Chrysanthemums.—It often happens after Chrysanthemums have done flowering that they are stowed away either under green-house benches where there is but little light, or in cellars where there is less, or are left out in the weather to struggle as best they can with the elements. Good Chrysanthemums cannot be had next year from stock subjected to such treatment. Growers who aim at fine plants and fine flowers are now giving their stock-plants the best attention; the weaker kinds are placed in a cold green-house or frame, close to the light, and they are never allowed to want for water; the stronger kinds have also good positions in airy frames or green-houses . . . John Thorpe. Pearl River, N.Y. [Garden and Forest 1 (1888): 523]

THE USE OF TREES AND SHRUBS WITH LEAVES OF ABNORMAL COLORS.

A Boston correspondent writes in a discouraged tone about the planting he observes in the suburbs of that city. It seems to him that popular taste is setting strongly toward Prunus Pissardi [a purple-leaved form of *P. cerasifolia*, or cherry plum], the Golden Elder [*Sambucus nigra* 'Aurea'], variegated Negundos [*Acer negundo*, box-elder] and the like. We have no doubt that too many trees and shrubs which are valued for the abnormal coloring of their leaves are used about Boston, and, in fact, about every other American city. Unless our own observation is at fault, however, the tendency of public taste, as a rule, is in the other direction, by which we mean that the people who plant nowadays are more inclined to follow the teachings of nature in this respect than they were a few years ago, when the tree agent, with his highly colored catalogues, was more pervasive and influential than he now is. The so-called foliage plants with brightly colored leaves and hues, set in patterns of various sorts, are certainly not as prevalent as they once were, and it is very evident that in American parks the use of shrubs and trees with streaked and spotted or vari-colored leaves is not as
profuse as it is in European parks. Perhaps, our correspondent in some afternoon
drive has observed several glaring offenses against that quietness and self-restraint
in planting which alone can make home grounds homelike, and this has depressed
his spirits . . .

[Editorial. Garden and Forest 10 (1897): 301]

CHRISTMAS GREEN.

EVERY morning for a week past the steamboat Minnie Cornell, from Keyport,
New Jersey, has come to her pier loaded with "rope" and "fancy green." "Rope"
is the trade name for the cables made of Club-moss and occasionally of Hemlock
spray, and used for looping into festoons or twining about columns in Christmas
decorations. "Fancy green" includes the wreaths, stars and other designs, manufact-
ured chiefly from the leaves of Holly, Laurel and Rhododendron, together with
Mosses, green or gray, from Oak trunks and Cedar boughs, scarlet berries of the
Black Alder, the bluish gray fruit of the Juniper, the scarlet and orange fruits of the
Bittersweet, not to speak of Grasses dried and dyed in fearful and wonderful colors.
The little steamer has more than once carried 60,000 yards of the festooning mate-
rial, and 1,500 dozen stars and wreaths at a single trip, and the entire amount of
"rope" brought to this market during the season would reach from New York to
Boston. The very first Christmas green sold in this city came from Keyport. Some
forty-five years ago the wife of a Monmouth County farmer gathered enough
Ground Pine to fill a sheet with the four corners tied together, and shipped it on a
sloop with her poultry. It proved a lucky venture, and ever since, the people of
Monmouth County have held almost a monopoly of the industry, although both
the species of Club-moss most largely used, Lycopodium dendroideum and
L. complanatum, were practically exterminated from that region years ago. They are
still abundant, however, in Connecticut, some parts of northern New York, and
Massachusetts, and are shipped to New Jersey in such quantities that large dealers
buy them by the ton, and the manufacture of these festal wreaths and cables gives
employment to the wives and daughters of many farmers after the fall work on the
farm is over.

The trade in Christmas-trees began in 1851, when Mark Carr yoked up his oxen
and hauled from the Catskills to the steamboat landing on the Hudson two sled-
loads of young Balsams, and paid a silver dollar for the privilege of selling them on
the corner of Vesey and Greenwich Streets. At least 150,000 trees have been piled
up along the docks of the North River during the last week, and since the days of
Mark Carr many a dealer has been glad to pay a hundred dollars for a corner privi-
lege for holiday trade in Christmas trees. About half of the trees this year come from
Maine, the remainder from the Berkshire Hills, the Black River country in the
Adirondacks, and the Catskills. Good trees in the Catskills are becoming scarce,
however, and the woodsmen of those mountains are looking elsewhere for their
material. Short jointed, stocky trees with perfect whorls of branches at the base of
each annual growth, are the most sought for, and the Maine trees, as a rule, com-
mand rather higher prices than any others. The trees come up thickly where hard-
wood timber has been cleared away, and if they are cut above the second or third
joint, one of the limbs soon turns upward and becomes a leader to furnish another
Christmas-tree. In this way the same land is cut over several times. Fortunately the