

feet from the ground, a height of about 45 feet and a spread of 50 feet. The Reservoir tree has a girth of 57 inches, a height of about 40 feet and a spread of 45 feet. The Milton tree has a girth of 51 inches, a height of about 40 feet and a spread of 41 feet.

These trees are apparently near enough together in size to belong to the same planting; but to account for the Milton tree being where it is, has puzzled many who recognized it as a stranger. It stands in an open pasture about two feet from the street wall and was exposed to public view in October, 1900, after severe roadside cutting and removal of *Viburnum* and other shrubs by the Superintendent of streets and his men. No trees have been planted along this wall for at least thirty-three years to my certain knowledge, and I believe the field has been an open pasture for many years longer.

To explain its presence on this Massachusetts highway the story has gained credence that it sprang from an acorn thrown into the field by a soldier just returned from the South. Readville camping ground is a half mile away and regiments returning from the war were often quartered here for weeks before discharge. The probable age and general appearance of the tree and its surroundings lend color to this invented story. No one imagines that the tree was planted by the hand of man. It bears fruit pretty regularly, but no one has seen any seedlings in the vicinity.

The very persistent foliage makes it a conspicuous tree in the late fall and winter: it is green till almost Christmas and its last leaves have not fallen by the first of March. It is certainly "a distinct and desirable ornament" of the country roadside and as it is owned by a lover of trees we may hope it will be carefully guarded for another century.

#### READVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS.

A NEW VARIETY OF *JUNCUS BALTICUS*.—*Juncus balticus* Willd., var. **melanogenus**, n. var., caulibus tenuibus teretibus 1–3 dm. altis circa 1 mm. diametro; cataphyllis basilariis flavo-stramineis lucidis; inflorescentia compactis circa 1 cm. diametro; bractea 6–11 cm. longa; sepalis 4.5–5 mm. longis subaristatis castaneis quam petalas paullo longioribus; petalis similibus albo-marginatis; antheris filamentis duplo vel triplo longioribus; capsulis ovoideis longe mucronatis 3-ocularibus atratis vel badiis perianthiis vix equantibus.



Stems slender, terete, 1-3 dm. high, about 1 mm. in diameter: basal sheaths yellowish-straw-color, shining: inflorescence compact, about 1 cm. in diameter: bract 6-11 cm. long: sepals 4.5-5 mm. long, subaristate, castaneus, a little longer than the similar but white-margined petals: anthers twice or thrice as long as the filaments: capsule ovoid, long-mucronate, 3-celled, black or dark-chestnut, scarcely equaling the perianth.—QUEBEC: sand dunes, Bradore, Saguenay County, August 4, 1910, *Fernald & Wiegand*, no. 2992.—In its 3-celled capsule closely related to var. *montanus* Engelm. of the Rocky Mountain region, but differing in its darker perianth and capsule and lighter-colored basal sheaths, var. *montanus* having the more elongate capsule paler than the perianth and the basal sheaths brown or reddish.—M. L. FERNALD and K. M. WIEGAND.

## SOME PANICUMS OF ESSEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.

F. TRACY HUBBARD.

DURING this autumn's collecting of *Gramineae* and *Cyperaceae* in and about Manchester, Massachusetts, several interesting species of the genus *Panicum* were found. Among these there are several, at present, rather rare species; one in particular, *P. lucidum* Ashe, which has not been reported from the state. Several others are range-extensions and many of them do not seem to have been reported from Essex County.

The following species are the more noteworthy.

*PANICUM LUCIDUM* Ashe. Hitchcock and Chase, *North American Species of Panicum*, do not cite this species from New England, though Mrs. Chase informs me that since the revision of *Panicum* she has seen specimens from Pomfret, Connecticut, July 4, 1901, *A. W. Driggs* no. 4 and two collections from Stonington, Connecticut, June 23, 1901, *C. H. Bissell* no. 5576; *L. Andrews*, July 13, 1902; the last doubtfully to be referred to this species. There is no specimen of this species from New England in the Gray Herbarium, and it is not represented in the Herbarium of the New England Botanical Club. My specimens are: No. 129a, rich wooded roadside, near



Fernald, Merritt Lyndon and Wiegand, K. M. 1912. "A New Variety of *Juncus balticus*." *Rhodora* 14, 35–36.

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