

Some Tree Selections for Street and Ornamental Purposes

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The history of shade tree husbandry is not an inspiring one. The history of shade tree use is far less inspiring. Thru the past century, and particularly in the last fifty years there has been a tremendous increase of interest in street and ornamental trees, but efforts to improve the more common species by worthwhile selections, and even the introduction to the people of the many splendid exotic species that are available, have been woefully inadequate.

The results of this lassitude generally is reflected in poor plantings with inept trees. Most American cities are now plagued with an over planting of forest giants on narrow city streets. Most homes on conventional size properties are overplanted with the same giants that soon out-grow the available space and have become a menace to life, property and plumbing. That a determined effort on the part of nurserymen and arborist to correct these faults is needed goes without saying. We must get out of the dark ages of ornamental tree culture and make an effort to catch up to the atomic age. It is a long pull but not an impossible or too difficult one to negotiate.

Several years ago the National Shade Tree Conference recognized the need for a program to institute some activity in this completely dormant field. A Shade Tree Selection Committee was established and has compiled some worthwhile case histories on a number of splendid variations. About five years ago the Division of Shade Trees of the City of Cleveland inaugurated a revolutionary program of street tree planting and selection. In this planting program over fifty species and varieties have been placed on city streets. At the same time about twelve selections have been made. These selections have been within the better known species such as the Norway, Red and Sugar maple and Ginkgo. The reasoning in this procedure was that the behaviour of these species was well known because of many years of trial and error use and therefore if we could find improved forms, uprights, globes, etc., we would have the problem whipped except for the actual propagation of the selection. This latter phase of the work is progressing quite satisfactorily; in fact the first planting, that of a selection we call the Cleveland Maple (Norway), will be made in the fall of 1952.

The need for such development of numerous forms and variations and the greatly extended use of the number of species for use on city streets, and small homes as well, stems from the great number of expensive and irritating abuses that have arisen from the indiscriminate use, or overuse, of five or six fast growing species that attain great size.

Sober evaluation of the street tree problem indicates that we can no longer do the job effectively, without a careful evaluation of the space factors of the street to be planted. These factors are: width of planting space; width of street; setback of houses; presence of overhead wires, and street lights, and of course, soil. Once these factors are known a tree can then be selected to fit the ground, lateral and aerial space available with the least amount of conflict. When we begin to plan streets on this basis, and have the trees available from which to choose a suitable one, then and only then will street tree management attain the stature in horticulture and

city planning that it so richly deserves because of its tremendous potential for stabilizing property values and generally engendering a sense of beauty, orderliness and comfort to the residents of the street, neighborhood and city.

A few of these selections are shown here:

The "Almira" Maple



*A true dwarf, this highly functional form of Norway maple (*A. platanoides*) should become an extremely popular tree with street tree planters. It will fit under low wires; in narrow "treelawns" to three feet, and with shallow setbacks. A fine selection for the new trend toward street trees that fit the space available.*

