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*Critical Perspectives in the History of Environmental Design*  
*Edited by Daniel J. Nadenicek*

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Neither should the artistic significance of the results be overlooked. Perhaps it is always true, at least nearly always, that plants are most beautiful and best adapted to the requirements of the landscape architect when they grow normally, lustily and with evident joy in their conditions of life. Certainly these two juniper hillsides supply an almost endless series of interesting plant forms and of delightful pictorial compositions. No landscape architect nor any painter could be satisfied here with a mere casual glance.

Notable variations occur in both dominant species. The common juniper, in particular, shows so many and such diverse forms that one begins to doubt whether we are dealing with a single species or a mis-

cellaneous hybrid progeny. There are low, prostrate forms, sturdy, upright forms, and everything in between. Many of the individual specimens are of striking beauty.

Even in this remarkably pure stand of junipers, where the two dominant species so completely fill the picture, there are still other species present which are far from negligible. In the particular area studied, these secondary species are less conspicuous than usual, possibly on account of the heavy pasturing; but perhaps these conditions give a special test of their persistence and so mark them as belonging with considerable certainty to the juniper association.

Below are listed those plants of sufficient size and importance to interest the

#### JUNIPER ASSOCIATION

A, B and C in all cases indicate degrees, e.g., in the first column,

A=abundant. B=moderately abundant. C=rare.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	ABUNDANCE	ECOLOGICAL VALUE	DECORATIVE VALUE
DOMINANT SPECIES				
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Common juniper	AAA	AA	AA
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Red cedar	AA	AA	AAA
SECONDARY SPECIES				
<i>Betula populifolia</i>	Gray birch	A	A	C
<i>Comptonia asplenifolia</i>	Sweetfern	A	A	AA
<i>Crataegus</i>	Hawthorn	B	A	AA
<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i>	Huckleberry	C	A	A
<i>Rhus copallina</i>	Shining sumac	A	A	AA
<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>	Hardhack	A	A	B
TERTIARY SPECIES				
<i>Gnaphalium decurrens</i>	Everlasting	B	B	nil
<i>Pinus rigida</i>	Pitch pine	B	A	A
<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Sweetbrier	C	C	C
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Common mullein	C	B	C



Red cedars at Ivy  
Creek Natural Area,  
Charlottesville, Va.  
(Photograph by Robert E.  
Grese.)



Old field juniper in  
prairie, Ann Arbor,  
Mich. (Photograph by  
Robert E. Grese.)

landscape architect. It is more than probable that a study of other juniper areas would discover other species of equal importance. To this suggestion it must be replied that, while more generalized studies are certainly desirable, it is deemed of first importance to make critical examination of particular cases. It will generally be accepted as a sound principle that an exhaustive study of details should precede any generalization. It is the opinion of the present writer, moreover, that this critical and intimate study of Nature in its mani-

fold details is an exercise peculiarly useful to the landscape architect.

It will be remarked that for some of the species listed the association with the junipers is judged to be more or less accidental and of little ecological significance. Such species are marked "C" in the column headed "Ecological Value."

It will be seen further that certain of these species seem to have a much greater decorative value than others. The sweetfern, hawthorn, and shining sumac are most in be prized for ornamental planting.



Sugar maples at edge of meadow, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, Woodstock, Vt. (Photograph by Carol Betsch.)

and we can develop the desired form more easily and successfully, by leaving a much greater number of trees than are eventually to remain, and removing from year to year all which are near enough to the final occupants to check or impede their full development.

If, on the other hand, we wish to develop the trunk or bole for use as timber we must plant, or suffer the trees to grow more thickly together, and thus extend its trunk longitudinally by forcing it to ascend in search of the sunlight on which its very existence is dependent. The indigenous growth, however, is always a great deal too thick for successful development. The trees are so crowded that many of them perish in the struggle, and those which survive are drawn up into such spindling proportions that not one in a hundred ever attains the dignity of timber, whereas by proper and reasonable thinning, and judicious culture and pruning of the trees selected for final retention, every acre of woodland might be made to yield an annual crop of fire-wood, and all the while be growing timber which eventually in many instances might be worth more than the land itself; or by a different process of management may be converted into a grove of majestic and graceful, ornamental trees.

