This tree is interesting as a conspicuous feature of the Texas flora, but less ornamental and less valuable as a fruit tree than most of the tree plums of the United States. Among the hybrids which have appeared from time to time in the Rochester parks is one between the Beach Plum (*P. maritima*) common on the northeast coast and the Wild Plum of the eastern states (*P. americana*). This hybrid is a bush five or six feet tall and eight or ten feet through the branches; it bears large crops of purplish fruit intermediate in size between that of its parents, and of better quality than that of either of them. Judging by the fruitfulness of this hybrid at Rochester it should prove a valuable plant for small gardens.

All the Plums which have been brought to Rochester from the southwest are growing in the Arboretum, but Boston is not sufficiently civilized to see and enjoy these plants at the season when they are most interesting, and in the case of several species most beautiful. In Rochester Plum-trees loaded with ripe and tempting fruit standing close to the sidewalks of streets near the parks and without the protection of a fence are not interfered with or injured. The fruit is there for the public to look at and enjoy, and spring and autumn throngs of visitors enjoy these wonderful plants. In the Arboretum it has been found necessary, in order to save the trees from injury, to pick every plum and cherry as they begin to color. Boys, and they are not always boys, break down the branches in their efforts to secure the half ripe fruit. Two years ago the best plant of *Prunus hortulana* in cultivation which had been growing in the Arboretum for twenty-eight years was so broken down that it was necessary to destroy it. It is the business of the Arboretum to furnish information about trees, and it is the public which suffers when the Arboretum is not protected from the public by the police and the courts.

Street Trees. There is at present a widespread interest in the United States in Nut-trees and their cultivation, and the general planting of Walnut and Hickory-trees on country roadsides in some of the northern states has been advocated. There are objections, however, to the use of these trees for such a purpose. Walnut and Hickory-trees are difficult to transplant, and the best success is obtained by planting one or two-year-old seedlings, that is plants only a few inches high. Such small plants must be kept clear of weeds and encroaching shrubs by which they might be easily destroyed, and with the best of care they would not be large enough to give much shade or produce many nuts in less than twenty-five or thirty years. The difficulty of growing the young trees can of course be overcome if cost is not considered; more difficult will be the protection of the trees when they bear nuts. Nuts are assiduously sought by men and boys who do not hesitate to break down nut-trees wherever they are left unprotected, and as the number of motor cars increase on country roads the facilities for robbing the trees will also increase.

The selection of trees for street and roadside planting presents many difficulties. In the interior of large cities, especially in those where bituminous coal is principally used, the Ailanthus is best able of all

trees to support the drought and dirt to which trees in cities are subjected. The *Ailanthus*, however, cannot be successfully used in narrow streets. The streets which are usually planted in this country are not in the business and most densely populated sections of cities but in their residential quarters and in their suburbs; and it is difficult to find the proper trees to plant along the usually narrow streets of their outlying districts. There are objections to most of the trees which generally have been used for this purpose. At the north the tree which has been most generally planted along streets is the American Elm-tree. It is one of the finest trees in the world, and as it may sometimes be seen shading the broad central street of an old New England village no street tree can equal it. The American Elm, however, will not flourish in sterile soil, and it cannot bear drought or atmosphere continually filled with dust and smoke. It needs room in which to grow, and its wide-spreading branches unfit it for the narrow streets usually found in the suburbs of large cities. Some of the Old World Elms are narrower trees, and the Hedge-row Elm of southern England, usually known in this country as *Ulmus campestris*, has grown well in Boston and its neighborhood for more than a hundred years and proved a better city tree than the American Elm. It is, however, too large a tree for the ordinary suburban street. The Sugar Maple is one of the best trees to plant by country roadsides, but the Sugar Maple cannot bear the hardships of city life, and even in suburbs usually languishes. The so-called Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*) is much better able to adapt itself to the conditions trees have to put up with in cities and in their neighborhood. It has been largely used as a street tree, but the trunk is too short and the branches are too low and form too broad a head for a good street tree. What is needed for street planting are tall, fast-growing trees with erect or semi-erect branches forming a head narrow enough to find room between the curb and the property line but wide enough to shade the street. An American Elm which may be expected to be a valuable tree for street-planting has recently been discovered in the neighborhood of Rochester, New York. This tree is now from seventy to eighty feet high, with a short trunk from which spring several long erect main branches which form a head not more than eighteen feet in diameter. It will be largely propagated for street-planting in Rochester. In Rochester, too, have recently been found two Norway Maples with erect growing branches. The head of one of these trees is too narrow for street-planting, but the other with an oval head equal in width to a quarter the height of the tree promises to be useful for this purpose. In the cities of the Southern States the streets are usually wider than in the north and the Water Oak (*Quercus nigra*) finds room in which to develop; and there is not in any country a handsomer, and more easily managed street tree than the Water Oak, which unfortunately is not hardy anywhere in the north.

1920. "Street Trees." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 6(16), 63–64. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321075>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/216956>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321075>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/321075>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

BHL-SIL-FEDLINK

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.