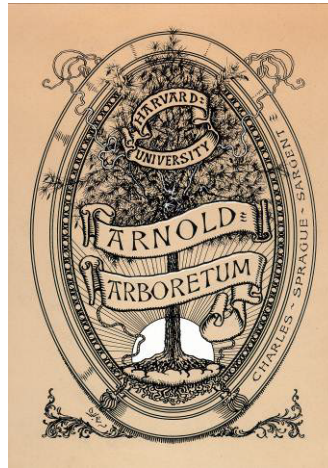


Archives IV B-1.4

Hurricane/Blizzard/Storm Damage, 1933 - : Guide



The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

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**IV B-1.4
Hurricane/Blizzard/Storm Damage, 1933 - : Guide
Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University
125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts**

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Descriptive Summary

Repository: Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Jamaica Plain, MA

Call No.: IV B-1.4

Location: Archives

Title: Hurricane/Blizzard/Storm Damage, 1933-: Guide

Date(s): 1933-

Creator: Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

Quantity: 1 linear foot

Language of material: English

Abstract: This collection contains photos, slides, articles/clippings, correspondence, and damage reports documenting various severe weather phenomena that have affected the Arboretum. The date of the materials currently spans from 1933 – 2015 with the bulk of material pertaining to the Hurricane of 1938, Hurricanes Carol & Edna in 1954, Hurricane Gloria in 1985, and the Blizzard of 1997.

Note: Access to Finding Aid record in [HOLLIS](#).

Preferred Citation: Hurricane/Blizzard/Storm Damage. Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

Additional Material: See the Archives Electronic File for additional material

Processing Information

2019, Haein (Gloria) Shin; 2020, Lisa Pearson; 2023, 2024 Larissa Glasser.

Acquisition Information

Provenance: This collection was transferred from the Arnold Arboretum's curatorial department holdings to the Arboretum's Archives over the past 20 years since 2000.

Terms of Access

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Historical Note

Over the course of the Arnold Arboretum's history, severe weather conditions have been the cause of immense damage to the Arboretum's structure and collections. The effects of these storms have been documented through photos, publications within the *Arnoldia*, *The Harvard Bulletin*, and local newspapers, and extensive reports on storm damage recorded by the Arboretum's staff. Several storms through the years are especially notable for the extent of their destruction to the Arboretum.

The "Great" Hurricane of 1938 was the first major storm to hit the Arboretum since its founding in 1872. The hurricane blew through Boston on September 21, 1938, with winds reaching over 100 mph at the Arboretum. In total, approximately 1,500 trees were uprooted, badly damaged, or snapped off. Though this was a great loss for the Arboretum, most damaged trees were those native to the Arboretum, and only a dozen species were not duplicated elsewhere in the collection. Most of the damage was sustained along the exposed areas of Hemlock Hill, Peters Hill, and Bussey Hill.

In 1954, the Arboretum was hit by two hurricanes within the span of eleven days. Hurricane Carol made landfall first on August 31 and was followed by Hurricane Edna on September 11. Hurricane Carol caused the more severe damage of the two, blowing over or severely damaging approximately 400 trees in the Arboretum, seven of which were not duplicated in the collection. By contrast, Hurricane Edna only caused 15% of Carol's destruction with eight trees not duplicated elsewhere in the collection.

On September 12, 1960, Hurricane Donna struck the Arboretum damaging 40 trees and shrubs out of which only eight were removed.

In 1985, Hurricane Gloria veered off its predicted course, sparing Boston and the Arboretum from its full force. Nevertheless, the damage sustained by the Arboretum from the September 27th hurricane was significant. In total, 45 accessioned trees were destroyed and another 100 trees suffered major damage. However, of the plants destroyed, only four did not have duplicate taxon within the collection. The Arboretum did also suffer some prominent individual losses such as *Euptelea polyandra*, AA 865*B, the last representative of the seeds from C.S. Sargent's Japan collection.

On April 1, 1997, a blizzard deposited over 25 inches of snow on Boston. The Blizzard of 1997 was the most destructive storm to hit the Arboretum since the "Great" Hurricane of 1938. A total of 1,717 accessioned plants were damaged, 300 of which were removed. The conifers, particularly pines, suffered the worst damage, with 41% of all conifers within the collection sustaining some degree of damage. Several specimens from C.S. Sargent and E.H. Wilson's original collections were damaged or destroyed. However, *Carya x brownii* was the only tree destroyed that was not duplicated elsewhere in the collection.

These are just a small selection of storms to have affected the Arboretum. Many other severe weather events were documented by the Arboretum through publications and photos also included in this collection.

