The flowers of woody plants are not common in this climate at the end of September, but visitors to the Arboretum will still find a few interesting plants in bloom. The most conspicuous, perhaps, is the Manchurian and north China *Aralia chinensis* which can be seen in the Aralia Group near the junction of the Meadow and Bussey Hill Roads. It is a near relative of the so-called Hercules’ Club (*Aralia spinosa*) of our southern woods and, like the American plant, it has stems covered with prickles, large, compound, dark green leaves, and immense clusters of small white flowers which are followed by small shining black fruits. The American plant is not quite as hardy as its Asiatic relative, but it is now well established on the margin of the woods at the northern base of Hemlock Hill in the rear of the Laurels, where it is spreading by underground shoots. The plants are just past flowering.

The Japanese *Hydrangea paniculata* and its monstrous form, on which all the flowers are sterile (var. *grandiflora*) are in bloom. The latter is one of the most generally planted shrubs in the United States, although it is a much less interesting and less beautiful plant than the still comparatively little known normal form. The two are growing side by side in the Shrub Collection. In the Shrub Collection, too, the handsome *Elsholtzia Stauntonii* is in full flower and now at its best. This member of the Mint Family, and a native of northeastern Asia, has long erect spikes of rosy pink flowers and light green foliage. One of the comparatively recent introductions of the Arboretum, it is only beginning to appear in American and European gardens. Near it in the Shrub Collection *Vitex incisa* from northern China is in flower. Although this plant is a native of a cold region the stems are often killed back to the ground here in severe winters, but as new stems grow several feet tall during the season, and as the flowers are produced on the new growth, this killing back improves rather than injures the flowering of this shrub which at this time of the year is attractive with its finely divided leaves and slender erect clusters of small rose-colored flowers. The flowers of the true Heathers (*Calluna*) have already passed but flowers may still be seen on the Cornish Heath, *Erica vagans*, and the Trumpet Creepers from the central and southern states are still producing flowers on the trellis at the eastern side of the Shrub Collection.

On the upper side of Hemlock Path, near Centre Street, small plants of *Gordonia Altamaha* are now in bloom and during several weeks will continue to open their white cup-shaped flowers which resemble those of a single-flowered Camellia. This tree is a native of southern Georgia where it was discovered late in the eighteenth century. Although often hunted for, it has not been seen growing wild for more than a hundred years, and has only been preserved by the cultivated descendants of the plants introduced by its early discoverers. This Gordonia flourishes in the neighborhood of Philadelphia but it is not very hardy in the Arboretum, and it is surprising that it was uninjured by the severity of last winter which destroyed so many hardier plants. On Hickory Path, near Centre Street, *Indigofera amblyantha*, which has been in flower for nearly three months, still continues to
produce its slender erect spikes of rose-colored flowers. This is one of Wilson's discoveries in western China and one of the most beautiful of the small hardy shrubs of recent introduction.

The name *Ulmus campestris* has been selected by recent writers on European trees for the Elm of the hedge rows of southern England, which was largely planted a century ago in eastern Massachusetts chiefly, no doubt, through the agency of a Major Paddock who established a nursery of this tree in Milton. The large English Elms which once flourished on Boston Common were of this species, and large specimens can still be seen in several of the Boston suburbs. The origin of this Elm is unknown. It does not produce seeds propagating itself by suckers, and is known to grow spontaneously only in some of the counties in southern England, and in a few parks near Madrid, in which it is now known to have been introduced from England many years ago. It is a noble tree, able to adapt itself to various climatic conditions, and well suited to those of New England; indeed no other exotic tree, with the exception of the European White Willow, has been here so long or grown to such a large size. Another English Elm, *Ulmus vegeta*, usually called the Huntington Elm, a supposed natural hybrid between two European species, *Ulmus nitens* and *U. glabra*, the so-called Scotch Elm, grows to a larger size than *Ulmus campestris* and is perhaps the fastest growing of all Elm trees. An Elm of this kind in the deer park of Magdalen College at Oxford, supposed to have been planted at the time of the Restoration, was blown down in April, 1911; it was one hundred and forty-two feet high, with a trunk circumference at four feet from the ground of twenty-seven feet. This was believed to be the largest tree in Great Britain and perhaps in Europe. *Ulmus vegeta* is a tree with paler bark than that of *Ulmus campestris*, large main branches spreading at narrow angles, giving the tree a vase-shaped form, rather pendulous branchlets and larger leaves than those of *Ulmus campestris*, and usually only slightly roughened on the upper surface. This tree is not rare in English parks and has been largely planted in Cambridgeshire where in the neighborhood of Cambridge there are many fine specimens. Brooklands Avenue in that city, planted with this tree in 1830, shows its value for such planting, for in all England there is perhaps not a better example of an avenue of planted trees. The Huntington Elm was certainly introduced into New England much later than *Ulmus campestris*, and probably the oldest trees here are not more than sixty or seventy years old. This Elm is perfectly hardy here, it grows with surprising rapidity, and if exotic Elms are to be planted in the United States it may well be more generally used here than it has been.

