

A
HANDBOOK OF CONIFERÆ
INCLUDING GINKGOACEÆ

BY

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PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

In the present handbook conifers are dealt with from the point of view of the gardener, forester, and student rather than the botanist, and we have therefore tried to describe the plants in as simple language as possible. In order to add to the usefulness of the work we have endeavoured to include all known species, although many of them are not suitable for outdoor cultivation in the British Isles.

The keys for the identification of the genera and species in cultivation, if used with care and in conjunction with the illustrations, should enable the student to identify most of the conifers he meets with in gardens. Species not known to grow in this country are as a rule omitted from the keys.

Recent expeditions to China have resulted in a large addition to the conifers cultivated in Britain. Many of these are still in a young state, and the identity of some of them is obscure. It is evident, however, from a careful study of the available material, that the number of species is fewer than was at first supposed.

The names adopted are chiefly those in the *Kew Hand-list of Coniferæ*, except where recent research has dictated to the contrary. A fairly complete list of synonyms and common names has been included.

Our descriptions have in most cases been drawn up from living plants or herbarium specimens.

We wish to record our thanks for facilities granted by the present Director, Dr. A. W. Hill, and to Sir David Prain, the late Director of Kew; to Dr. O. Stapf, for help with the genus *Podocarpus* and for advice upon difficult points. We are also under obligation to colleagues and friends at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the British Museum (Natural History), for help in various ways. Professor A. Henry has allowed us to make free use of information from *The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland*, and given us other assistance.

The following owners of estates, among others, have kindly furnished us with specimens of living conifers for study and comparison: His Grace the Duke of Bedford; the Marquis

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