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A Recount by Species of the Trees of Mount Pleasant, Iowa

MRS. JEAN MORROW AND H. E. JAQUES

During the winter of 1924-25, a count by species of the trees within the city limits of Mt. Pleasant was made by the students of the Biology Department of Iowa Wesleyan College.¹ A recount of the trees in this area was made by the students during the winters of 1945-46-47. All trees over four inches in diameter at breast height were counted.

Willows, Oaks, Mulberries, Hawthorns and Ashes were not separated into species as their winter characters make it difficult to separate them accurately to species. The Carolina Poplars were included with the Cottonwoods; all Junipers were included in one group as "Cedars."

A comparison of the results shows an increase of 12.5% in the total number of trees (from 15,998 to 18,586). The American Elms are most numerous and increased in number from 2,137 to 4,199.

The American Elm is likely the most popular shade tree of our region and is often chosen for landscaping. Then it seeds itself so readily that many of the elms contributing to this large count were volunteers in neglected areas.

Many of the old Apple trees which have died have not been replaced. The count is now 1,436 as compared to 3,369 in 1924-25. This may be due to new homes crowding in or probably to our age of specialization tending toward buying our apples in the store rather than owning our own Apple tree, and bothering to spray and care for it.

There are many lovely large trees in the town. One Silver Maple has a trunk circumference at breast height of 16¼ feet. Five other trees, including an Elm, measure over 14 feet in circumference.

The early residents of Mount Pleasant planted Silver Maples for quick growth and shade. Later the more attractive but slower growing Sugar and Norway Maples were set out to replace the Silver Maples that were cut down because they were hollow or had served their purpose. The wind storms take heavy toll of the Silver Maple. The count now is 1,076 compared to 1,846 twenty years ago. The Sugar Maple increased from 863 to 1,100.

In the following table, the "Check List," (1944) of the Forest Service of U. S. Department of Agriculture was used for terminology and "How to Know the Trees" by H. E. Jaques was used for phylogenetic order.

¹ H. E. Jaques, 'A Tree Census of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa', Proc. Iowa Acad. of Sc. 32: 201-3.

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Number |
|---|---|--------|
| Maidenhair-tree | <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> L. | 4 |
| Eastern White Pine | <i>Pinus strobus</i> L. | 161 |
| Scotch Pine | <i>Pinus silvestris</i> L. | 159 |
| Austrian Pine | <i>Pinus nigra</i> Arnold | 67 |
| European Larch | <i>Larix decidua</i> Mill. | 5 |
| Tamarack | <i>Larix laricina</i> Koch | 1 |
| Norway Spruce | <i>Picea abies</i> Karst. | 210 |
| Blue Spruce | <i>Picea pungens</i> Englm. | 45 |
| Eastern Hemlock | <i>Tsuga canadensis</i> Carr. | 21 |
| Douglas-fir | <i>Pseudotsuga taxifolia</i> Britt. | 1 |
| Balsam Fir | <i>Abies balsamea</i> Mill. | 1 |
| Eastern Arborvitae | <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> L. | 34 |
| Cedars | <i>Juniperus</i> spp. | 550 |
| White Poplar | <i>Populus alba</i> L. | 25 |
| Quaking Aspen | <i>Populus tremuloides</i> Michx. | 7 |
| Cottonwoods (Eastern Cottonwood, Carolina Poplar, etc.) | <i>Populus</i> spp. | 205 |
| Lombardy Poplar | <i>Populus nigra italica</i> Muench. | 603 |
| Willows | <i>Salix</i> spp. | 241 |
| Butternut | <i>Juglans cinerea</i> L. | 8 |
| Black Walnut | <i>Juglans nigra</i> L. | 595 |
| Japanese Walnut | <i>Juglans sieboldiana</i> Maxim. | 3 |
| Pecan | <i>Carya illinoensis</i> Koch | 2 |
| Shagbark Hickory | <i>Carya ovata</i> Koch | 156 |
| Bitternut Hickory | <i>Carya cordiformis</i> Koch | 21 |
| Eastern Hophornbeam | <i>Ostrya virginiana</i> Koch | 22 |
| River Birch | <i>Betula nigra</i> L. | 17 |
| Paper Birch | <i>Betula papyrifera</i> Marsh. | 22 |
| American Chestnut | <i>Castanea dentata</i> Borkh. | 8 |
| Oaks | <i>Quercus</i> spp. | 311 |
| Slippery Elm | <i>Ulmus fulva</i> Michx. | 50 |
| American Elm | <i>Ulmus americana</i> L. | 4199 |
| Winged Elm | <i>Ulmus alata</i> Michx. | 1 |
| Siberian Elm | <i>Ulmus pumila</i> L. | 259 |
| Wych Elm | <i>Ulmus glabra</i> Huds. | 1 |
| Hackberry | <i>Celtis occidentalis</i> L. | 105 |
| Mulberries (Red, Black & White) | <i>Morus</i> spp. | 738 |
| Osage-orange | <i>Maclura pomifera</i> Sch. | 331 |
| Cucumbertree | <i>Magnolia acuminata</i> L. | 4 |
| Soulange's Magnolia | <i>Magnolia soulangeana</i> Soul. | 1 |
| Tuliptree | <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> L. | 9 |
| Pawpaw | <i>Asimina triloba</i> Dunal | 1 |
| Sassafras | <i>Sassafras albidum</i> Nees. | 1 |
| Sweetgum | <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> L. | 1 |
| American Sycamore | <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> L. | 24 |
| London Plane | <i>Platanus acerifolia</i> Willd. | 2 |
| Common Pear | <i>Pyrus communis</i> L. | 590 |
| Prairie Crab Apple | <i>Malus ioensis</i> Britt. | 6 |
| Apple | <i>Malus pumila</i> Mill. | 1436 |
| European Mountain-Ash | <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> L. | 2 |
| Hawthorns | <i>Crataegus</i> spp. | 37 |
| Black Cherry | <i>Prunus serotina</i> Ehrh. | 258 |

