

NATURE RAMBLINGS

By Frank Thone



Liquidambar

Anybody who is planning on putting in a group of shade or ornamental trees, whether in a park planting, around a country house or even on a fair-sized city place, will do well to remember the liquidambar, or sweet-gum. This splendid tree of the American southeast is at least moderately hardy, and will thrive in cultivation many hundreds of miles north and west of its natural range.

It may have to be nursed a bit while it is little, and there will always remain the danger that a too-stiff windstorm will wrench off a limb, for its wood is none too strong; but even so, it will, in many future autumns, repay a thousand times over the care it gets.

For there is scarcely a tree that can show such splendid leaves in the fall. Pointed like stars, they change from their strong summer green to a deep wine-purple that is the very blood of the sun. An autumn-colored liquidambar against a sunset sky, with the light shining through its sanguine leaves, is a sight not soon to be forgotten.

The fruits of the liquidambar tree also are worth growing to look at, though they are not good for even birds or squirrels to eat. They are such curious-looking things, bristling toward all the stars with their hundred sharp little points, like maces for the wars of fairy cavalry.

And the twigs of the tree intrigue one's interest as well, for they have caught the trick, known to a few widely scattered woody plants, of developing their cork in long, narrow streaks, so that they come to be ridged with "Wings" of bark. All round, the sweet-gum is a tree of great interest as well as great beauty.

Botany

Science News-Letter, September 27, 1930

Paralysis Spreading

WITH 490 new cases of infantile paralysis reported to the U. S. Public Health Service in one week recently, it is feared that the outbreak may reach epidemic proportions. This total is higher than it has been for several years. The increase over the preceding week was 128 cases.

No predictions can be made as to how far the outbreak will go, but state and local health officers throughout the country are very much concerned over the continued increase in the number of cases.

The situation in Kansas is especially serious, where 71 cases were reported for one week alone. Other states reporting large numbers are: Ohio, 65; New York, 60; California, 56; Illinois, 36; Massachusetts, 21; Minnesota, 28; Michigan, 10; Maine, 10; Iowa, 20; and Oklahoma, 11.

Health officers are advised to arrange for the collection and distribution of the convalescent serum which has been found helpful in treating the disease. Isolation of patients is of course necessary. Parents are advised to keep children out of

crowds and away from strangers. Because treatment is only successful in the early stages, before paralysis has set in, parents should lose no time in consulting a doctor if a child shows any suspicious symptoms.

Public Health

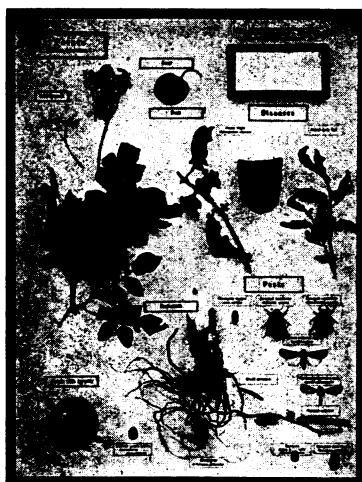
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(e) Potato

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