

**SHADE TREES,
INDIGENOUS SHRUBS AND
VINES, AND INSECTS THAT
INFEST THEM**

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Shade trees, indigenous shrubs and vines, and insects that infest them by J. T. Stewart

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J. T. STEWART

**SHADE TREES,
INDIGENOUS SHRUBS AND
VINES, AND INSECTS THAT
INFEST THEM**

SHADE TREES,

INDIGENOUS

Shrubs and Vines,

BY

J. T. STEWART, M. D.,

AND

Insects that Infest them,

BY

MISS EMMA A. SMITH,

ENTOMOLOGIST.

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1877.



TO MY READERS.

The following pages are the result of many years observation and much careful study. Every statement has been maturely considered. There may be and doubtless are errors, but I am sure a critical examination and the test of experience, will prove them to be few. I have endeavored to put in a small compass as much practical information as possible, on a subject on which much is needed. It was written expressly for this city, though parts of it apply equally to other places.

J. T. STEWART.

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Shade Trees.

A little time devoted by every family to the culture of shade trees and ornamental shrubbery, would add much to the healthfulness and beauty of our city, and would have a refining and elevating influence upon its people.

Every tastefully arranged and nicely kept yard invites every passer-by to a higher and better life, and is a joy to the family forever. The growing children drink in its beauty, and make it a part of themselves as surely and naturally as they breathe their native air. Coarse, unlovely children, brought up in the midst of lovely surroundings, are impossible things.

I wish to call attention to this subject, to urge its importance and give some little information upon it.

Before planting a tree in any given locality, the first thing to determine is what tree will flourish there. A healthy tree is usually handsome, but a sickly tree never is.

As a rule, indigenous* trees are the most reliable. Unfortunately our soil is such that but few of them will grow. Experience and observation will add, year by year, to our present knowledge, but if we had known twenty-five years ago what we now know, or have the means of knowing, it would have saved us many thousand dollars that have been wasted on trees that never will grow in this place.

During the last thirty years several thousand dollars have been expended on trees in the court house square alone; and with a few exceptions it is now filled with the silver-leaf poplar. Although they are better than no

*Natives of the place or vicinity.

shade trees, still when placed in such a soil, and in a place so exposed as that square, the silver-leaf poplar is an inferior and short-lived tree.

We have our own peculiar soil and location, and many trees that will flourish in a prairie loam having a clay subsoil, will not grow here.

Most of that portion of the city that lies between the bluff on the one side, and the lake and river on the other, has a thin, sandy soil, with a sand and gravel subsoil. It slopes towards the river in a southwesterly direction, and except a strip near the bluff which is a little depressed, is thoroughly drained.

Having such a declivity, soil and subsoil, it becomes excessively dry in summer. In exposed places it is not uncommon for the ground to dry five feet below the surface. And what is worse, when thoroughly dried, in places the subsoil becomes almost as hard as rock. It is that peculiar formation which is commonly and appropriately termed hard pan. Hence the extreme difficulty of making many trees grow that do well in other places.

That portion of the city which lies on the bluff has quite a different soil and subsoil, and a different exposure. That part northeast of the Knoxville road, has a clay loam, with a clay subsoil, and is somewhat rolling. That part which lies southwest of the Knoxville road, has chiefly a rich prairie loam, with a clay subsoil, and is rather level. Here almost any of the forest trees will grow. There is much less difficulty in raising trees anywhere on the bluff than in raising them below, and as it is a little cooler there in summer, there is in reality not quite so much necessity for them.

TREES THAT WILL GROW BETWEEN THE BLUFF AND THE RIVER.

In the plateau between the bluff and the river, we would recommend for outside planting, the following trees:

The Hackberry—*Celtis Occidentalis*; the White Elm—

Ulmus Americana; the Soft, or Silver Leaf Maple—*Acer dasycarpum*; the American and European Linn—*Tilia Americana* and *Tilia Europæa*; the Box Elder—*Negundo Aceroides*.

Of these six species, the Hackberry is beyond comparison, the best. It is difficult to say which of the others should have the preference. Taking all things into account, perhaps they have about equal merits. All, except the European Linn, are natives of our forests, prefer moist, rich land, but will flourish in almost any soil.

The Hackberry is a medium sized tree, resembling the elm; has a medium growth, is clean and symmetrical. When not crowded its top rounds up well and becomes quite dense. Its spray is the most graceful of our forest trees, and it holds its leaves till late in autumn. It is exceedingly tough. Its limbs never break. It will bear any amount of trampling around, and any amount of drouth, heat, cold, dust and smoke. It bears a dark purple globuler stone fruit, about the size of a pea, with a thin, sweet pulp, ripening late in the fall. It is rarely infested with insects; in fact, I never knew this tree to be injured by them. The only insect that seems to fancy it is the *Psylla Celtides Mam-ma*. Riley, which sometimes forms little galls on the leaves. It grows slowly when small, but when it becomes large enough for transplanting, its growth is fully equal to that of the elm. A row of these trees may be seen in front of Mr. David Proctor's place, on Perry street. Another, and the largest one in the city, grows in Dr. I. W. Johnson's front yard, on Perry street. There is one in Mr. W. H. Cruger's front yard, and there are two in the court house square. A few others may be seen in the city, most of which were set out last year. A good sized tree of this species grows in Chambers street, on the bluff. For some distance 'round the tree, the earth has been washed from the roots, which have been battered and trampled enough to kill many trees; yet, under this treatment, it seems not only to have suffered no injury, but to thrive.