Scope and Content

This collection includes photographs, slides, correspondence, articles/clippings, and damage reports documenting extreme weather events that have affected the Arboretum from 1934 to the present. Damage reports include lists of damaged, removed, or repropagated accessions from a particular storm, annotated maps of the Arboretum depicting storm damage, notebooks from Arboretum staff documenting storm damage, and photocopies of

plant record cards with contemporary notes. To note are the photocopies of earlier storm documentation, the original documents of several which are included in the collection, with annotations written in 1997. These photocopies were created in response to the Blizzard of 1997 and therefore were included within the Blizzard of 1997 series. Additional material is in the Archives Electronic File.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 6 series:

Series I: The "Great" Hurricane, 1938

- Damage Reports
- Photos
- Correspondence
- Articles/Clippings

Series II: Hurricane Carol & Edna, 1954

- Damage Reports
- Photos
- Articles/Clippings

Series III: Hurricane Donna, 1960

- Damage Reports
- Photos
- Slides
- Articles/Clippings

Series IV: Hurricane Gloria, 1985

- Damage Reports
- Photos
- Articles/Clippings

Series V: Blizzard of 1997

- Damage Reports
- Slides
- Correspondence
- Articles/Clippings

Series VI: Misc. Storms

Container List

Box 1

Series I: The "Great" Hurricane, 1938

Subseries I: Damage Reports

Folder

1. Hurricane Damage Reports
 - Written by Heman Howard

Subseries II: Photos

Folder

2. Hurricane Photos
 - Taken by Alfred J. Fordham; Includes misc. snow scenes in the Arboretum from 1938
3. Hurricane Photos
 - Taken by Alfred J. Fordham; Includes misc. snow scenes in the Arboretum from 1938
4. Hurricane Photos
5. Hurricane Photos
 - Taken by Donald Wyman
6. Hurricane Photos

- Taken by Donald Wyman
7. Possible Storm Recovery Photos from 1938
See Archives Electronic File for additional material

Subseries III: Correspondence

Folder

8. Hurricane Correspondence

Subseries IV: Articles/Clippings

Folder

9. Hurricane Articles/Clippings

See Archives Electronic File for additional material

Series II: Hurricane Carol & Edna, 1954

Subseries I: Damage Reports

Folder

1. Hurricane Carol & Edna Damage Reports

Subseries II: Photos

Folder

2. Hurricane Carol & Edna Photos (Damage)
3. Hurricane Carol & Edna Photos (Damage)
4. Hurricane Carol & Edna Photos (Damage)
5. Hurricane Carol & Edna Photos (Clean-up)
6. Hurricane Carol & Edna Photos (Clean-up)

Subseries III: Slides

Folder

7. Hurricane Carol & Edna Slides

Subseries IV: Correspondence

Folder

8. Hurricane Carol & Edna Correspondence

Subseries V: Articles/Clippings

Folder

9. Hurricane Carol & Edna Articles/Clippings

Series III: Hurricane Donna, 1960

Subseries I: Damage Reports

Folder

1. Hurricane Donna Damage Reports

Subseries II: Photos

Folder

2. Hurricane Donna Photos
 - Taken by Heman Howard

Subseries III: Slides

Folder

3. Hurricane Donna Slides

Subseries IV: Articles/Clippings

Folder

4. Hurricane Donna Articles/Clippings

Series IV: Hurricane Gloria, 1985

Subseries I: Damage Reports

Folder

1. Hurricane Gloria Damage Reports
2. Hurricane Gloria Damage Reports

Box 2

Series IV: Hurricane Gloria, 1985

Subseries I: Damage Reports

Folder

3. Hurricane Gloria Damage Reports

Subseries II: Photos

Folder

4. Hurricane Gloria Photos

Subseries III: Articles/Clippings

Folder

5. Hurricane Gloria Articles/Clippings

Series V: Blizzard of 1997

Subseries I: Damage Reports

Folder

1. Blizzard Damage Reports
2. Blizzard Damage Reports
3. Blizzard Damage Reports
4. Blizzard Damage Reports
 - Moved to oversized folder

Subseries II: Slides

Folder

5. Blizzard Slides
 - Taken by Phyllis Anderson
6. Blizzard Slides
 - Taken by Karen Madsen

See Archives Electronic File for additional material

Subseries III: Correspondence

Folder

7. Blizzard Correspondence

Subseries IV: Articles/Clippings

Folder

8. Blizzard Articles/Clippings
 - Draft of an article written by Susan Kelly published in *Arnoldia* Spring 1997
9. Blizzard Articles/Clippings
 - Moved to oversized folder

Series VI: Misc. Storms

Folder

1. 1935 Winter
2. 1951 – 1952 Winter
3. 1955 Hurricane Diane
4. 1955 – 1956 Fall & Winter
5. 1966 Winter
6. 1969 Winter
7. 1976 – 1977 Winter
8. 1978 Winter
9. 1991 Hurricane Bob
10. 1994 – 1995 Winter – Fall
11. 1996 Spring

See Archives Electronic File for additional material on 1933 – 1934 Winter, 2015 Hailstorm, 2009 Lightning Strike on *Abies homolepsis* 12413*A