The proper performance of this work constitutes the most important part of forest culture and for want of the knowledge of how it should be done, or from ignorance of the possibility of its application to our native forest, a vast area (in the aggregate) of woodland is running to waste; yielding no revenue and promising nothing better in the future than fire-wood, of which a very large proportion is yet susceptible of redemption and conversion into timber of

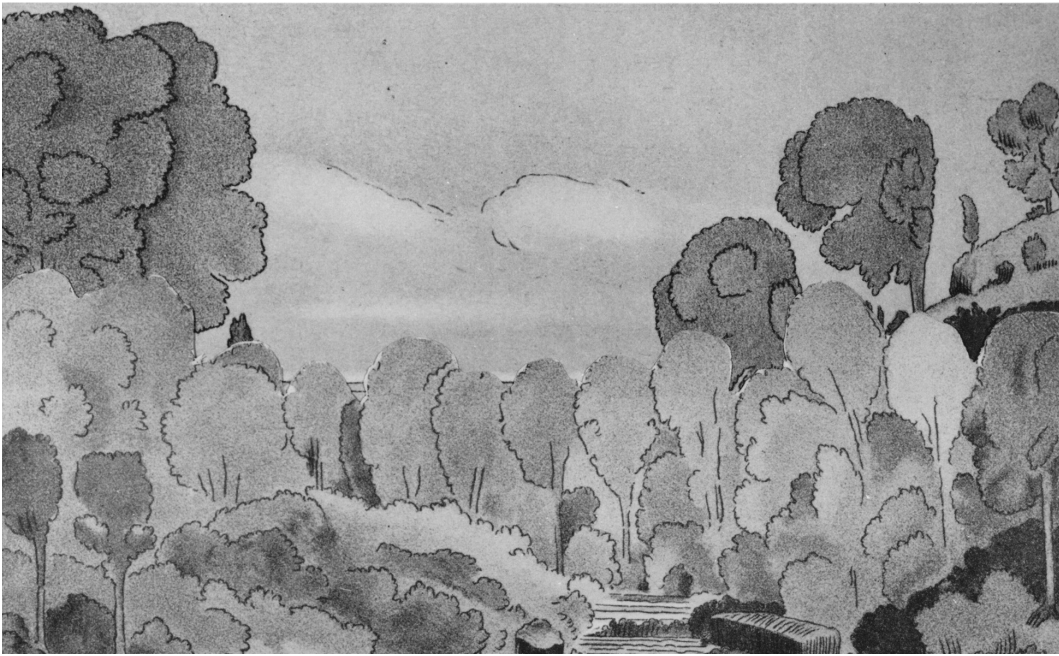
great value at far less cost of time and labor than would be required for the planting and rearing of new forests, while the very process of development would be yielding an annual income instead of demanding large outlays.

Travel where we may we are never out of sight of forest, and every wood lot is a mine of wealth waiting only the application of intelligent labor for its development. In almost every tract of woodland may be found more or less of the trees I have named and in many places also hickory, walnut, butternut, elm, cherry, beech and other valuable timber trees, mingled with a great variety of those which are worthless, or fit only for fuel. In some cases they are past redemption, having been so long neglected that they have run up into mere thickets of hoop-poles. Young growth may everywhere be found, however, which are in condition to be taken in hand, and in almost all cases the work of thinning, and pruning may be entered upon with a certainty of profitable results if wisely and perseveringly conducted.

The work of thinning, as ordinarily conducted in the occasional instances in which on any account it has become desirable, is entrusted to mere laborers, who have no regard for the natural conditions which are essential to healthy growth, and which cannot be suddenly changed, without serious injury to the trees that are left.

All the small growth of shrubs, such as hazel, cornel, dogwood, elder, shad-bush, etc., is first grubbed out and destroyed under the general term of "underbrush," and this not only throughout the interior of the wood, but round its outer edges where such shrubbery is apt to spring up in thickets, which serve the very important pur-

