
ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS ON SELF-PRUNING.

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In 1901, Mr. Tyler and the writer published some notes, in THE OHIO NATURALIST, on the self-pruning habits of a considerable number of trees and shrubs. The list has been extended from time to time by the writer, the work being confined necessarily to the common woody plants of our region. It is gratify-

ing to note that one can occasionally find reference to this curious habit in the recent textbooks. There are few subjects better suited to arouse the interest and curiosity of the student.

In 1903, O. F. Cook described the striking self-pruning habit of the temporary and permanent branches of Castilla, the Central American rubber tree (Bull. No. 49, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Dept. of Agr.) Plates X and XI are fine representations of self-pruned branches. Recently the writer was enabled to examine such branches brought by Prof. Hine from Guatemala. The development of temporary branches with a special arrangement for their removal is of unusual interest because of the economic value of these rubber trees.

The following common trees and shrubs have also been studied for self-pruning:

Acer pseudo-platanus L. Self-prunes small twigs and buds by means of a basal joint.

Sambucus canadensis L. Unripe ends of the branches are pruned off by cleavage planes developed in the upper leaf nodes. Sometimes the tips of all the branches of an individual are self-pruned, making a very peculiar appearance in the winter.

Sambucus pubens Mx. Self-prunes in the same way as the preceding.

Chionanthus virginica L. Self-prunes the leafy, fruiting panicles like the hackberry and choke cherry.

Diospyros virginiana L. This tree has an imperfect method of self-pruning by which large numbers of small twigs are cut off.

Lepargyrea canadensis (L.) Greene. Self-prunes small twigs by means of basal joints.

Ulmus alata Mx. This tree produces cleavage planes in basal joints and in the annual nodes produced by the winter buds, like the white and cork elms.
