



1. The common typical American or white elm (*Ulmus Americana*) 2. The willow type, good for shade. More spreading. Also common 3. Vase type, feathered. Excellent for street planting

## The Types of the American Elm—By C. C. Laney, Rochester, N. Y.

THE VASE, PITCHER, UMBRELLA, WILLOW AND OAK TYPES OF ELMS CAN BE DETECTED EVEN AMONG FIVE-YEAR-OLD TREES IN NURSERY ROWS—WHICH FORMS ARE BEST FOR STREETS AND WHICH FOR LAWNS AND PARKS

HAVE you ever noticed that the elms which you see all around you show several well-marked differences of form? If not, look at the accompanying pictures, which will prove the point.

The white or American elm (*Ulmus Americana*) as seen standing in an open space where it has grown for years undisturbed by man is surely one of the most interesting of our native trees. Certain forms are so frequently repeated that we can divide them into types, each of which is as distinct as the breeds of certain domestic

animals. Some nurserymen by grafting have produced types that they recommend for street tree planting so that all the trees on a street are of the same type. Imagine a street planted with elm trees each one of which was of the vase type as shown in the illustration (Fig. 3) of the very beautiful elm which grows on the Latta Road near Charlotte, N. Y. This tree is known by the residents in the vicinity as the "Golden Rod" and the "Bouquet."

A feathered elm is one on which small branches grow on the stem covering the trunk nearly to the ground. Frequently a vase type of elm is feathered as in this case, but elms of other forms are also often beautifully feathered, and the effect produced by the green mantle of foliage is very pleasing.

The pitcher type (Fig. 5) reminds one of a water pitcher by the peculiar shape of the branches on one side of the tree. In a ride of a few miles in western New York several handsome specimens of this interesting type may be seen. They are generally tall with a long bare trunk.

Occasionally one sees a two-storied elm (Fig. 11) which is too rare to be classed as a general type, but which so greatly resembles a sturdy oak that it might be classed with the oak tree type which is met with often enough to be called a type. (Fig. 12).

At a distance of several hundred feet from some elms one is reminded of a palm-leaf fan, but the photograph reproduced in figure 8 fails to adequately convey the illusion. The palm-leaf variety must be seen in the field to be fully appreciated.

In some elms the branches are as lithe and graceful and drooping as those of weeping willows; and, therefore, trees of

that habit we class as the willow type (Figs. 6 and 7). On Norton Street, Rochester, N. Y., near where it intersects Goodman Street, is one of the most graceful of all the trees I have seen of this type.

The Gothic arch type is one of the most beautiful of all the white elms. Some of the finest specimens of this magnificent type are so situated among buildings or where wires and poles surround, that it is difficult to get photographs of them. The most beautiful specimen that I know is on Brunswick Street, Rochester, N. Y., where, unfortunately, it cannot be photographed.

The most famous elm tree in western New York, however, is the grand umbrella elm (Fig. 10) growing near East Avon on the main road from Buffalo to Albany. Thousands of persons have admired this tree, and in these days of automobile travel it has become known to tourists, being regarded as one of the landmarks of the section. This tree is, indeed, an ideal specimen of that rare type.

Various other forms, many of which are rarely beautiful are not reproduced frequently enough to be classed as types. A very beautiful low-growing and spreading elm is the pride of tree lovers of Le Roy, N. Y. It is about forty feet high, and the spread of its branches is 120 feet, and it is about ten feet from the ground to the lowest branches.