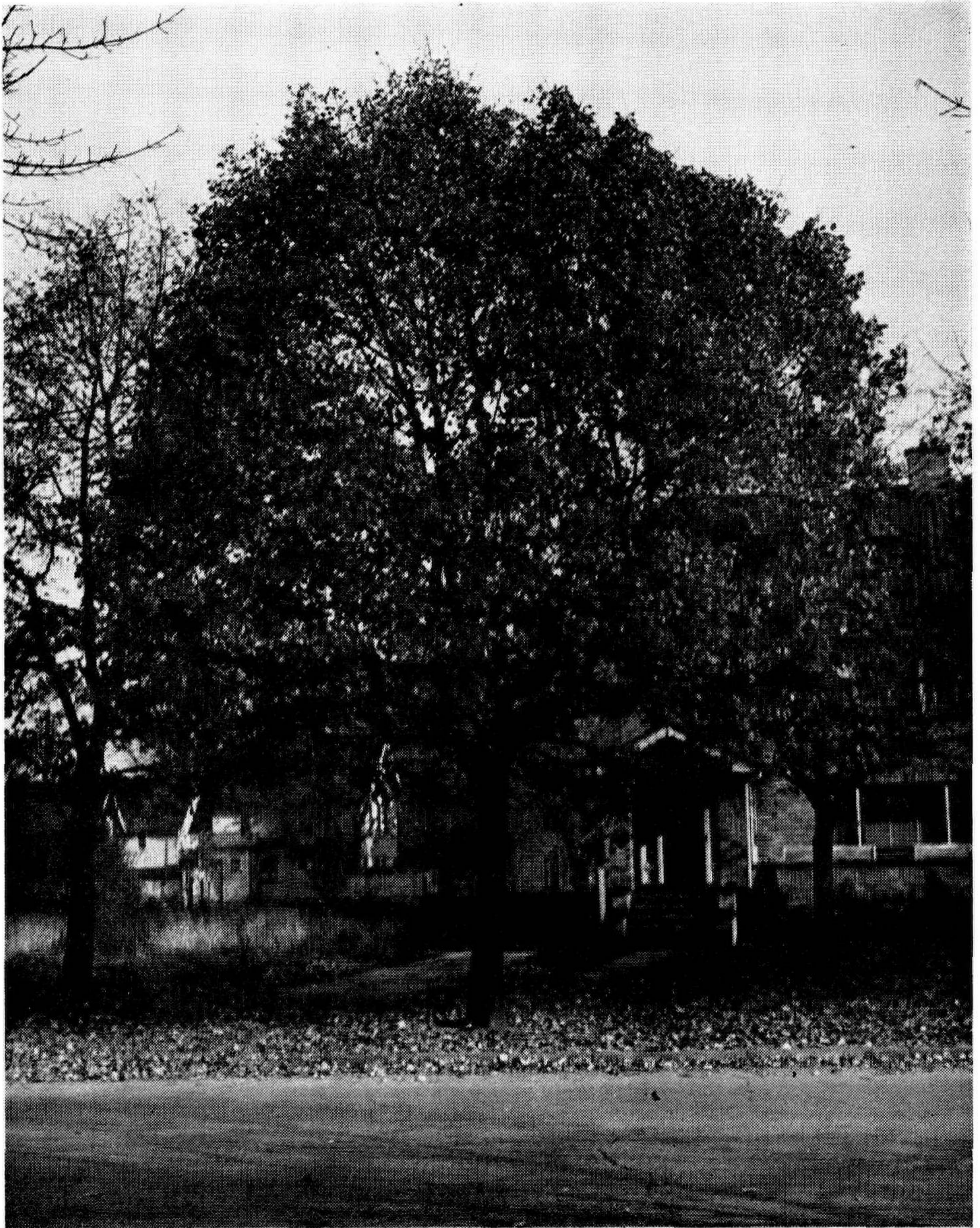
The word "treelawn" refers to the space between sidewalk and curb where street trees are usually planted.

The "Cleveland" Maple



This outstanding Norway maple (Acer platanoides) selection is an extremely handsome tree, oval upright in form. It is selected for use on streets with shallow setback and planting space of four feet minimum. Not recommended under wires less than 50 feet high.

The "Charles F. Irish" Maple



*Another shapely Norway maple (*A. platanoides*) selection. This tree is more globular in form than the "Cleveland" maple, but is not a globe. It will also become larger. Recommended on streets with normal residential setback of at least 20 feet and "treelawn" of no less than five feet. Not under wires.*

