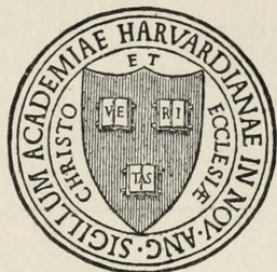


ARNOLD ARBORETUM  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



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**Beech-trees.** The deciduous-leaved Beech-trees, to which the name of *Fagus* is given, are confined to eastern North America, northern and central Europe, southwestern Asia, western China and Japan. Ten species are recognized. Several evergreen Beech-trees, now placed in the genus *Nothofagus*, grow on the high Andes of Chile and southward to the straits of Magellan, and in Australasia. Some of these southern species are established in English parks and gardens, but none of them will grow in the eastern United States, and it is doubtful if they have been tried in southern California where some at least may be expected to grow. Eight of the ten species of *Fagus* and several varieties are established in the Arboretum. Two species, *F. multinervis*, found only on Dagelet Island in the Japanese sea fifty miles from the coast of central Korea, and *F. Hayatae*, known only to grow on a mountain in the Head Hunters' country of Formosa, have never been cultivated. Wilson visited Dagelet in 1907 and collected small plants of *F. multinervis* which unfortunately died before they reached the Arboretum. One species, *F. grandifolia*, is confined to eastern North America where it is a common tree from eastern Canada to Florida and eastern Texas, and to Minnesota and Oklahoma. At the north it grows on uplands and mountain slopes, often forms pure forests of considerable extent, and is rarely more than seventy or eighty feet tall; at the south it is taller, and in the Mississippi valley in northern Louisiana and western Mississippi it is often a magnificent tree one hundred and twenty feet high with a tall trunk from three to four feet in diameter. At the north it differs from other species of *Fagus* in the habit of often producing stems from the roots. These often grow into small



trees which form dense thickets round the parent trunk. The bark of all Beech-trees is smooth and pale, but that of the American tree is paler than that of the other species, and the pale blue bark of the stem and large branches make this one of the most beautiful of the inhabitants of the forests of eastern North America. It is a native tree in the Arboretum and there is a fine group planted on the western slope of Bussey Hill near the Valley Road. The oldest trees in this group were planted fifty years ago, and in it there is a specimen of the variety *caroliniana*, a southern form, which differs from the type in its thicker, more closely toothed leaves which remain on the branches nearly through the winter, and in the less crowded prickles on the fruit. This is a common tree on the bottom lands of southern streams and on the borders of swamps.

*Fagus sylvatica*, the European species, is a large tree common except in the extreme north, and grows to its greatest perfection in England, Denmark, parts of Germany, and on the mountains of the Balkan peninsula, often forming pure forests and growing to the height of a hundred feet. It is a hardy and handsome tree in New England where it is perfectly at home, and grows faster and is handsomer than the American species. Unfortunately there is no record of the date of the introduction of this tree into the United States, but it was certainly more than one hundred years ago. The earliest American mention of *F. sylvatica* which the Arboretum has been able to find was in the nursery catalogue of William Prince of Flushing, New York, in 1820, in which this tree was offered. It is a remarkable and unaccountable fact that the green-leaved typical form of *F. sylvatica* has been so rarely planted in this country. It was not sent to John Bartram with other European trees from England, and there is no reason to believe that it was known to George Washington, a great lover and planter of trees; and the Arboretum has been unable to hear of any large or old specimens in the neighborhood of Philadelphia or New York. The finest specimens of this tree in New England are undoubtedly those planted by the late David Sears in one of the four squares in Longwood which he presented to the Town of Brookline. There are now fourteen of these trees growing on what is called Longwood Mall near the Sears' Church, which vary in girth of trunk from seven feet two inches to ten feet ten inches, with heads of wide-spreading branches sweeping the ground. Unfortunately no record has been found when these trees were planted; it was certainly before 1832, at the time of one of Mr. Sears' visits in Europe. Three or four of these trees are the purple-leaved variety and the rest are magnificent specimens of the typical green-leaved tree. These are the finest exotic trees which have been planted in Greater Boston, and probably form the finest grove of European Beeches in the United States. There was until a year ago a magnificent specimen of the green-leaved typical tree standing near the house of the late Marshall P. Wilder on Columbia Road in Dorchester. He moved into the house in 1832 and the tree was planted by Mr. Wilder or its previous owner, the Honorable Increase Sumner, at one time Governor of Massachusetts. This tree has now been cut down to make room for an apartment house which is to replace the Wilder mansion. There are four good trees of the green-



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