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The Pinetum. The abundant rains of the past season have been a great benefit to the conifers in the Arboretum and many of these plants are now in an unusually good condition in spite of the severity of several recent winters. It is the province of the Arboretum to teach as far as it is possible to do so the value of all trees in this climate and to show those which fail as well as those which succeed, a duty which sometimes interferes with the beauty of the Arboretum as a garden. It has been shown by the Arboretum, for example, that the Balsam Fir, of the northeastern United States (*Abies balsamea*) and its near relatives, the Fir of the southern Appalachian Mountains (*A. Fraseri*), the Fir from the northern Rocky Mountain region (*A. lasiocarpa*), and the species of central Siberia, *A. sibirica*, can live here but soon become unsightly, and they are not worth growing in this climate for ornament or as timber trees. It has been shown here, too, that eastern Massachusetts is not cold enough for the White Spruce of the north, *Picea canadensis*. This beautiful tree grows here rapidly until it is about twenty-five years old and then, save in exceptional situations, it begins to become thin and soon loses its beauty.

Pacific Coast Conifers. Of the conifers of the Pacific coast region of North America the White Pine, *Pinus monticola*, is the most successful. It is hardy, grows rapidly and, although not more beautiful or as valuable as the native White Pine, *Pinus Strobus*, it is a tree well worth attention in New England. The Sugar Pine, *Pinus Lambertiana*, which on the California Sierra Nevada becomes the largest of all Pine trees, is perfectly hardy here and is in good condition although it grows slowly. The White Fir of the California Sierras,

Abies concolor, lives here in good condition for many years but is a less valuable tree in this climate than the plants of the same species derived from Colorado. *Abies nobilis* can live here in sheltered positions but does not become a tree, although the beautiful *Abies amabilis* which grows with it on the mountains of Oregon and Washington does better but grows slowly and has now been in good condition in the Arboretum for several years. Another tree which is rarely seen in northern collections, *Libocedrus decurrens*, the Incense Cedar of California, is in good condition in the small collection of exotic conifers near the top of Hemlock Hill in an exceedingly sheltered position. The Incense Cedar is a tree of narrow columnar habit with bright green foliage, and in California sometimes grows to the height of one hundred and fifty feet and forms a massive trunk. There are good specimens in the District of Columbia and it may well be more generally planted in the middle and southern states. The two beautiful White Cedars of the northwest coast, *Chamaecyparis Lawsoniana* and *C. nootkatensis*, can just be kept alive in the Arboretum where they drag out a miserable existence. Jeffrey's Pine, *Pinus ponderosa*, var. *Jeffreyi*, lives but that is all that can be said of it. None of the other coast conifers of western North America are hardy here, but fortunately a few of the northern species range inland to the western slope of the northern Rocky Mountains, and when plants of these species are obtained from the interior cold region they can be successfully grown in Massachusetts. Thus the Arboretum is able to keep in good condition the so-called Red Cedar of the northwest, *Thuja plicata*, or as it is more often called, *T. gigantea*. This is one of the noblest trees of which North America can boast and, although it will never grow to its largest size or become an important timber tree here, it is an ornamental tree in the Arboretum of considerable value and another witness to the importance of raising trees for cold climates from seeds gathered in the coldest parts of the area such trees naturally inhabit. It is possible, too, to grow here in the Arboretum the White Fir of the northwest coast, *Abies grandis*, and the coast Hemlock, *Tsuga heterophylla*, raised from seeds gathered on the Rocky Mountains of Idaho as these two trees also range far inland.

Colorado Conifers. The Douglas Spruce, *Pseudotsuga mucronata*, from Colorado is hardy in this climate and promises to be long-lived here although this tree from the northwest coast, where it grows in its greatest perfection, is not hardy in New England. The other conifers from the interior of the continent are hardy but are not of much promise as ornamental or timber trees for the eastern states. *Picea pungens*, the well known Colorado Blue Spruce, which is still largely propagated and sold by European and American nurserymen, will disappoint many planters of trees for its beauty is comparatively short-lived. This tree growing naturally in small groves by some of the streams of the southern Rocky Mountains becomes at the end of a few years thin and scrawny in habit with a few short branches on the upper part of the trunk, and is as ugly an object as a tree can well be. In cultivation the Blue Spruce for several years is compact in habit with wide-spreading branches in regular layers, but as the trees grow older

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