

No. 12

# ARNOLD ARBORETUM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

---

## BULLETIN

OF

## POPULAR INFORMATION



JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

JULY 18, 1911


## BULLETIN NO. 12.

From this time until April of next year the Arboretum will be interesting from the fruits which are to be seen here. Nothing so surprises and delights European visitors who come to the Arboretum in summer and autumn as the profusion of showy fruits which are produced here by many trees and shrubs. The Arboretum has done a useful service in bringing together all the wild forms of the plants which bear showy fruits, and in making known their value as ornaments of American gardens; and among the Crabapples, Plums, Cherries, Roses, Currants, Cornels, Privets, Buckthorns, Barberries, Elders, Hawthorns, *Elaeagnus*, *Celastrus*, *Evonymus*, *Panax*, and other plants with fleshy fruits the student and the gardener in search of useful plants will find here now and for several months much to investigate.

The Bush Honeysuckles are now the handsomest plants with ripe fruits. They produce fruit in great quantities and it remains in good condition for several weeks. On different species there are blue, black, orange, yellow, crimson and scarlet fruits; and the fruit of some of the hybrids is more beautiful than that of their parents. The orange-yellow translucent fruit of *Lonicera minutiflora* is perhaps now the most beautiful in the collection. This plant is a hybrid between one of the Tartarian Honeysuckles (*Lonicera tartarica*) from central Asia and *Lonicera Morrowii* from eastern Siberia. Another handsome plant now is *Lonicera muscaviensis*, with large and translucent scarlet fruit. This is a hybrid between two species of eastern Siberia, *Lonicera Ruprechtiana* and *Lonicera Morrowii*. Other plants now covered with ripe fruit are the Tartarian Honeysuckle and its yellow-fruited variety; *Lonicera bella* and *Lonicera notha* with crimson fruit; *Lonicera Morrowii* with dull crimson fruit; *Lonicera xylostyum* with large, dark crimson, lustrous fruit, and *Lonicera xylostyoides* with large red fruits. On other species the fruit is not yet half grown, so that for a long time there will be much of interest to see in this collection which is one of the most complete in the Arboretum.

The fruits of some of the Chokecherries in the group at the entrance of the Shrub Collection close to the Forest Hills Gate are beginning to ripen. The most unusual is the yellow-fruited form (var. *leucocarpa*) of the eastern Chokecherry, *Prunus virginiana*. This yellow-fruited Cherry is common in some parts of the Province of Quebec and occasionally reaches the Canadian markets. The fruit is large, light yellow, translucent and of a better flavor than that of the common Chokecherry.

The fruit of *Elaeagnus longipes* still remains on the branches, although it has been ripe for several weeks. This hardy Japanese shrub flowers and fruits here profusely. The fruit hangs gracefully on long slender stems and is oblong, scarlet, lustrous and covered with small, white dots. It has a tart and rather agreeable flavor. This plant can be seen on the left-hand side of the Bussey Hill Road above the Lilacs in the *Elaeagnus* Group.

The white fruits of *Cornus stolonifera*, the Red Osier Dogwood or  Cornel of eastern North America and its yellow-fruited variety (var.

*flavoramea*), and *Cornus Baileyi* are now ripe, while the flowers on the other species of the group have not yet faded. Handsomer even than the fruit of these species are the pale blue fruits of *Cornus rugosa* or *circinata* which, although now nearly fully grown, will not ripen for a few weeks. This is one of the most ornamental of the native Dogwoods, with large, round, oval leaves pale on their lower surface and large flat clusters of pale yellow flowers.

The abundant fruits of *Viburnum americanum*, the so-called High-bush Cranberry of the northeastern part of the country, are now more than half grown and light yellow; later they will become scarlet and very lustrous and continue to ornament the plants until spring.

There are not many more trees to flower this year. Flowers still continue to open occasionally on *Magnolia glauca* and rain will probably produce a second crop of flowers on *Magnolia cordata*. These plants are on the right of the Jamaica Plain entrance.