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TREES OF MT. PLEASANT

175

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Number |
|---------------------------------|--|--------|
| Mazzard (Sweet Cherry) | <i>Prunus avium</i> L. | 6 |
| Sour Cherry | <i>Prunus cerasus</i> L. | 872 |
| Cultivated Plums | <i>Prunus</i> spp. | 363 |
| Wild Plums | <i>Prunus</i> spp. | 76 |
| Apricot | <i>Prunus armeniaca</i> L. | 71 |
| Peach | <i>Prunus persica</i> Batsch. | 1107 |
| Redbud | <i>Cercis canadensis</i> L. | 39 |
| Honeylocust | <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> L. | 377 |
| Kentucky Coffeetree | <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> Koch | 13 |
| Yellowwood | <i>Cladrastis lutea</i> Koch | 2 |
| Black Locust | <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> L. | 54 |
| Treofheaven | <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> Swingle | 178 |
| Eastern Wahoo | <i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i> Jacq. | 6 |
| Sugar Maple | <i>Acer saccharophorum</i> Koch | 1100 |
| Silver Maple | <i>Acer saccharinum</i> L. | 1076 |
| Red Maple | <i>Acer rubrum</i> L. | 7 |
| Box Elder | <i>Acer negundo</i> L. | 894 |
| Norway Maple | <i>Acer platanoides</i> L. | 119 |
| Horsechestnut | <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> L. | 11 |
| Ohio Buckeye | <i>Aesculus glabra</i> Willd. | 14 |
| European Buckthorn | <i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> L. | 2 |
| American Basswood | <i>Tilia americana</i> L. | 88 |
| Small-leafed European Linden | <i>Tilia cordata</i> Mill. | 1 |
| Russian-olive | <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> L. | 10 |
| Devils-walkingstick | <i>Aralia spinosa</i> L. | 7 |
| Flowering Dogwood | <i>Cornus florida</i> L. | 2 |
| Common Persimmon | <i>Diospyros virginiana</i> L. | 34 |
| Ashes | <i>Fraxinus</i> spp. | 223 |
| Northern Catalpa | <i>Catalpa speciosa</i> Warder | 273 |
| Nannyberry | <i>Viburnum lentago</i> L. | 1 |
| Total | Number of species 81 | 18,586 |

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