Persons interested in the plants best suited for the parks and gardens of eastern North America can find much to learn in the Arboretum from this time until the end of the year, for it is in the autumn that conifers are seen to the best advantage and that the mature leaves of the few broad-leaved evergreens which flourish in this climate best show the beauty and value of these plants for the late autumn and winter garden. Perhaps nowhere else are so many different plants with brilliant autumn foliage and handsome and abundant autumn fruits assembled; and in no other garden can such plants be so easily and conveniently studied. Such plants give a character and beauty to the autumn garden which can be found only in eastern North America, and
perhaps in Japan where the leaves of many of the native trees and shrubs assume brilliant colors before they fall.

The autumn color of a few plants is already brilliant. The earliest of the American trees to change the color of its leaves is the Red or Scarlet Maple, *Acer rubrum*. On specimens of this tree growing in swamps the leaves are now often bright scarlet, while on trees growing on higher and drier ground the leaves are still bright green or only slightly tinged with red. The so-called Water Willow, *Decodon verticillatus*, often known as *Nesaea*, is a native of all the region from Maine to Florida and Louisiana, and is a shrub with arching stems growing only in the wet, often submerged borders of streams and ponds where it often spreads into broad thickets. By the borders of the ponds in the Arboretum the leaves of this plant are already bright scarlet, and for a few weeks the plants will be conspicuous among the green sedges and swamp grasses with which they are associated.

The leaves of some of the forms of the so-called Virginia Creeper of eastern North America are already bright scarlet. The earliest to adopt its autumn dress and now in brilliant color is *Parthenocissus vitacea*. This plant rarely has adhesive discs at the ends of the tendrils, and therefore cannot attach itself to the trunks of trees or to brick and stone walls, like *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* which is often sold in nurseries as *Ampelopsis Englemannii*. There are many forms of the Virginia Creeper which can be seen on the trellis near the entrance to the Shrub Collection from the Forest Hills Gate.

A few of the fruits which ripen in early autumn are already conspicuous. There is perhaps no shrub more beautiful in the autumn than one of the American Cornels, *Cornus rugosa*, or, as it is sometimes called, *C. circinata*. It is a tall, broad, round-headed shrub with greenish branches and round, oval, dark green leaves; the flowers are not more showy than those of the other Cornels, but the clusters of light blue fruits on red stalks make them objects of much interest and beauty. There are a number of these plants in the Cornell Group at the junction of the Meadow and Bussey Hill Roads, and there are great clumps of it among the Hickories and in other parts of the Arboretum. *The red Osier Cornel, Cornus racemosa*, often called *C. stolonifera* or *C. candidissima*, is also beautiful at this season, for the leaves are beginning to turn dark red and the plants are covered with abundant clusters of white fruits on bright red stalks. This plant has been largely used in the Arboretum; it spreads rapidly into large, dense clusters, and with its good foliage, abundant flowers and beautiful fruits, few shrubs are more desirable for park and roadside plantations.

The fruit of some of the new Chinese Cotoneasters is handsome and the autumn coloring of their foliage is often splendid. Most of these plants are perfectly hardy, and among them are certainly some of the most valuable garden shrubs of recent introduction. They can be seen in the special Chinese Collection on Bussey Hill and in the Shrub Collection, and deserve study with reference to the autumn garden.

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