The Cherrybark Maple



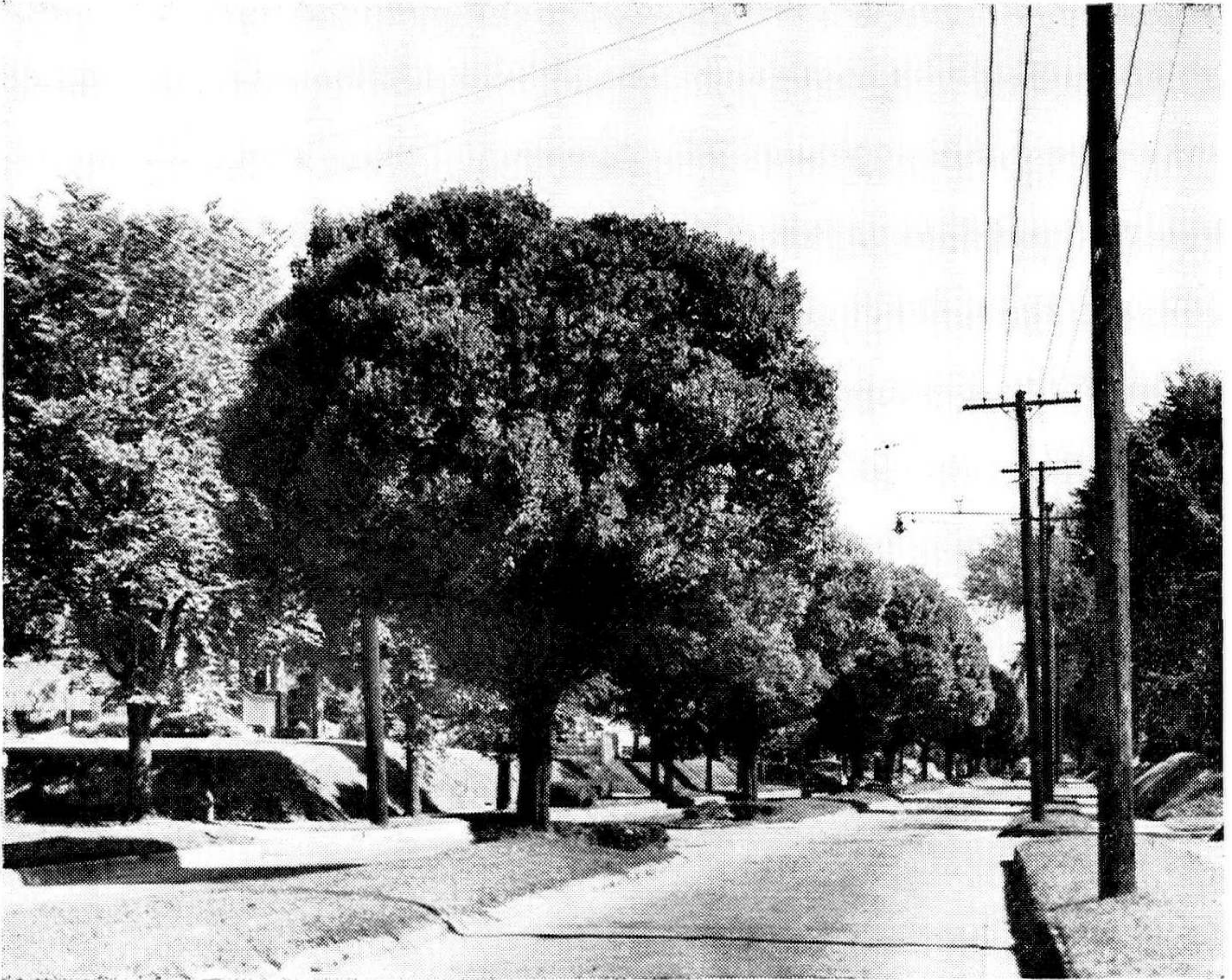
*For sheer beauty and outstandingly unusual characteristics this tree (*Acer griseum*) is a masterpiece. Its peeling cherry red bark, trifoliate foliage that turns a brilliant red in the fall; its 25-foot ultimate height and its magnificence in winter, no tree can come close to this Asiatic maple. It is difficult to grow but we are sure continued effort will solve some of the drawbacks. A splendid small street tree and home ornamental.*

Improved Sugar Maple



*We like this form of Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) better than any upright form we have observed. It is broader in outline and the crown is not so compact. An ideal street and ornamental where an upright is needed.*

