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A visit to the Arboretum at this time should be valuable to persons interested in seeing the plants best suited for the autumnal decoration of American gardens, for now many little known trees and shrubs here show the brilliant tints of their fading leaves and the beauty of their ripening fruit.

The contrast in the appearance of the trees and shrubs of eastern North America and eastern Asia with those of Europe at this time of year is interesting. The leaves of the former are now for the most part brilliantly colored or have already colored and fallen, while the leaves of the trees and shrubs of Europe are still green, and in the case of many of these plants the leaves finally wither and fall with little or no change of color. This interesting fact is best seen in the species of the same genus. The American Beech now lightens the woods with the light yellow tints of its leaves, while the leaves of the European Beech are still almost as green as they were at midsummer. The leaves of the American Elm have already shriveled or fallen except in the case of vigorous trees which still show the yellow tints of autumn, while the leaves of all the forms of the European Elms are still fresh and green.

This habit of European plants to retain their foliage late into the autumn is well illustrated by the Viburnums. The leaves of *Viburnum Lantana*, the Wayfaring-tree of Europe, are still either dark green or only slightly tinged with red along the margins, while the North American *Viburnum Lentago*, *Viburnum prunifolium* and *Viburnum cassinoides* are splendid in their autumn dress, which is set off by their abundant dark blue fruits. The contrast is even more marked in the Viburnums of the *Opulus* group. In this group the leaves of the European *Viburnum Opulus* are still dark green and as fresh as in July; those of *Viburnum americanum*, the native High-bush Cranberry, so-called, have turned to shades of yellow and red and are falling fast, while those of *Viburnum Sargentii* from northeastern Asia, which were bright orange-red two weeks ago, have now almost disappeared.

The slender branches of a Japanese Cherry, *Prunus Maximowiczii*, are already leafless, and the leaves of another Japanese Cherry, *Prunus Sargentii*, having turned deep orange-red, are now slowly falling, while all the European Cherries are still green. The leaves of all the forms of the Common Lilac derived from a species native to the mountains of Bulgaria drop without change of color, as do those of the large bush Honey-suckles which are mostly European and Siberian. Of the Lilacs, although the leaves of the Chinese *Syringa villosa* turn dull yellow in the autumn, only the Chinese *Syringa oblata* has real value for the autumn color of its leaves. These are large, thick, leathery and lustrous, and in the autumn turn to beautiful shades of dark red or old leather color, a habit which adds greatly to the value of this fine plant as an ornament of gardens.

Few Old World Roses make much show of autumn color but just now there is hardly a more beautiful plant in the Arboretum than the common Rose of the coast region of the northeastern United States, *Rosa virginiana*, or *lucida* as it is sometimes called, which just now makes a brave show with its leaves of orange and bright red.

Among the shrubs in the Arboretum which should be carefully studied at this time on account of the beauty of their autumn foliage are a few which deserve special attention. Of these *Evonymus alatus* from Japan is especially interesting for its leaves are now of a light rose color which is not found in those of any other plant in the collection. This is a broad flat-topped shrub of open habit, peculiar in the broad wings which are developed on its branches and to which it owes its name. As a flowering plant it has little to recommend it and the fruit is less conspicuous than that of most of the other Burning Bushes, as *Evonymus* is often called, but the color of the autumn foliage entitles it to a place in any garden. A large specimen of this plant can be seen in the *Evonymus* Group on the right-hand side of the Meadow Road. In this group are several other plants which are attractive at this time. The most conspicuous now, perhaps, is *Evonymus Bungeanus*, a small tree from northern China, covered with small light pink fruit which is set off by the pale yellow leaves. *Evonymus yeddoensis* and *Evonymus Hamiltonianus*, two Japanese shrubs or small trees, are now conspicuous also for their colored leaves and brilliant fruits.

Brilliant now are the scarlet fruits of the aromatic Sumac, *Rhus aromatica*, which has been planted freely in great masses along the drives. Beautiful, too, along many of the drives are plants of *Aronia nigra*, one of the Chokeberries of the eastern United States with its clusters of large drooping black fruits and dark red foliage. Of the native shrubs, however, none now are as brilliant as the High-bush Blueberry, *Vaccinium corymbosum*, which is conspicuous in the brilliant scarlet of its leaves in many parts of the Arboretum. This is one of the most ornamental shrubs of eastern North America. It grows into a large bush sometimes eight or ten feet high; the habit is good; the flowers are attractive and produced in profusion; and the fruit, which surpasses that of the other Blueberries and Huckleberries in size and quality, is bright blue, and in the autumn no other shrub is more beautiful. This is a plant to cultivate generally for its fruit and as an ornament of the garden. Like other plants of the Heath Family, it is not easy to raise from seed but small plants from the swamps can be readily established in ordinary garden soil.

Flowers are scarce in the Arboretum the middle of October. A few belated flowers may still be found on the clumps of Heather, *Calluna vulgaris*, in the Shrub Collection and among the Rhododendrons at the base of Hemlock Hill. This evergreen plant, a native of northern Europe, is too little known in American gardens, although it is perfectly hardy in New England. It has become completely naturalized at Townsend, Massachusetts, near the New Hampshire line, where grown from seed scattered some forty years ago, it has spread over an area of nearly forty acres, and it is well established, too, in larger masses, near

Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Heather should be planted in well-drained soil and in stations fully exposed to the sun where it will soon spread into large masses and remain in flower for two or three months. There are a number of varieties of this plant, the best known being that with white flowers. The white-flowered form grows wild in Europe, and it is supposed to bring good luck to the person fortunate enough to find it.

The native Witch Hazel, however, *Hamamelis virginiana*, is the only plant which really flowers in the Arboretum in the late autumn. Its small clusters of flowers with their long pale yellow strap-shaped petals are now partly hidden by the large leaves which are bright yellow and very conspicuous. As the leaves fall the flowers are seen to cover the branches and form one of the most interesting features of the autumn flora of the northern United States. Unlike our northern species, the Witch Hazels of Japan and the species lately discovered in southern Missouri produce their flowers in winter or very early spring before the appearance of the leaves. The Witch Hazel Group, containing also Parrotia and Liquidambar of the same family, can be seen on the right-hand side of the Meadow Road near its junction with the Bussey Hill Road.

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.