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Conifers. The Arboretum collection of these plants has the reputation of being the largest and most complete in the United States, and no effort has been spared during the last fifty years to make it so. It shows perhaps fairly well which of these plants can be grown with more or less success in New England, but compared with what such a collection might be made in a climate really suited to these plants the Arboretum conifers have little to boast of. Of the twenty-eight genera of these plants which are now recognized fifteen only are represented in the Arboretum collection, with about one hundred and eight species and a large number of varieties. In the genera which cannot be grown in New England are some of the noblest and most interesting trees in the world, like the Sequoias, the Araucarias, the Taiwania, the Fitzroya, the most valuable of the cone-bearing trees of South America, the different species of Agathis, sometimes called Dammara or Damma Pines, and the Chinese Keteleerias. The Arboretum collection contains all the species of northeastern North America, a few European, Caucasian and central Asiatic species, the species of northeastern Asia, many of those of western China and of Japan, and of the northern Rocky Mountain region of North America. No conifer which grows south of the equator can be grown in New England. Mexico, the home of many conifers, especially of the genus *Pinus*, has contributed only one Pine-tree to the Arboretum collection. None of the important Pine-trees of the coast region of the southern United States are hardy at the north; and of the conifers of the Pacific States which do not range eastward into the Rocky Mountain region only *Pinus ponderosa* var. *Jeffreyi* is really successful here. The Incense Cedar (*Libocedrus decurrens*) has, however, grown fairly well in an exceptionally well sheltered

position. *Abies amabilis* is not injured by cold, but has not grown better in the Arboretum than it usually grows in cultivation; and the California form of the White Fir (*Abies concolor*), lives, but does not equal here in beauty the Rocky Mountain form of this tree. Other species of the region, *Pinus Balfouriana*, *Picea Breweriana* and *Cupressus Macnabiana*, are alive but still too young to give any adequate idea of their value, and plants of the two west coast species of *Chamaecyparis* only just keep alive. The regions therefore from which conifers can be drawn for New England plantations are restricted, and it is not now probable that another species suited to this climate will be discovered, except possibly on the northwestern borders of China or on the southern slopes of the Altai Mountains. The number of species in the collection does not of course represent its richness for many conifers, especially in the genera *Picea*, *Thuja*, *Tsuga* and *Juniperus*, produce many abnormal forms and there are more of these forms in the collection than there are species.

Taxaceae. What is true of conifers in New England is true also of the related *Taxus* Family, which with five genera is represented here by *Taxus*, *Torreya* and *Cephalotaxus*, and of its sixteen species eight, with several varieties, are more or less flourishing here.

If the plants growing in the Arboretum give but a poor idea of the conifers of the world it offers in its herbarium exceptional opportunity for the study of these plants, for in the Arboretum herbarium are representatives often in long suites of specimens of all the species with the exception of a few little known trees from the interior of New Guinea and New Caledonia. The Arboretum is well provided, too, with photographs of cone-bearing plants, and in its library are found all the important books and papers which have been published on these plants.

Native Conifers. The species of northeastern North America are the White Pine (*Pinus Strobus*), the Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*), the Pitch Pine (*P. rigida*), and the Jack Pine (*P. Banksiana*), the White Spruce (*Picea glauca*), the Red Spruce (*P. rubra*), the Black Spruce (*P. mariana*), the Balsam Fir (*Abies balsamifera*), the Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), the Arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*), the White Cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*), the Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), the common Juniper (*Juniperus communis*) and its dwarf variety *depressa*, and the prostrate *Juniperus horizontalis*. Of these plants the White Pine, the Red Pine, the Hemlock, the Red Cedar and the Arborvitae are trees of great value and beauty, but in speaking of them it must not be forgotten that the White Pine is threatened by a serious disease which makes its planting on a large scale undesirable. Among the hard Pines *Pinus resinosa* is better worth growing than any of the exotic species which have been tried here. The other native Pines have little to recommend them as ornamental or timber trees. The White Spruce, which just reaches from the north the extreme northern part of the United States, is a handsome, fast-growing tree, but in Massachusetts, where the climate is too warm for it, it is apt to grow thin and unsightly before it is fifty years old. The Red Spruce, which is the timber spruce of the northeastern states and the Appalachian Mountains, grows naturally more slowly than the other trees of New England and in the Arboretum it has never proved a success. The Black Spruce is a small tree which grows naturally in deep swamps

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