

Noted Ornamental Trees

By L. C. BREED

EDITOR'S NOTE:—With a view to rendering their premises attractive, some golf clubs have caused several notable trees to be planted near their club-houses. In view of the protection that certain trees provide for highways, it is made a practice to plant some of them along the highways. In this way the piling up of snow on the road bed is prevented. They are also used in orchards to protect young fruit trees from injury during high winds.

There is also a steady increase in the use of ornamental trees on private estates, schools, colleges, public parks and cemetery grounds.

It will be found that if various trees are examined carefully some of them have attractive features in regard to which many persons are not aware. For this reason we decided to publish particulars about some remarkable ornamental trees. The first chapter in the September issue was about the Beech.

NO. 2—THE HORSE CHESTNUT

THE horse-chestnut has many qualities which make it desirable for ornamental planting. It grows rapidly and sturdily, has few insect enemies, gives a dense shade, and has at all seasons a somewhat conventional beauty that is attractive to people in general.

Even in winter the straight trunks shoot up from the middle of the tree with an orderly arrangement of the branches and twigs and large conical buds, with their glistening brown hues are sure to attract attention. In early spring the buds feeling the warmth in the air glisten in the sunlight and later the resinous coats drop off and the leaves come out.

The flowers of the horse-chestnut are superb and a fine tree in full bloom is a magnificent sight.

Standing alone and allowed to attain its natural shape it becomes a stately tree and often reaches the height of one hundred feet. The trunk is erect and the branches come out with such regularity that it develops a superb cone-like head. The branches almost invariably take the compound curve, upward from the trunk, downward as the branches lengthen and upward at the tip.

Under ordinary conditions the horse-chestnut is a long-lived tree. It is closely allied to the sycamore and the maple and is a member of the same family. It is a native of Greece and began to be cultivated throughout Europe in the seventeenth century. From the earliest settlement of North America by Europeans it has been planted for shade and ornament.

NO. 3—THE LOMBARDY POPLAR

THE Lombardy poplar was the first ornamental tree introduced into the United States. One of the

features of this tree consists in making a narrow leafy wall sooner and more satisfactorily than any other tree, and it can grow by the roadside and not shade the street. It is the only deciduous tree whose branches hug the stem and resulting from that is its peculiar spiry shape which is individual. When the wind blows, unlike other trees that wave in parts, it waves in one simple sweep from top to bottom.

Besides the vertical habit of growth which distinguishes it from all others, the leaf also is characteristic. It is very broad for its length. The buds of the Lombardy poplar are small and vertically pointed, the flower-buds developing very early in the spring into pollen-bearing catkins, the leaf-buds pushing out a little later their young leaves of a rich yellow-green color.

The Lombardy poplar attains usually a height of about sixty feet, but frequently reaches over one hundred feet and is a long-lived tree. It long has been very popular in England and up to one hundred years ago was considered to be preferable for ornamental purposes to any other tree. It is common in the streets and squares of towns in all parts of that country.

NO. 4—THE LARCH

THE larch which is extensively planted as an ornamental tree is not the American species but the European. It is justly considered as one of the favorite conifers for it is a beautiful tree, having a grace of outline, with pendant branchlets clothed through the summer with delicate tufts of slender leaves of a green which varies from the lightest tints in early spring to the deep green of summer and the yellow green of autumn.