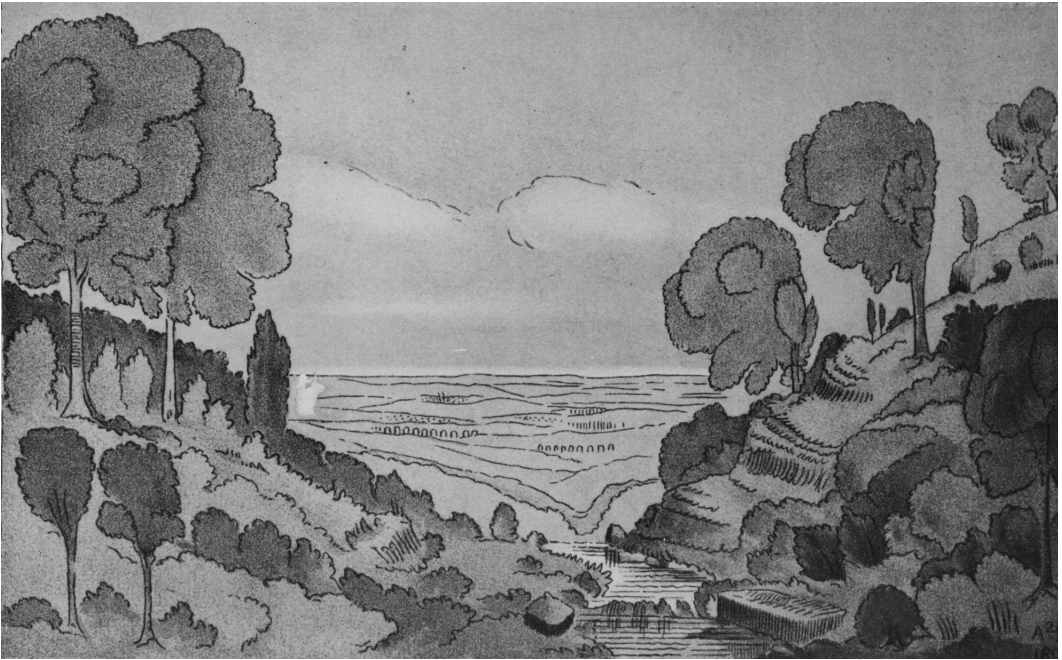




Tree-clogged Notch, near the southeastern escapment of the Fells, from *Charles Eliot, Landscape Architect*, opp. 732.

come when it screens from sight any fine rocks or any richly verdurous swamp openings, as well as when it blots out possible vistas. It sometimes springs from the stumps of such deciduous trees as once were mixed with conifers on rocky hillsides, and in such cases it ought to be suppressed at once for the encouragement of seedling Pines, or other trees known to be long-lived and appropriate in such situations. The occasional broad views obtained from “clearings” made just previous to the acquisition of the reservations, or from areas from which fire-killed old sprout has been recently removed, are often fine, but they are generally only temporary, —the growth of the young sprout will obliterate most of these prospects in a very few years, together with many now pleasing glimpses of the ponds in the Fells, of the distant sea, or of the Great

Blue Hill seen through some chance valley or ravine. The growth of the young sprout in other recent clearings will also once more shut out from view such bold hill-forms and foreground rock-masses as are temporarily visible and enjoyable just at present. Many of these chance and fleeting openings in the too continuous and too monotonous woods of high sprout ought certainly to be made more permanent, if only to illustrate how the removal of sprout-growth from large surfaces, and particularly from among the rocks, will enrich and vivify the scenery. To neither the old nor the young living coppice has any attention yet been given. The only care the previous private owners gave it was to cut the sprout-growth clean whenever the crop seemed ripe, that is, whenever most of the trees were large enough for cordwood, or sometimes for chestnut posts.



Notch after opening, view of the Malden-Melrose valley and Saugus hills, from *Charles Eliot, Landscape Architect*, opp. 733.

To thin the sprout-growth so as to develop trees of more spreading habit was never worthwhile from the wood-lot owners' point of view; but such thinning has been practiced at a few places within the limits of the reservations by persons desirous of making their lands more attractive in the eyes of purchasers of suburban house-lots, with results which, though startlingly ugly at first, serve the purpose after a few years. To treat the sprout-lands of the reservations in this manner throughout their length and breadth would, however, be inadvisable, since the result would be quite as monotonous and artificial in its way as is the present dense growth. Moreover, in most of the rough lands of the reservations no type of growth could be more inappropriate than that which consists of separated and spreading trees. In such lands there is not enough soil to grow really

fine separate or specimen trees, and again there are few sprout trees which are sufficiently sound at their necessarily deformed bases to make them likely to thrive and live more than a comparatively small number of years. In view of the uninteresting quality of sprout-growth as an element of scenery, and of these grave objections to any general thinnings, it ought to be the settled policy of the management of the reservations to gradually effect the substitution of mixed seedling growth in place of the existing sprout-growth. Now that fires are prevented from spreading, seedlings of many species of trees will soon spring up wherever the sprout trees are not too thickly set; Pine seedlings here, Hemlocks and Beeches there, Birches among these rocks, Hickories, Chestnut-Oaks, and so on. Such seedling underwood is noticeable in many places to-day; and wherever