The Globe-head Elm



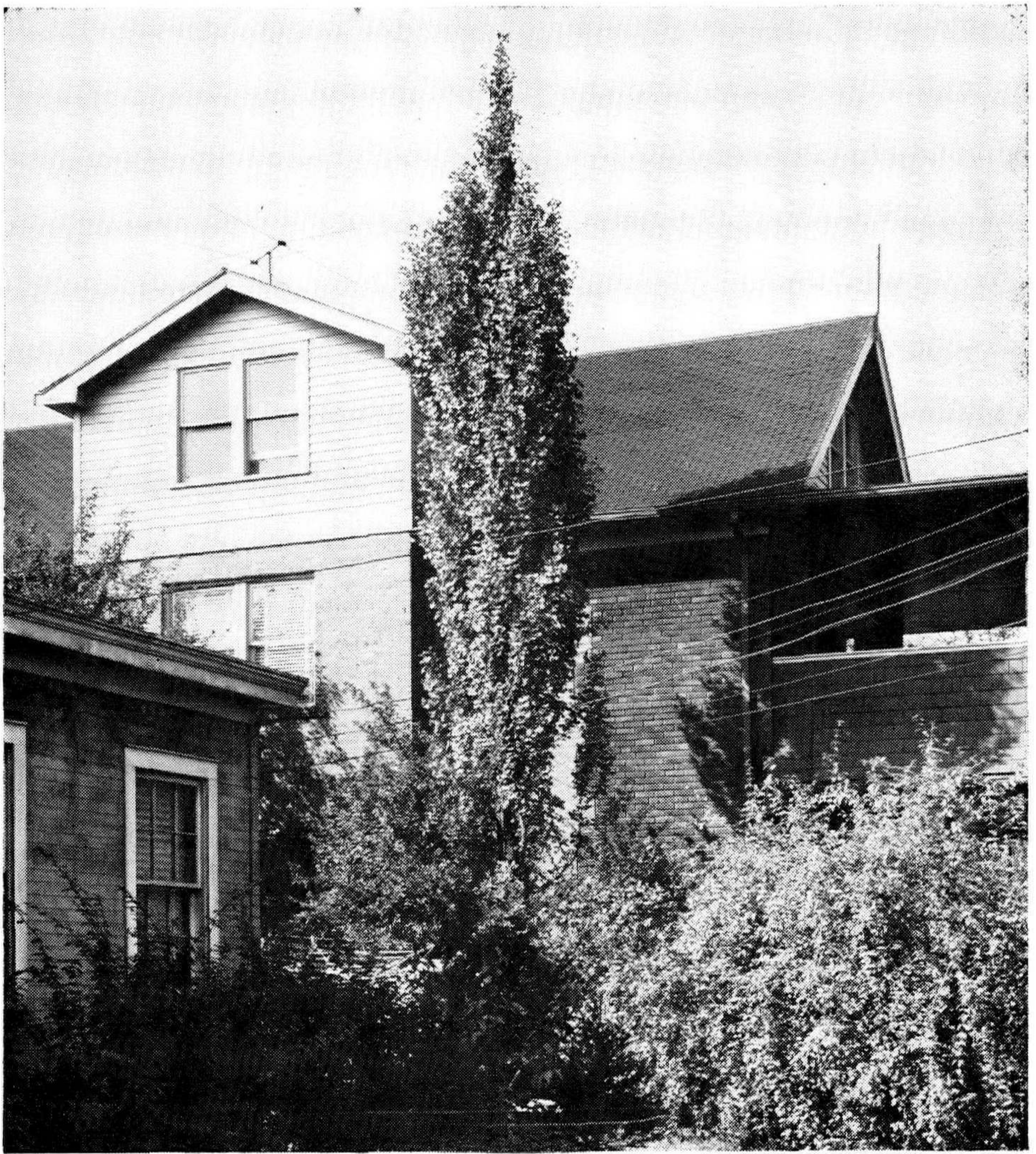
*As a functional street tree we consider this variety of the European Smoothleaf elm (*Ulmus carpinifolia umbraculifera*) as unsurpassed. This picture is taken of a 35-year-old planting in Moline, Illinois. We have one outstanding street planting of this beautiful tree in Cleveland that is now four years old and already is eliciting much admiration from the public. One of the standout features of this tree is its low maintenance cost. Useful on five-foot treelawns and 20' to 25' setbacks—can be used under some wire conditions*

