## THE IDENTIFICATION OF TREES & SHRUBS



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HOW TO NAME ANY WILD OR GARDEN TREE OR SHRUB LIKELY TO BE MET WITH IN THE BRITISH ISLES WITH 2,500 DIAGRAMS MADE BY THE AUTHOR

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> > SECOND EDITION



J. M. DENT & SONS LIMITED

1948

## INTRODUCTION

It is not the purpose of this book to compete with the many excellent works on the selection and cultivation of trees and shrubs, but to provide the amateur without previous knowledge of the subject with the means of identifying any tree or shrub he is likely to meet with, growing in the open in any part of the British Isles. The explorations of Wilson, Henry, and others, have resulted in such a large addition to our shrub flora in recent years that even the experienced professional gardener is often at a loss when confronted with many of the newer kinds. As, however, there can be few parts of the world left unexplored by collectors, it is probable that the limit has now been reached in the case of hardy trees and shrubs; and the time has arrived to place before the public a tree and shrub flora of these islands in a readily accessible and inexpensive form, and with some prospect of completeness.

The most popular method of identification is by means of illustrations. In this book will be found illustrations of 1,311 species, belonging to 534 genera. As the total number of genera described here is 552 it will be seen that nearly every genus of tree or shrub native to the British Isles or cultivated in our gardens has been figured. To illustrate every species, amouting to 1,732 in all, would have made the book too bulky and expensive. It should not, however, be difficult to name any species, first, by comparing it with the illustrations of others in the same genus, and then by referring to the descriptions given in the

later part of the book.

As this book could not have been produced without special facilities for examining private collections of exotic trees and shrubs, it remains for the author to express his thanks to all those owners who have so kindly placed their collections at his disposal, and particularly to the Rt. Hon. Henry Hobhouse; to his son, Mr. A. L. Hobhouse (whose head-gardener, Mr. E. W. A. King, has been of the greatest help); to Sir Henry Hoare, Bart.; and to Mr. A. Lewingdon, who is in charge of the Earl of Ilchester's fine collection of sub-tropical plants at Abbotsbury in Dorset.

Valuable help has been freely and generously given at all times by the Directors and Staff of the Botanical Gardens at Kew and Cambridge, especially by Messrs. W. J. Bean and V. S. Summerhayes; by Messrs. D. Stewart & Sons Ltd., Ferndown Nurseries, Wimborne; and by Messrs. John Scott & Co., The Royal

Nurseries, Merriott, Somerset.

Apart from local floras the works most frequently consulted have been Rehder's Manual of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs Hardy in North America and Bean's Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles. Also the excellent catalogue issued by Messrs. Hillier & Sons, Winchester, has largely influenced the scope of this work.

F. K. M.

September 1935.

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