other patches close by each other, and distant from the first station a half or three-quarters of a mile. Though the area here was considerably less, the plants were numerous and bore abundant, well developed fruit.

This year, on May 11th, I revisited the first station. The plants appeared to be as numerous as on my first visit, but were only just coming into flower. The area covered by them was limited on two sides by as many streets, while in another direction it was marked by a line



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beyond which the grass is kept closely cut as a lawn about the dwelling above referred to. Evidently the grass between the lawn and the street is allowed to mature before it is cut, a period which allows also for the maturity of the spurge.

As to the persistency of the species in the face of a determined effort to eradicate it, I cannot speak from wide experience, but my belief is that it is not difficult to get rid of it if one wishes to do so. And for this reason:- when, some fifteen years ago we first took possession of this place, I found, on one part of the house grounds, a tangle of low blackberry vines, grass and this Euphorbia. It seemed to me then a discouraging task to get them out of the way. But by frequent cutting I soon found that the undesired plants were willing to give up the struggle, and I have had no trouble from them since. Just beyond the limits of my cutting however, they are holding their own with unabated vigor.

As the first house here was built by my ancestors in the latter part of the seventeenth century, it is likely that the plants <sup>been</sup> have long in possession of certain places where they still persist. Ever since we have been here I have looked for fruit, but have never seen it here."

~~Sincerely yours,~~

Robert Ware



Ware, Robert Allison. 1912. "Ware, Robert Allison Jun. 6, 1912." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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