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The Pinetum. After two seasons of abundant rain the conifers are in good condition this autumn, and the Pinetum is now perhaps the most interesting part of the Arboretum to visit. At one time or another every conifer which had any chance of surviving has been tried in the Arboretum, and some useful information on the value of the different exotic and American species, with the exception of the new introductions from China, as ornamental trees in this climate has been obtained from the Arboretum experiments. Considering how generally unfavorable the New England climate is for trees of this class, the large number that succeed here is surprising, although it must be remembered that in this climate many conifers, especially Spruces and Firs, are often at their best when not more than forty or fifty years old and that as they grow older they gradually fail and lose their value as ornamental trees. This is true of the so-called Colorado Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*), which is still one of the most popular conifers in the northern United States, where it is propagated and planted in immense numbers, in spite of the fact that it early loses its value as an ornamental tree. The Blue Spruce is very hardy, is easily raised and grows rapidly; young plants are of good shape and dense habit with their lower branches resting on the ground. There are two forms, one with dull green and the other with blue leaves, and the latter especially appeals to persons who are fond of unusual looking and sensational plants. For the nurseryman the Blue Spruce has everything to recommend it, easy germination of the seed, quick growth and unusual beauty in the young plants, and therefore a certainty of a quick sale. For the planter looking for something more impor-

tant than a plant for a city garden or a small suburban yard this tree has proved a failure. It is not surprising for *Picea pungens*, growing in small groves near streams in the valleys of the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, long before it attains its full size is a thin, scrawny, miserable looking tree with a few short branches only near the top of the stem. This tree was discovered in 1862; seed was planted the following year in the Harvard Botanic Garden, and one of the plants raised at that time is still alive in the Arboretum on the southern slope of Bussey Hill where it is kept as a warning for planters who are deceived by the beauty of young plants of the Blue Spruce.

***Picea Engelmannii*.** This tree as it grows nearly up to the timber line of the central Rocky Mountains, where it once formed great forests, is one of the handsomest of the Spruces with its narrow spire-like crown, soft gray-green foliage and tall trunk covered with bright red scaly bark. It was also discovered in 1862 and what are probably the largest specimens in cultivation are in the Arboretum Pinetum. Until two or three years ago these were narrow, perfect pyramids with the lower branches resting on the ground; then the lower branches began to die gradually without apparent cause. This has continued; and the stems of some of the trees are now bare of branches for six or eight feet from the ground, and their beauty as specimen trees is ruined.

***Picea canadensis*.** This, the White Spruce of British North America, is a very hardy, fast-growing tree here, and is one of the handsomest of the Spruces which can be grown in this region; but the climate of eastern Massachusetts is evidently too warm for it and after it is thirty or forty years old it becomes thin and unsightly.

***Picea rubra*.** This is the Appalachian timber Spruce and retains here its beauty longer than the White Spruce, for it is a native of Massachusetts and ranges southward along the mountains to the high Carolina peaks. It is a handsome tree with dark green leaves, but it probably grows more slowly than any other large coniferous tree, and it is not easy to establish. For these reasons it will probably never be a favorite tree with nurserymen.

***Picea omorika* and *P. orientalis*.** These are handsome and hardy trees, the former a native of the Balkan peninsula, and the latter of the Caucasus. No weakness has yet been found here in these trees except that they too often lose their leaders from the attacks of the borer which so often destroys the leaders of the White Pine.

***Picea Glehnii*.** What the future may have in store for this tree here, which is a native of northern Japan and Saghalien, no one can predict as it has been in cultivation in the Arboretum for only twenty-two years. The trees now grow rapidly, are perfectly hardy and show no signs of failure of any sort. The best specimens here are now about eighteen feet high.

***Picea jezoensis*.** This is the most widely distributed of the species of eastern Asia; ranging as it does from the Amoor region to Manchuria, Korea, and to northern and central Japan. This is the only Spruce in all that region with flat leaves like those of *P. omorika* and

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