Pyramidal Ginkgo



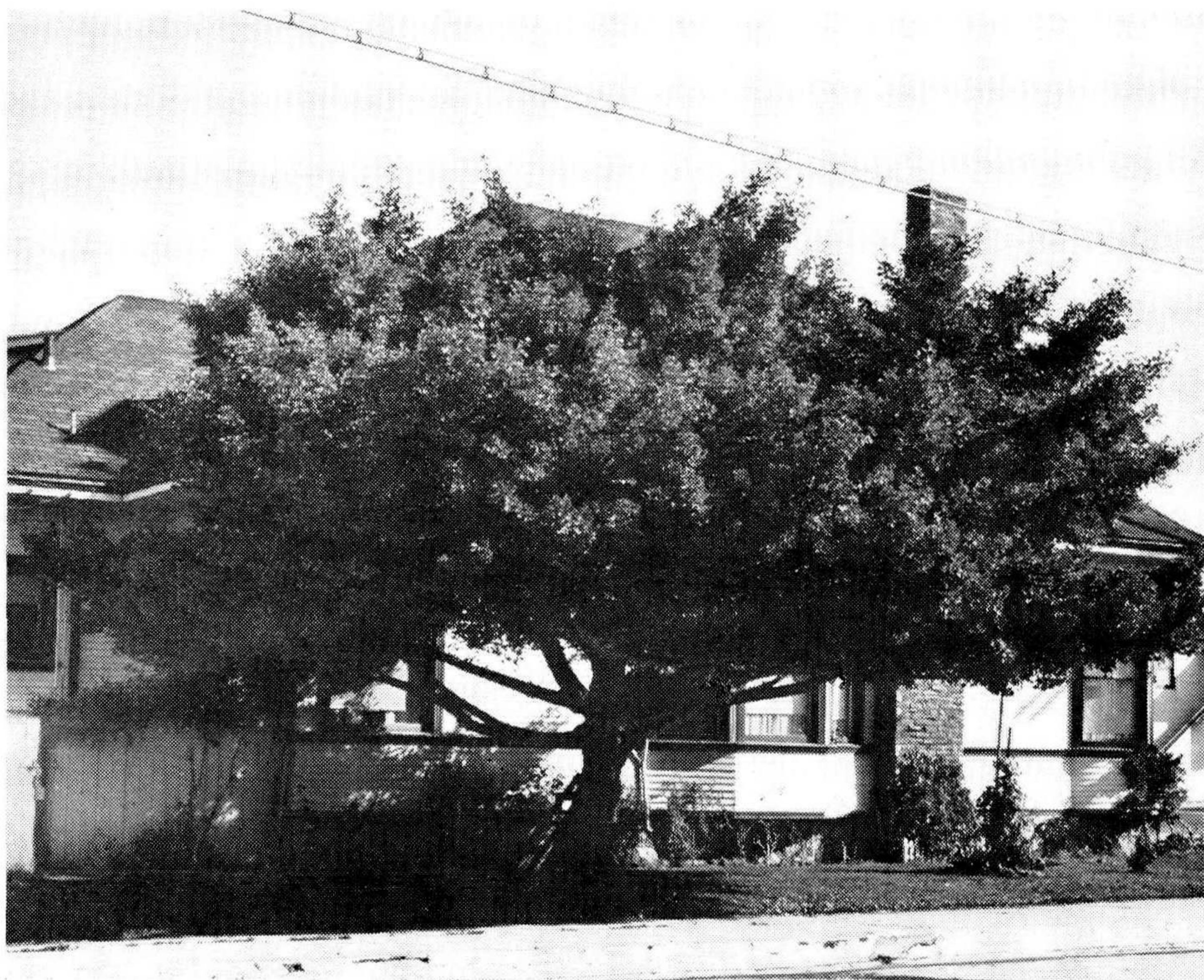
This pyramidal tree, (G. biloba) a male, should be an excellent selection for narrow treelawns and shallow setbacks.

The "Mayfield" Ginkgo



Most upright forms of Ginkgo (G. biloba) are pyramidal but this very narrow tree is strictly fastigate and "Lombardy-like" in outline. This is a male tree and should be another fine tree to replace the disease ridden upright Poplars.

