good introduction of the Arboretum. This is the handsomest of the North American Spruce-trees and the most valuable as a timber tree of them all. At its best it is sometimes one hundred and twenty feet high with a tall trunk often nine feet in diameter, frequently forming great forests up to altitudes of 10,000 to 12,000 feet, and is widely scattered above 5000 feet through the whole Rocky Mountain system from Alaska and British Columbia to southern New Mexico and northern Arizona. This tree has been grown in the Arboretum since 1879 when seeds collected by the late Dr. C. C. Parry were sent here from the Pike's Peak region of Colorado. It has grown rapidly in the Arboretum where it has always been perfectly hardy and has formed a narrow columnar head of pale gray-green leaves. Its only defect as an ornamental tree here is the tendency of the older plants to lose their lower branches—an advantage rather than a defect in a tree which will be grown more for the production of timber than for ornament. The loss of the lower branches discloses, too, the exceptionally beautiful gray scaly bark tinged with red.

Picea omorika, the Spruce-tree of southeastern Europe, is the third of the really great conifers introduced by the Arboretum. This is the important Spruce-tree of southeastern Europe where it forms or has formed great forests. Seeds of this tree sent by the late Dr. Carl Bolle of Berlin were planted in the Arboretum in 1881 and have grown into handsome compact pyramids of yellow green leaves pale below. The only drawback to this tree is that the leading shoot is sometimes killed by the insect which destroys the leader of the White Pine (*Pinus Strobus*).

That this Pinetum has done useful work is shown in the case of conifers of wide distribution in demonstrating that the plants raised from seeds gathered in some parts of their range are hardier than in others. The best results of this sort have been obtained perhaps with the handsome and useful Douglas Spruce (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*). This tree is widely distributed and grows to its largest size on the Pacific coast from southern British Columbia to California. The trees from the coast states have never proved really hardy in the east, but in 1873 and 1874 Dr. Parry sent to the Arboretum from Colorado seeds from which a perfectly hardy race of this tree was raised; and the trees which in late years have been so largely planted in the eastern states have been raised from seeds collected in Colorado.

Almost equally interesting is the so-called Red Cedar, *Thuja plicata*, of the northwest coast region from Alaska to Mendocino County, California, ranging eastward to the western base of the Rocky Mountains in Montana, and in the coast region often growing to the height of two hundred feet and forming a gradually buttressed base often fifteen feet in diameter at the ground level. From these trees the Indians of the coast made their great war canoes, and more recently it has furnished the best material for shingles and the other covering of houses. The coast tree never proved hardy here, but in 1880 one of the Arboretum collectors sent to the Arboretum a small bundle of its seedlings gathered on the mountains of Idaho. These plants have never been injured and have grown well and fairly rapidly, are now all handsome trees and among the most interesting conifers in the collection.

Probably all of the plants of this tree growing in the eastern states have been propagated by cuttings from the Arboretum trees where there are now four or five good specimens.

The beautiful Silver Fir of the coast, *Abies grandis*, which ranges from northern Vancouver Island to northern California, also extends inland along the mountains of northern Idaho, and some of the Idaho plants have done well here for forty-four years and are in a healthy condition.

Probably, however, the most generally interesting experiment of the sort made by the Arboretum is the one with the Cedar of Lebanon. For centuries it was believed in western Europe that this tree grew naturally only on Mt. Lebanon in Palestine, and all the trees in cultivation were raised from seeds gathered on the Lebanon or from the trees grown from these seeds in England or France, and succeeded in growing to a great size and beauty in these countries. The trees from Palestine were never hardy in New England or really healthy in any part of the eastern states. A comparatively few years ago it was discovered that the Cedar of Lebanon formed forests on the Antitaurus Mountains in Asia Minor about five hundred miles north and in a much colder region than the Lebanon. In 1901 the Arboretum sent a collector from Smyrna to the Antitaurus to collect seeds of the Cedar of Lebanon. He was very successful and sent to the Arboretum a quantity of seeds and a large amount of herbarium material. Much of the seed was distributed at once in the United States and in Europe, but no report from it has ever been received at the Arboretum. The seeds planted here, however, grew well but the trees have grown irregularly in size. The tallest of them are already at least thirty feet high and have grown more rapidly than any seedlings of conifers planted here in the Arboretum. These trees are perfectly hardy, although during one exceptionally severe winter the leaves of a few of them were all killed. A new crop of leaves soon appeared and the growth for that year even does not appear to be at all checked.

It is believed that what is certainly the largest collection of cone-bearing trees and shrubs in the United States is growing in the Arboretum, although it is certain that most of them will never be able to grow here to the size which these trees attain in better soil and a more temperate climate.

The Arboretum offers exceptional opportunities for the student of conifers in its herbarium which is believed to be the best in the world; only the few species already known which occur on the mountains of New Guinea are unrepresented in it.

1924. "Picea omorika." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 10(1), 3-4. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321430>.

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