The Sorrel-tree, *Oxydendron arboreum*, is just opening its flowers which are borne in large terminal panicles. This is one of the interesting North American trees and is the only representative of an Appalachian genus. The long, narrow leaves are dark green and shining, and have a strong acid flavor to which this tree owes its name. Hardy, fast-growing, late-flowering, with handsome flowers, and foliage splendid in the autumn, and saved apparently by its acid juices from the attacks of insects, this tree is too little known. It can be seen at the eastern base of Hemlock Hill on the left-hand side of Hemlock Road where several individuals are growing among the Kalmias.

*Sophora japonica* is now covered with flower-buds, but the small pea-shaped, white flowers will not open probably for two or three weeks. This tree is a native of China but first reached Europe and the United States from Japan where it was introduced by Buddhist priests more than a thousand years ago. It is a very hardy tree, of good habit, with dark green leaves and branchlets, and the fact that it flowers late in the summer adds to its value. It grows to a larger size than any of the trees which have been planted in Peking, and the old trees there from a distance look like venerable Oaks. There are a few large individuals in Europe where it was first planted more than one hundred and fifty years ago, but it is not very often seen in this country. In the Arboretum it is growing on the right-hand side of the Bussey Hill Road opposite the upper end of the Lilac Group. There is a large specimen in the Public Garden of Boston.

Of summer-flowering shrubs the handsomest now in bloom is *Stuartia pentagyna*. This plant belongs to the same family as the Camellia, and the white cup-shaped flowers are not unlike those of a single Camellia. This is a native of the southern Appalachian region and very hardy in the Arboretum. *Stuartia pseudocamellia*, a native of the mountains of Japan, is a taller plant, tree-like in habit, with rather smaller flowers. It is not yet in flower. These plants can be seen in the Shrub Collection.

Another plant now in flower in the Shrub Collection, *Amorpha canescens*, or the Lead Plant, deserves attention. This is a member of the Pea Family with leaves and stems whitened with hoary down and small

violet-colored flowers crowded in clustered terminal spikes. This striking looking plant grows three or four feet tall and is a native of the middle west where it grows on hills and prairies from Indiana to Minnesota and southward.

The last of the Horsechestnuts to flower, *Aesculus parviflora*, is now covered with its long, narrow, erect spikes of small white flowers. This is a broad, round-topped, shapely shrub well suited for planting in large masses or as a single specimen. In good soil and uncrowded by other plants it soon spreads over a large area. A native of the southeastern states where it is found from South Carolina to Florida and Alabama, this Horsechestnut is perfectly hardy in New England, and in cultivation at the north it grows into a larger and a finer plant than in its native wilds. There is a mass of these plants at the northern base of the wooded hill on the right-hand side of the Meadow Road and in the rear of the Horsechestnut Group.

One of the handsome shrubs of eastern North America, the Spice-bush, *Clethra alnifolia*, will not be in bloom before the end of the month, although its flower-buds are already well developed. The white fragrant flowers are produced in erect terminal spikes and contrast beautifully with the dark green leaves. Masses of this shrub, which lends itself perfectly to cultivation, have been planted in the borders along the Meadow Road.

*Panax sessiliflorum* is just opening its flowers which are small and inconspicuous, and are borne in globose, compact, terminal heads. This is a large, hardy and vigorous shrub from eastern Siberia, with dark green divided leaves and black showy fruits which form large clusters at the ends of the branches and, remaining in good condition until late in the winter, are very conspicuous on the naked branches. A useful plant for public parks and wherever there is space for its wide-spreading branches to extend, this member of the Aralia Family is still little known. With the other members of this family it can be seen close to the pond on the right-hand side of the Meadow Road between the Witch Hazel Group and the Cornel or Dogwood Group.

---

These bulletins will be discontinued through the remainder of the summer.

---

An illustrated guide to the Arboretum containing a map showing the position of the different groups of plants has recently been published. It will be found useful to persons unfamiliar with the position of the different groups of plants. Copies of this guide can be obtained at the Administration Building in the Arboretum, from the Secretary of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, from The Houghton, Mifflin Company, 4 Park Street, Boston, and at the Old Corner Bookstore, Bromfield Street, Boston.

**The Arboretum will be grateful for any publicity given these Bulletins.**