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## A Tree Census of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

H. E. Jaques  
*Iowa Wesleyan College*

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## A TREE CENSUS OF MT. PLEASANT, IOWA

H. E. JAQUES

During the winter of 1924-25 it was undertaken to count the trees within the city limits of Mt. Pleasant. The work was done by students of the department of Biology of Iowa Wesleyan College, who were trained in accurate tree identification before the work was begun. All trees over four inches in diameter at breast height were counted. The accuracy of the identification and count was safeguarded in every way possible.

Mt. Pleasant has an area of about 1,800 acres. Its some four thousand inhabitants occupy about 900 houses. The tree count shows about 16,000 trees, a very large percent of which have been planted. In the outlying parts of the corporation are found native trees in their natural arrangement. Some timber species still survive within the built up parts of the town.

It is interesting to note that a little more than half of the trees (8,059) are deciduous shade and ornamental trees. About forty percent of all the trees (6,537) are fruit trees, while 1,401 are conifers. Apple trees are most numerous of all. Instead of the proverbial "apple a day" it is almost one apple tree for each inhabitant of the town, for 3,369 apple trees were found. The American elm ranks second with 2,137 specimens. The silver maple is third with 1,846 trees while the sour cherry was the only other species to go past the thousand mark. There are 1,058 of these. No attempt was made to separate the species of Willows, Oaks, Mulberries, Hawthorns and Ashes, as many specimens of these genera cannot be accurately identified in their winter condition.

The largest trees in the town are an American elm at the home of E. E. Taft and a silver maple at the home of James Whiting. Both of these trees have a trunk circumference of almost fourteen feet.

The evaluation of the trees of a town have been attempted in many regions. The plan employed by Springfield, Massachusetts, and Ann Arbor, Michigan, of assigning their trees a value of \$100 each would point to the large worth and importance of the trees of a typical town like Mt. Pleasant.

In the following results of the count Gray's Manual has been used for terminology and arrangement.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NUMBER
Maiden Hair Tree.....	Ginkgo biloba L.....	5
White Pine.....	Pinus Strobus L.....	138
Scotch Pine.....	Pinus sylvestris L.....	195
Austrian Pine.....	Pinus laricio Poir.....	88
European Larch.....	Larix decidua Mill.....	16
Red Spruce.....	Picea rubra (DuRoi) Dietr.....	4
Norway Spruce.....	Picea Abies (L) Karst.....	336
Canadian Hemlock.....	Tsuga canadensis (L) Carr.....	11
Arbor Vitae.....	Thuja occidentalis L.....	131
Red Cedar.....	Juniperus virginiana L.....	478
Willows.....	Salix spp. (7 species).....	110
White Poplar.....	Populus alba L.....	16
American Aspen.....	Populus tremúloides Michx.....	3
Cottonwood.....	Populus deltoides Marsh.....	180
Lombardy Poplar.....	Populus nigra italica Du Roi.....	14
Butternut.....	Juglans cinerea L.....	45
Black Walnut.....	Juglans nigra L.....	292
Japanese Walnut.....	Juglans Sieboldiana Maxim.....	1
Shell Bark Hickory.....	Carya ovata (Mill.) K. Koch.....	149
Pignut.....	Carya glabra (Mill.) Spach.....	29
Ironwood.....	Ostrya virginiana (Mill.) K. Koch.....	11
River Birch.....	Betula nigra L.....	4
White Birch.....	Betula alba L.....	153
Chestnut.....	Castanea dentata (Marsh) Borkh.....	14
Oaks.....	Quercus spp. (7 species).....	182
Red Elm.....	Ulmus fulva Michx.....	2
American Elm.....	Ulmus americana L.....	2137
Camperdown Elm.....	Ulmus glabra Huds.....	3
Hackberry.....	Celtis occidentalis L.....	45
Osage Orange.....	Maclura pomifera (Raf.) Schneider.....	136
Mulberries (Red & White).....	Morus spp. (2 species).....	258
Cucumber Tree.....	Magnolia acuminata L.....	3
Tulip Tree.....	Liriodendron Tulipifera L.....	6
Sassafras.....	Sassafras varifolium (Salisb.) Ktze.....	1
Sycamore.....	Platanus occidentalis L.....	22
Pear.....	Pyrus communis L.....	432
Siberian Crab.....	Pyrus baccata L.....	8
American Crab.....	Pyrus coronaria L.....	2
Apple.....	Pyrus Malus L.....	3369
Mountain Ash.....	Pyrus Aucuparia (L.) Ehrh.....	6
Quince.....	Cydonia cydonia (L.) Karst.....	2
Hawthorn.....	Crataegus sp.....	9
Wild Black Cherry.....	Prunus serotina Ehrh.....	49
Choke Cherry.....	Prunus virginiana L.....	9
Sour Cherry.....	Prunus Cerasus L.....	1058
Cultivated Plums.....	Prunus spp.....	786
Apricot.....	Prunus Armeniaca L.....	6
Peach.....	Prunus Persica (L.) Stokes.....	876
Kentucky Coffee-tree.....	Gymnochladus dioica (L.) Koch.....	15
Honey Locust.....	Gleditsia triacanthos L.....	43
Redbud.....	Cercis canadensis L.....	16
Yellow Wood.....	Cladrastis lutea (Michx. f.) Koch.....	2
Common Locust.....	Robinia Pseudo-Acacia L.....	77
Tree of Heaven.....	Ailanthus glandulosa Desf.....	19
Sugar Maple.....	Acer saccharum Marsh.....	863
White Maple.....	Acer saccharinum L.....	1846
Red Maple.....	Acer rubrum L.....	8
Norway Maple.....	Acer platanoides L.....	152

## TREE CENSUS OF MT. PLEASANT, IOWA

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COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NUMBER
Box Elder.....	<i>Acer Negundo</i> L.....	706
Common Horse-chestnut..	<i>Aesculus Hippocastanum</i> L.....	14
Ohio Buckeye.....	<i>Aesculus glabra</i> Willd.....	9
Basswood.....	<i>Tilia americana</i> L.....	53
European Linden.....	<i>Tilia cordata</i> Mill.....	3
Russian Olive.....	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> L.....	2
Flowering Dogwood.....	<i>Cornus florida</i> L.....	1
Persimmon.....	<i>Diosypros virginiana</i> L.....	14
Ashes.....	<i>Fraxinus</i> spp. (4 species).....	138
Hardy Catalpa.....	<i>Catalpa speciosa</i> Warder.....	181
Common Catalpa.....	<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i> Walt.....	4
Black Haw.....	<i>Viburnum Lentago</i> L.....	2
Total.....	(About 87 species).....	15,998

BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT  
IOWA WESLEYAN COLLEGE