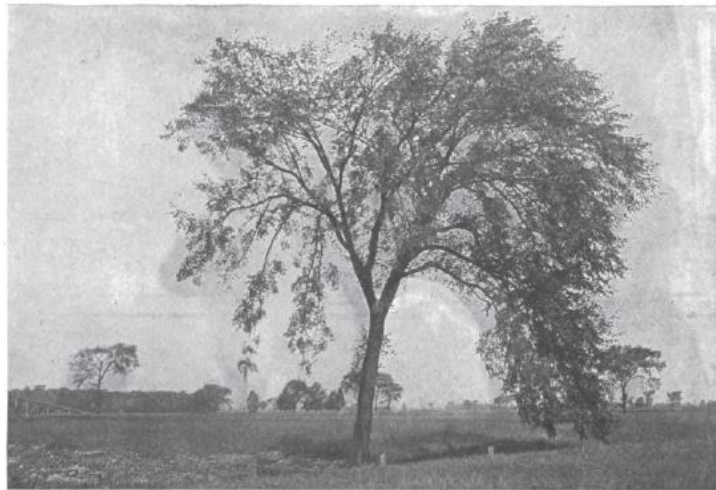
We cannot too highly cherish our American elm which Michaux commended to European cultivators as "the most magnificent vegetable of the temperate zone," and every encouragement should be given to owners of fine elm trees to preserve them for future generations. In every village



4. The feather character though most common in the vase form is seen also in all others



5. Pitcher type, having a long, bare but branched trunk. A variation of the willow type.



6. Willow type. The drooping branches are as lithe and graceful as those of weeping willows. Very picturesque on large lawns

I suggest the formation of an association whose motive should be the preservation of the beautiful trees in the open spaces in the country. Secure photographs of fine trees and publish them in the country papers. Give appropriate and euphonic names to the trees and write up their histories. The children of the district should be taught to know them by name, and should be encouraged to make pilgrimages to them, to hold

picnics and little parties under them. And so a love for the trees would be cultivated by association and the next generation, being friends to the trees, there would be no need of enacting laws to compel their preservation. Little effort seems to have been made toward propagating any of the types of elms. The seedlings in the nursery row show marked diversity of form by the time they attain the age of four or five years, but none of the forms

can be depended upon to come true from seed: that is, the seed of any one of them will produce itself and any of the others. Of course, by grafting the types may be multiplied, as is done in the case of the weeping form.

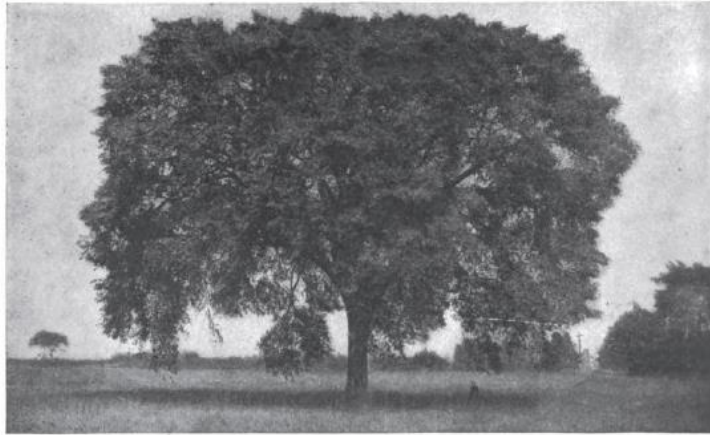
Grafting is a very easy process with the elm, and the grafted plant invariably retains its character so far as form is concerned, but colored or variegated foliage sometimes has a tendency to become green again. A



7. In exposed situations, where the wind sweeps, the willow type is seen at its best and gives character to the landscape



8. The palm-leaf form. The one sided character of this is not well seen in a photograph



9. A low headed form of the willow type. Note the flat spread and compare with others shown



10. Umbrella type. This tree is a conspicuous object on the road at East Avon, near Lima, N. Y.



11. Two storied form of the oak type



12. In this we see all the sturdy dignity of the oak. It is named the oak type. Rare

few nurserymen carefully select the different types in the nursery row so that trees having one form can be supplied on requisition, which is most desirable for avenue effects or street planting.

It is certainly unfortunate that so magnificent a tree as our native elm should be subject to such devastating injury as that from the elm leaf beetle. Methods of control of this pest have been described on page 26 of the

August, 1907, number of THE GARDEN MAGAZINE-FARMING. There are two periods of the year in which it can be attacked—May and August — when some arsenical poison must be sprayed in sufficient profusion to completely cover the foliage. In view of the public benefit derived from the retention of handsome specimen trees, local authorities might be induced to lend the fire engines to give the necessary power to spray tall trees.—EDITOR.]