Umbrella Ginkgo



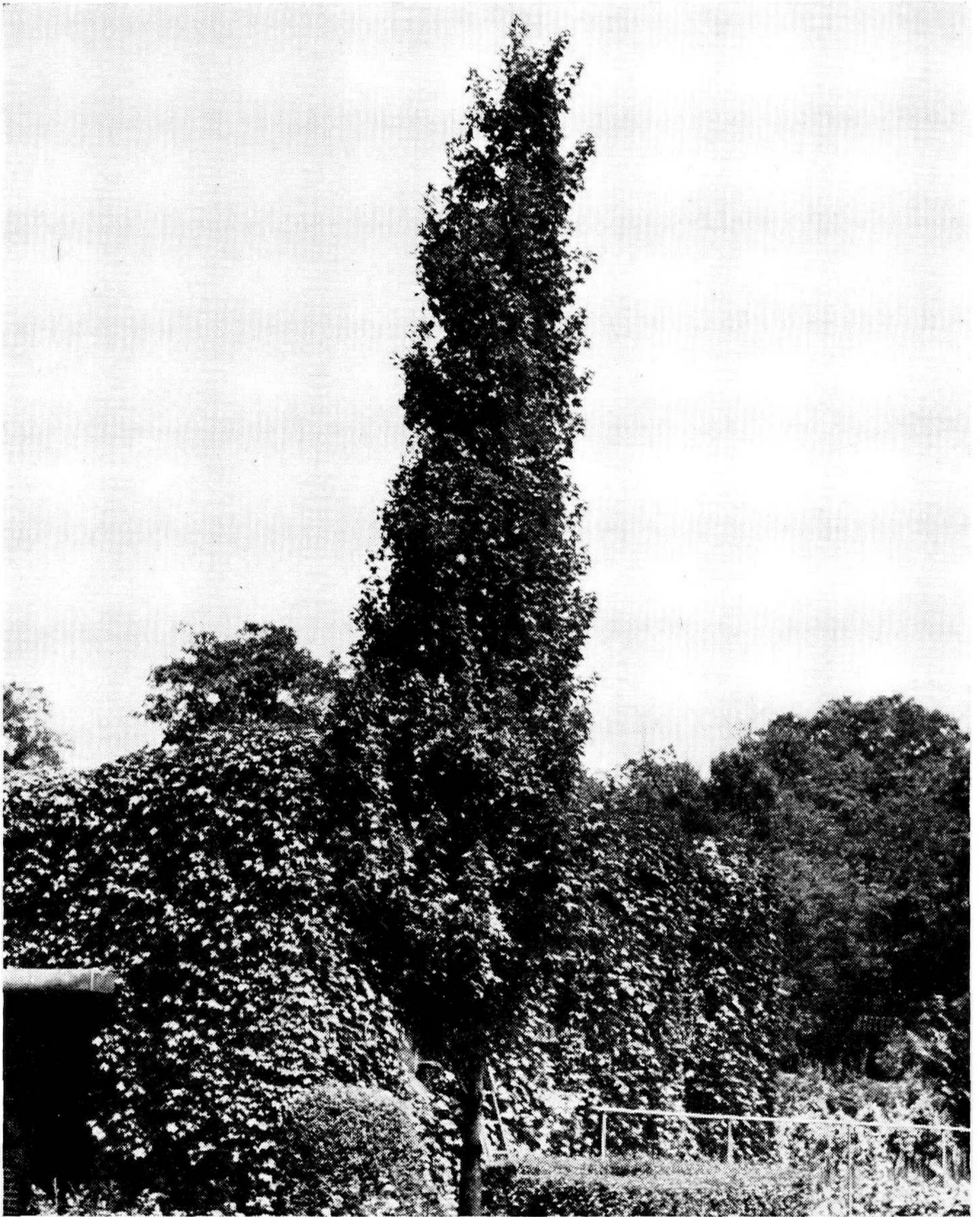
*A radical departure from the preceding tree this male umbrella shaped Ginkgo (*G. biloba*) should make a fine street tree. The Ginkgo is extremely tolerant of adverse growing conditions and its record as a street tree in all parts of the country is excellent.*

