

**Elms.** There are two forms of the Wych or Scotch Elm, *Ulmus glabra*, or, as it is often called, *U. montana*. The best known of these, the Camperdown Elm (var. *camperdownensis*) as it appears in gardens is a round-topped tree with stout pendulous branches which droop to the ground from all sides of the stem and form a broad-shaded arbor. *Ulmus glabra*, var. *pendula*, often called var. *horizontalis*, is a more graceful tree. The branches are usually best developed on one side of the stem and are wide-spreading, the principal ones slightly ascending and furnished with numerous pendulous branchlets. This tree is much cultivated in Europe, especially in Germany. A form of *U. americana* with rather pendulous branches has been propagated in some American nurseries as *U. fulva pendula*. Trees of the American Elm with more or less drooping branches are not uncommon but none of them are likely to appeal to the lovers of trees of abnormal growth.

**Birches.** One of the European Birches, *Betula pendula*, is a tree with slender usually pendulous branches and some of its forms are among the best known and most generally planted weeping trees. The var. *dalecarlica*, sometimes called *Betula alba*, var. *pendula laciniata* or the Cut-leaved Weeping Birch, is a tree with pendulous branchlets and deeply divided leaves. For many years this tree was planted in immense numbers in all the northern states, but insects working under the bark of the trunk and branches have killed most of the trees and large specimens are now rarely seen in this country. The var. *Youngii* has more pendulous branches and when these are grafted on to a tall stem they form a picturesque head in general outline something like that of the common form of the Weeping Beech. Another Weeping Birch in habit very similar to the last but with deeply divided leaves, is var. *gracilis*, sometimes called in nurseries *B. alba laciniata gracilis pendula* or *B. elegans laciniata*.

**The Weeping Ash.** There are several forms of the European Ash, *Fraxinus excelsior*, with pendulous branches. The commonest of these trees (var. *pendula*) forms when grafted on a tall standard a broad umbrella-like head. Under favorable conditions this variety sometimes grows in Europe to a great size, but *Fraxinus excelsior* and all its varieties do not succeed in eastern North America and are rarely seen here in good condition. In the Arboretum pinetum there is a fairly healthy specimen of this Weeping Ash, the last survivor of an old garden which once occupied the ground. The form of *Fraxinus rotundifolia* with pendulous branches (var. *pendula*) is established in the Arboretum and is a small tree with gracefully drooping branches which form a narrow head. *F. rotundifolia* is a native of southern Europe and southwestern Asia and is sometimes called *F. parvifolia* or *F. lentiscifolia*.

**Prunus.** There are at least three Cherries which have produced abnormal forms with pendulous branches. The handsomest of these is the Weeping Cherry of Japan, a tall tree with spreading main branches and long slender branchlets which hang nearly perpendicularly from them, and in early spring are covered with drooping pink flowers. The correct name for this tree is *Prunus subhirtella*, var. *pendula*. Not known as a wild tree, it has been cultivated in Japan for centuries. This beautiful Cherry-tree was brought to the United States many years ago and is now often seen in northern gardens. Few early



spring-flowering trees are more beautiful than this Cherry. The form (var. *reflexa*) of the European *Prunus fruticosa* or *P. Chamaecerasus*, as it was formerly called, with drooping branches is a handsome and hardy little Cherry worth a place in small gardens. Few North American trees have produced forms with pendulous branches. An exception is *Prunus serotina*, of which there is a weeping form (var. *pendula*) which is occasionally cultivated. There are varieties of the Apricot and of the Peach with pendulous branches of no particular beauty or interest.

**Cornus florida.** This is another North American tree which has produced a form with wide-spreading and partly pendulous branches (var. *pendula*). As an ornamental plant this tree is not particularly valuable.

**Morus alba.** A seedling of a Russian variety of this tree (var. *tatarica*), known as Teas' Weeping Mulberry, appeared several years ago in the nursery of John C. Teas at Carthage, Missouri, and it is now one of the most generally planted weeping trees in the United States. When the branches are grafted on a tall stem of the common Mulberry they form a narrow, round-topped plant with branches sweeping the ground.

**Malus.** A form of the common Apple-tree (var. *pendula*), popularly known as "Elisa Rathke," with stout, very pendulous branches, is sometimes found in collections grown as a tall standard. As it appears in the Arboretum this tree is more curious than beautiful.

**Sophora japonica.** The form (var. *pendula*) of this Chinese tree with stout drooping branches is one of the best known "weeping" trees and when grafted on a tall stem of the ordinary form the branches make a broad round-topped tree which can be used as an arbor. The weeping form flowers very rarely or not at all.

**Crataegus monogyna.** This is the common European Hawthorn or May, and the form with pendulous branches (var. *pendula*) is a tree of graceful habit and well worth a place in a collection of these plants. There is a variety of this weeping tree with leaves blotched with white (var. *pendula variegata*).

**Ilex.** There are handsome forms of the European Holly (*I. Aquifolium*) with pendulous branches. Unfortunately this tree, which is one of the handsomest of broad-leaved evergreens, is not hardy in New England, although it flourishes in several of the middle and southern states. The most distinct of the weeping forms are var. *pendula* with rather rigid, arching and pendulous branches which form a round-topped head, and the variety *argentea marginata pendula*, known in England as Perry's Weeping Holly.

**Carpinus.** The European Hornbeam, *Carpinus Betulus*, has produced forms with more or less pendulous branches of which the best known (var. *pendula*) has a rather broad head. As it grows in the Arboretum the branches are not particularly drooping. A handsomer plant is the variety *pendula Dervaesii* which is not in the collection.

Want of space makes it necessary to defer until another occasion an account of the weeping forms of a number of coniferous trees.



1916. "Prunus." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 2(12), 47–48. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320561>.

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