Del Mazo Suarez: Brazilian Trees

As a forest tree, Pau Brasil attains a height of more than 30 meters (about 90 feet). New growth is showy red, and the flowers, in short erect clusters at the tips of the branches, are very graceful, of unsurpassed beauty and form. A rapid grower, much branched, it deserves to be at the top of the list of trees for street planting or in ornamental groups. The blooming period is in November-December in Brazil, corresponding to April and May in the United States. This tree grows well in the most varied conditions of soil and climate. It's clustered inflorescences of goldyellow cover the crown completely. It is greatly valued as an ornamental tree, and its blossoms have a faint fragrance. It will surely be a wonderful tree to add to the landscape of the South of this country.

Without doubt, it is a historical symbol representing the wood era of all three Americas. Due to the carelessness of past generations this beautiful species is in danger of extinction, and it is our duty to repair these errors by planting these trees wherever it is possible ecologically.

The dye from wood of dead trees may be replaced by synthetic chemicals, but living trees and forests cannot be substituted by plastic trees. We are altering nature; we are modifying climates; we are exterminating the fauna which lives together with these trees; we may be organizing the collective suicide of mankind.

It is our human duty to defend the living existence of our planet, the earth. No organization could better do this than the In-

ternational Society of Arboriculture. I appeal to all its members to start a communication current between the arboriculturists of all three Americas with the intention of better knowing our trees, helping each other to preserve trees, exchange trees, and plant trees in order to create permanent woodlands, parks, and arboreta so that the air to be breathed by future generations can be more pure than that we must breathe now.

The International Society of Arboriculture must open its doors and start a conscription of members from all the countries of the three Americas to be able to make real the ideas we proclaim.

Other Brazilian trees of possible value as shade and ornamentals in the Southern USA are as follows: Amburana cearensis, Andira fraxinifolia, Araucaria angustifolia, Caesalpinea peltophoroides, Calabura muntingia, Cassia apoucouita, C. exelsa, C. ferruginea, C. grandis, C. laevigata, C. leptophylla, C. martiana, C. mutliouga, C. sylvestris, Chorisia speciosa, Cordia sp., Erytrina falcata, E. mulungu, E. verna, Melanoxylon braunia, Peireskia bleg. Peltophorum vogelianum, Phylocarpus pterocarpus. Piteselobium edivali, Platipodium elegans, Prunus sphaecocarpa, Tabebuia araliacea, T. avellanedae var. pauleasis, T. impetiginosa, T. roseo alba, Tibouchina granulosa, T. granulosa rosa, T. pulchra, Triplaris surinamensis.

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ABSTRACT

Stein, J.D. 1976. Insects: a guide to their collection, identification, preservation, and shipment. USDA Forest Service Research Note RM-311, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Current urban forestry programs emphasize protection and management of planted trees. A survival survey in the Plains area indicated that 39 percent of all trees encountered were dead, with the majority mortality factor attributed to insects. Thus it is desirable to identify the insects responsible for damage, determine their biology, establish whether the insect is a new pest or a new outbreak of an old pest, and recommend control measures, if appropriate. A common question from property owners is, "How do we get this information?" This Note was compiled to inform the public about whom to contact for insect identification, and how to adequately collect, preserve, and ship specimens to the insect specialist.