The "Bowhall" Red Maple



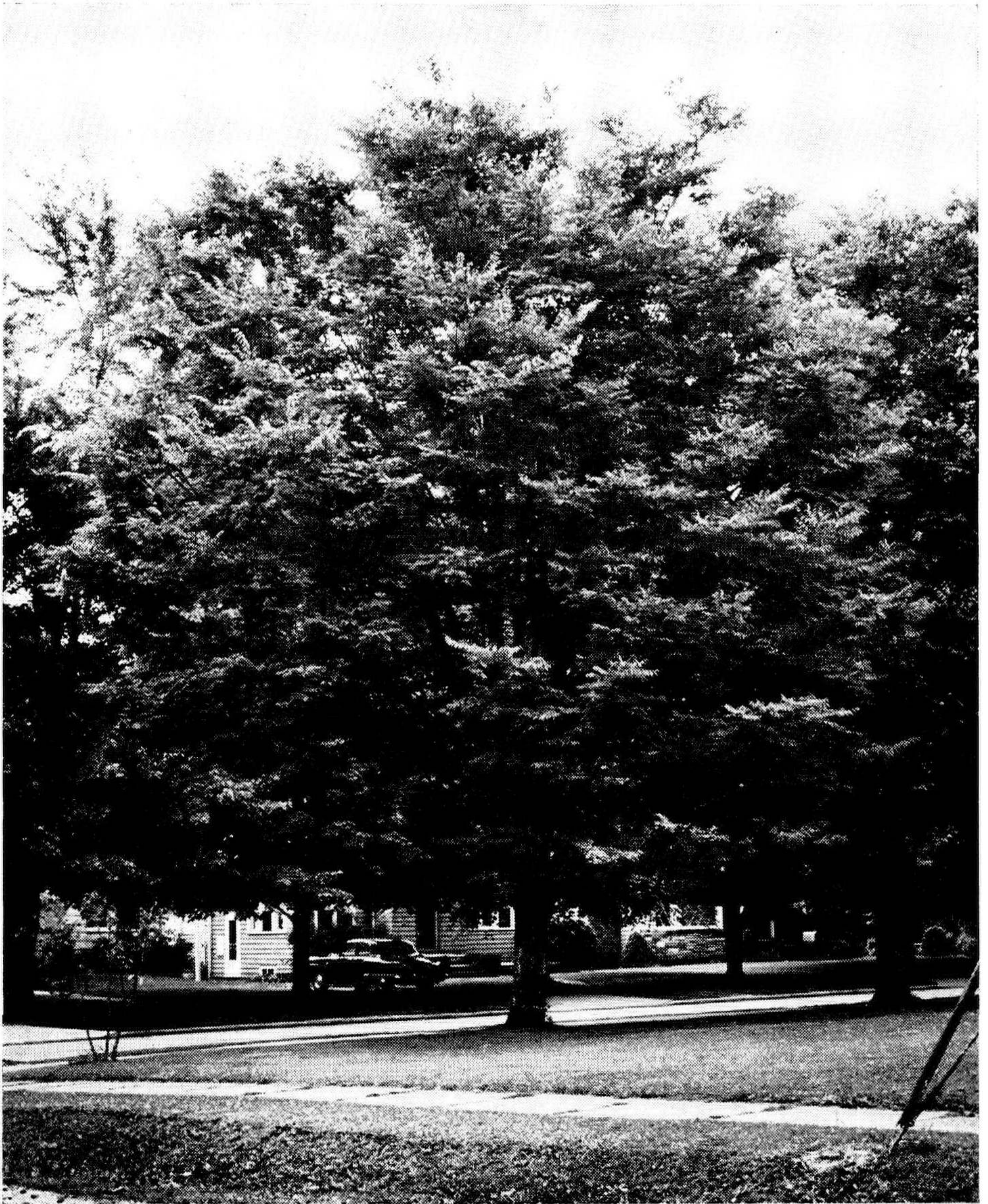
Here is one of the handsomest trees we have ever seen. The tree (Acer rubrum) is a beautiful pyramidal form with a fine compact beautiful crown. As a street and ornamental tree this selection should be unsurpassed.

The "Armstrong" Maple



Another upright red maple selection (Acer rubrum) only this, unlike the "Bowhall," is fastigiate or "Lombardy-like" and has aroused considerable comment as a substitute for the seemingly condemned upright Poplars.

The Japanese Keaki Tree



*Why this magnificent member of the elm family (*Zelkova serrata*) has not been used widely and often is a complete mystery to all who know its charm. In addition to its graceful fountain shape, beechlike bark and slight reddish fall coloration, it is resistant to Dutch elm disease. Recommended for wide streets with at least six foot treelawn—no wires. Also a perfect shade tree for home grounds. A perfect substitute for the American elm.*