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Conifers. The value of institutions like the Arboretum appears in the fact that several cone-bearing plants which were first cultivated in this country at this Arboretum are now generally recognized as the best plants in their different classes which can be grown in the north-eastern United States. The most important of the conifers introduced by the Arboretum are *Tsuga caroliniana*, *Picea Engelmannii*, *Picea Omorika*, *Picea Glehnii*, the Colorado form of *Abies concolor*, the interior form of *Thuja plicata*, *Juniperus chinensis* var. *Sargentii* and *Picea glauca* var. *albertiana conica*.

Tsuga caroliniana, the Carolina Hemlock, as it grows in the Arboretum is generally considered the most graceful and beautiful cone-bearing tree in the collection. It is a native of the Blue Ridge, the eastern range of the Appalachian Mountains on which it grows from southwestern Virginia to northern Georgia usually in scattered groves on the rocky banks of streams usually at elevations between two thousand five hundred and three thousand feet. It escaped the attention of the numerous botanists who explored the southern Appalachian Mountains during the last half of the eighteenth and the first half of the nineteenth century, and its distinct character was first noticed in 1850 by Dr. L. B. Gibbes of Charleston, S. C., although it was not until thirty-one years later that it was described by Dr. Engelman. This Hemlock was first raised at the Arboretum in 1880 and the tallest tree here is now nearly forty feet high. On the Blue Ridge the Carolina Hemlock is usually not more than forty or fifty feet high, although occasionally trees up to seventy feet in height occur, and the trunk

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