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Weeping Trees. A year ago a short account of fastigate trees, that is trees with abnormally erect branches, appeared in one of these bulletins, and it may be interesting to supplement this with an account of the trees commonly called "weeping," that is trees with abnormally drooping branches. Such abnormal trees have been industriously hunted for and largely propagated by nurserymen because many of their customers are interested in curious plants which are the joy of the owners of many suburban gardens, especially in Europe where happily such plants are in more general use than they are in this country. It can be said that "weeping" trees are less useful than some of the pyramidal trees for they cannot be used in mixed plantations or bear crowding, and must stand as isolated specimens in the park or on the lawn or the effect of the peculiar habit for which they are valued will be lost. Weeping trees of many of the large Willows are propagated by cuttings, and those of other trees by grafting a weeping branch on a stem of a normal tree of the same or of a related species, and it can be said generally that the Willows with pendulous branches produced from cuttings are the handsomest of the pendulous trees because they appear less abnormal.

Willows. The best known of the trees with pendulous branches is the Weeping Willow from China, a large tree with long slender drooping branchlets which sweep the ground, and narrow, dark green, very lustrous leaves. This is the common tree Willow in the region bordering the Yangtse River for two thousand miles from its mouth, and the one frequently planted in villages and cemeteries in other parts of the empire. For centuries this has been a favorite tree with the Chinese, and is a familiar object in many Chinese pictures, and is often repre-

sented on Chinese porcelains and wood-carvings. It is uncertain when this tree first reached Europe but it was probably brought to western Europe from Asia Minor late in the seventeenth or early in the eighteenth century, and as it was supposed to be a native of the valley of the Euphrates it was named *Salix babylonica*. It is unknown when this tree was first brought to North America where for many years it has been exceedingly common in the middle and some of the southern states. In Massachusetts it often suffers from cold, and this tree is less common here now than it was fifty years ago. Hybrids of *Salix babylonica* with the European *S. alba* and *S. fragilis* are sometimes cultivated in the northern states where they are very hardy and the most beautiful of the trees with pendulous branches which can be successfully grown in Massachusetts. The best known perhaps of these trees, *S. Salamonii*, is supposed to be a hybrid between *S. babylonica* and *S. alba*. It is a large tree with a broad head of drooping branches and leaves which are dark green above and silvery white on the lower surface. Only the female tree is known and it is not known where it originated. This is a tree which should be more generally known and planted in this country. The tree known as the Wisconsin Willow is probably of similar parentage. This tree has been largely planted in the northern states where it is perfectly hardy and a handsome and useful tree; the branches are perhaps rather less pendulous than those of *S. Salamonii*. *S. elegantissima*, *S. blanda* and *S. pendulina* are supposed to be hybrids of *S. babylonica* and *S. fragilis*, and are intermediate in habit and foliage between their parents. *S. elegantissima* is often found under the name of *S. babylonica* in regions where the latter is not hardy. In the northern states it is sometimes called Thurlow's Willow. *S. alba vitellina pendula* is usually considered a pendulous form of the Golden-barked Willow, or as a hybrid of the latter and *S. babylonica*. Whatever its origin may be this is one of the handsomest Willows which can be grown in the northern states. In nurseries in this country it sometimes appears as *S. babylonica*, var. *ramulis aureis*, or as the Golden-barked Babylon Willow. The Kilmarnock Willow is a form (var. *pendula*) of the European *S. caprea*. It is a plant with thick pendulous branches, and when grown as a standard these form a regular umbrella-like head. This is a popular tree with American nurserymen but the specimens which they produce are more curious than beautiful.

Beeches. The European Beech, *Fagus sylvatica*, has produced several forms with pendulous branches. The best known of these trees, var. *pendula*, does not grow very tall, and the principal branches are horizontal and wide-spreading, and from them the branchlets hang down nearly vertically. In habit this is one of the most remarkable of all the trees of abnormal growth, and the great tent-like specimens which can be seen in Europe are remarkable objects. This tree was first planted in the United States many years ago. It is perfectly hardy in the northern states but grows slowly here, and there are no exceptionally large specimens in this country. Other varieties of the European Beech are var. *miltonensis* and var. *bornyensis*, with more erect trunks and horizontal and pendulous branches; they are handsome trees still little known in this country. Other forms of the Weeping Beech are known as var. *pagnyensis*, var. *remillyensis* and var. *tortuosa*.

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