

SPRING GROVE NURSERY, INC.

Shade Trees in Towns and Cities

William Solotaroff

Published 1912

Quotes & Ideas from the Book:

“One of the material aids to the health and attractiveness of cities and towns is trees.”

“The cultivation of trees in cities is beneficial in many ways.”

“The economic value of shade-trees is inestimable.”

“The uplifting influence of an environment of trees is such as to make people not only happier but better.”

“Few things contribute more to the cultivation of local pride and civic patriotism than beautiful trees in the parks and in the streets.”

According to Solotaroff, qualities that street trees should possess are:

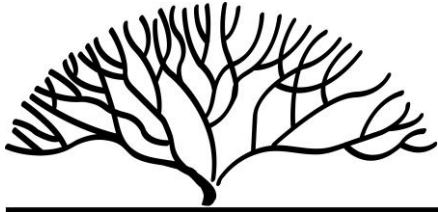
Hardiness, Straightness & Symmetry, Immunity from Insect Attack, Abundance of Shade, Cleanliness, & Longevity

Solotaroff's suggested street tree species:

- Norway Maple
- Red Maple
- Sugar Maple
- Pin Oak
- Red Oak
- Scarlet Oak
- White Oak
- American Linden
- European Linden
- American Elm
- London Planetree
- Tulip Tree
- White Ash
- Hackberry
- Ginkgo
- Catalpa
- Honeylocust

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Solotaroff's thoughts on diversity: “Not only to obtain variety but also to offset the wholesale spread of tree diseases, it is important that as many good shade-trees as possible should be planted in a city. All the specimens on a street, however, should be of the same kind. When such a plan is followed there is secured increased stateliness, impressiveness, and charm. The beauty and uniformity that are produced by a repetition of the same object are lost when a mixture of species differing in habits of growth and in foliage is introduced, and it is as much at variance with good taste as would be a mixture of orders in the columns of a temple.”

Solotarff's thoughts on tree planting: “It is found that for general plantings, trees from two inches and a half to three inches in diameter give the best results.”

“It is always best to order trees from a nursery as near-by as possible.”

Showing the times: “Of all mechanical injuries to street-trees, however, none are more numerous nor more fatal than the mutilations caused by horses.”

Solotaroff asks “Who shall care for the trees?” “Experience has shown that in order to obtain the greatest degree of excellence in the planting and care of street-trees, the matter must be entrusted to a similar body, and a shade-tree department should be incorporated in every municipality.”