

The Autumn Purple White Ash

Madison

The very first known specimen of the Autumn Purple White Ash, now a registered trademark for a nationally distributed tree, stood to the southwest of the Home Economics Building on the University of Wisconsin–Madison campus until it was cut down in the 1990s because of structural problems.

G. William Longenecker, a well-known professor of horticulture at the University, recognized this staminate tree for its good form and spectacular autumn foliage. Longenecker worked with McKay Nursery of Wisconsin and Cole Nursery of Ohio to trademark and make available this official cultivar. It is widely appreciated all over the United States.

The first sapling propagated from the campus tree was planted in the Longenecker Gardens at the UW Arboretum, and the second at the Boerner Botanical Gardens in Hales Corners. Unfortunately, there is no record of who originally planted the tree on the campus or where it came from.



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B-Wolfgang Hoffmann (1980)