

**A TREATISE ON  
PRUNING FOREST AND  
ORNAMENTAL TREES**

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A Treatise on Pruning Forest and Ornamental Trees by A. Des Cars

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**A. DES CARS**

**A TREATISE ON  
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ORNAMENTAL TREES**





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A TREATISE  
ON  
PRUNING FOREST AND ORNAMENTAL TREES.

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. . . "If the forests should disappear, civilization would become extinguished on the earth. . . .

"It is the duty of an enlightened community to plant trees, and to so care for them that posterity shall not suffer, -- a duty unfortunately too little regarded in our day." -- DECAISNE.

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A TREATISE

ON

PRUNING FOREST AND ORNAMENTAL TREES.

By A. DES CARS.

TRANSLATED FROM THE SEVENTH FRENCH EDITION.

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With an Introduction

By CHARLES S. SARGENT,

PROFESSOR OF ARBORICULTURE IN HARVARD COLLEGE.

FIFTH EDITION.

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INTRODUCTION  
TO THE  
AMERICAN EDITION.

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THE Trustees of the Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture have intrusted me with the preparation of an American edition of the Count des Cars' treatise on Pruning Forest Trees.

No comprehensive work on this subject has appeared before in the English language. This, perhaps, is not remarkable. In Great Britain the earlier plantations, largely inspired by the works of Evelyn, were made with the view of ornamenting private parks, and the question of increasing the individual capacity of trees to produce timber by any system of pruning was hardly considered. The economic plantations of later years, made in Scotland and afterwards in England, have been generally composed of coniferous species, which, when properly planted, largely prune themselves. In America we have been too busy devising methods for cutting down our forests to give serious consideration to other branches of forest economy; and the American people have yet to show whether they can ever replace the magnificent tree-covering

their ancestors found on this continent, and which they are now too rapidly and surely destroying.

The advantage of pruning forest trees, in order to increase their yield of timber, was recognized in Germany as early as the beginning of the seventeenth century. At first warmly advocated, the practice seems to have been soon very generally abandoned; and it was not until the writings of de Courval and des Cars, recommending a scientific system based on fundamental laws of vegetable physiology, again called public attention to the importance of the subject, that systematic pruning became a regular operation in all Continental forests.<sup>1</sup>

Their system is based on the fact that, as wood is alone formed by descending, elaborated sap, a wound

<sup>1</sup> The following are the most important works which have been published on this subject:—

*Grundsätze der Forst-Öconomie.* Moser. 1775.

*Anleitung zur sicheren Erzielung der heimischen und fremden Holzarten.* Burgsdorf. 1785.

*Lehrbuch für Förster.* Hartig. 1811.

*Behandlung und Schätzung des Mittelwaldes.* Pfeil. 1830.

*Theory and Practice of Horticulture,* Chap. XIII. Lindley. 1855.

*Taille et Conduite des Arbres Forestiers.* De Courval. 1861.

*L'Élagage des Arbres.* Des Cars. 1864.

*Anleitung zum nationellen Betrieb der Ausäutung.* Von Muhlen. 1873.

*Forstliches Hilfsbuch für Schule und Praxis.* Pressler. 1872.

*Schneiden und Ausästen.* Tramnitz. 1873.

*Sämen und Pflanzen.* Burckhard. 1874.

*Das Ausästen der Waldbäume.* Vitus Ratzka. 1874.

*Ueber die Folgen ausseren Verletzungen der Bäume.* Goeppert. 1874.

*Notice sur l'Élagage des Arbres,* by Martinet. Published by the Administration of the French Forests in connection with the national exhibition of forest products at the Paris Exposition of 1878,—a valuable paper to which I am indebted for much information.