

# Treasury of Trees.

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**I**N our study of modern forestry in Ireland with its emphasis on large scale cultivation of a comparatively small number of fast-growing exotic species there is a danger that we may neglect the study of all the other more or less common trees which can be found in groves, hedgerows, gardens and parkland up and down the country. Practicality and realism in regard to forestry are important but we must be careful as we go on our way that we do not lose our sense of wonder at the structure, the beauty and the behaviour of the less commercially important of our woodland trees.

The field of tree study is wide and the subject is full of absorbing interest. Each tree has its own peculiarities in regard to its life and growth, its relationship to environment, its reaction to silvicultural or arboricultural treatment, its place in the economy of the countryside.

Before we can embark on a proper study of these aspects of tree life, however, we must first be able to identify our trees accurately by all available characteristics at every season of the year. To help readers to achieve proficiency in this pleasant work is the main object of this book. All the trees to be found wild in the British countryside and all those extensively planted in British forests are dealt with in detail; altogether 140 different trees are described. The 380 photographs, depicting bark, foliage, flowers and seeds make tree recognition easy, even for those with little botanical knowledge. The text, which brings out the important features whereby one tree may be distinguished from another, describes the course of life and growth throughout the years and the seasons and outlines the importance of each tree as a timber producer or as an ornament of the landscape.

The book is divided into two sections—hardwoods and conifers—and the trees in both sections are presented alphabetically under their common English names. In regard to *Acer pseudoplatanus* it can be seen that the name great maple is given pride of place over the better known (in this country) name, sycamore. The authors deplore that the name sycamore should have been generally adopted for this tree on account of the fact that it does not indicate that it is a member of the genus *Acer*. It appears that when it was introduced from central Europe in or before the sixteenth century it was confused with the "sycamore" of the Bible, which is in fact a fig tree with a somewhat similar leaf. Then the Scots confused the sycamore with the plane and still call the tree and timber "plane." The Americans call their occidental plane a "sycamore" and to bamboozle us properly the French apply the name "plane" to norway maple!

In using this book, however, the reader can be sure that he will not be confused : the text, which is written with lucidity and precision, and the pictures, which are fine examples of photographic art, will together enable him to name any common woodland tree at any time of the year.

The volume is sumptuously produced and at the price is good value for anybody who wants to know his trees whether he be forester, gardener, landowner, teacher or student.

J.J.D.

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