The Value of Native Shrubs for the decoration of American parks and gardens has we believe been demonstrated by the Arboretum and has never been more clearly shown than during the past month. The flowers of the late-flowering Viburnums have been conspicuous during the whole month of June. There are four of these species which deserve the attention of garden makers. The flowers of the earliest, *Viburnum dentatum*, have already passed. This shrub has handsome dark green leaves conspicuously toothed on the margins, and broad flat clusters of white flowers which are followed in early autumn by bright blue fruits on erect stems. This is a common roadside shrub in the northeastern part of the country. The second of these plants, *V. cassinoides*, has also flowered. It is a native of swamps in the northeastern part of the country where it sometimes grows nearly twenty feet high with slender, straggling stems; in cultivation it forms a broad, low, round-topped bush and has proved one of the handsomest of the Viburnums in the Arboretum. The leaves are thick and lustrous, varying greatly in size and shape; the flowers, which are slightly tinged with yellow and open in slightly convex clusters, vary greatly in size; the fruit is larger than that of some of the early-flowering American species, and at first yellow-green later becomes pink and finally black covered with a pale bloom, fruit of the three colors occurring in the early autumn in the same cluster. The third of these late Viburnums, *V. pubescens*, resembles in general appearance *V. dentatum* but flowers two weeks later and the young branchlets and lower surface of the leaves are thickly covered with a coat of stellate hairs. This Viburnum is found growing naturally only in the neighborhood of
the coast from Cape Cod and Nantucket to New Jersey. A larger
and handsomer plant, with showier flowers and larger later-ripening
fruit, *V. Canbyi* is the fourth of these species. It is the last of all
the Viburnums in the Arboretum to flower. There are specimens of
this plant on the right hand side of the entrance to the Administration
Building which are now ten or twelve feet high and as much in diam-
eter and covered with flowers. This is the largest and handsomest of
American Viburnums and by some botanists is considered a variety of
*V. pubescens* which it somewhat resembles, but the leaves and flower-
clusters are larger and it blooms ten or twelve days later, and the
flowers and fruits are larger. Its home, too, is not on the seacoast
but in northern Delaware and the adjacent parts of Pennsylvania, and
in central Indiana. This Viburnum reproduces itself from seeds and
there is therefore no reason why it should remain so rare in gardens.

Two other native plants, *Cornus racemosa* and *Rosa virginiana*, are
in bloom and the pure pink flowers of the Rose harmonize so well
with the cream white flowers of *Cornus racemosa* that these two plants
can well be used together in natural planting. *R. virginiana* is con-
fined to the northeastern seaboard region of the continent and in its
best form is a tall shrub with lustrous leaves and pure pink flowers
which now perfume the borders of the roads in some parts of the
Arboretum. This Rose has been used successfully on the left hand
side of the Valley Road in the border between the road and the gravel
path and it is, with the exception perhaps of the Prairie Rose, the
handsomest of the North American species, beautiful when in flower,
in the autumn with its yellow leaves and handsome fruit, and in win-
ter with its shining bright red fruit.

*Cornus rugosa*, or *C. circinata*, the name by which it is best known,
is a shrub sometimes ten feet high which with plenty of space spreads
into a broad bush. The young branches are green blotched with purple,
becoming purple as they grow older; the leaves are broad, sometimes
nearly circular and dark bluish green; the flowers are ivory white, in
compact clusters, and are followed in the early autumn by bright blue
or nearly white fruits. It can be seen in the Cornel Group at the
junction of the Meadow and the Bussey Hill Roads, and there are
masses of it among the Hickories in the groups of these trees which
well show the value of this shrub in park planting where broad com-
pact masses of foliage are needed.

*Cornus amomum*, the Silky Cornel, which has been largely used in
the Arboretum, is now covered with flowers. In cultivation it is not a
satisfactory plant unless there is sufficient room for its wide-spreading
branches, for when crowded by other plants the branches become erect
and it loses its real beauty. To be seen at its best this Cornel should
have a clear space with a diameter of not less than twenty feet in
which to spread. There is no better shrub to plant by the margins of
ponds and streams where its graceful branches can hang over the
water. The purple stems are attractive in winter, and the bright blue
fruit which ripens in the autumn adds to the value of this native shrub.
Its value for planting near water can be seen on the borders of the
small ponds on the Meadow Road.
Sambucus canadensis. As the flowers of the Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) fade those of the native Elder (*Sambucus canadensis*) open. This is the last of the native shrubs to make here a conspicuous show of flowers. There are great masses of it now in full bloom in the north meadow, and there are many individual plants along Bussey Brook which have grown from seeds sown by birds. Few native shrubs make a greater show than this Elder with its broad heads of white flowers and lustrous black fruits. There is in the Arboretum a form with leaflets deeply divided into narrow segments (var. *acutiloba*), one with dull yellow fruit (var. *chlorocarpa*) and a plant which originated a few years ago in a European nursery (var. *maxima*) with flower-clusters three times as large as those of the wild plant and such large and heavy bunches of fruit that the branches are hardly able to support them.

The last of the Azaleas. As the yellow or flame-colored flowers of *Rhododendron calendulaceum* fade those of another Appalachian species, *R. arborescens*, begin to open. The deliciously fragrant flowers are white with bright red stamens and style and do not open until after the leaves have grown nearly to their full size. The home of this plant is on the Appalachian Mountains on which it is found from western Pennsylvania to northern Georgia, in the neighborhood of streams in the rich soil of sheltered valleys growing to the height of fifteen or twenty feet. On the Carolina Mountains it is often not more than three or four feet tall, forming at altitudes of about five thousand feet above the sea great thickets often acres in extent. Its value as a garden plant is not generally understood or appreciated. The flowers vary greatly in size and in the length and diameter of the corolla-tube, and although the corolla is pure white a form is now known in which the corolla is suffused with rose (var. *Richardsonii*), in another it is more or less striped with rose, in another tinged more or less deeply with yellow, and in another it is marked with a yellow blotch. All these forms are well worth a place in a collection of Azaleas, and it is possible that if seedlings were raised perhaps more varied and distinct forms might occur among them. There is a group of this Azalea on the Valley Road in front of the Hickory Group and another on the opposite side of this Road. A mass of the plant, too, has been planted on the western slope of Azalea Path. The last of the Azaleas, *Rhododendron viscosum*, begins to open its flowers a few days later than those of *R. arborescens*; they are white and more fragrant than those of other Azaleas, but smaller than those of *R. arborescens* with a long slender corolla-tube. There is also a form on which the flowers are tinged with rose-purple. The Clammy Azalea, or Honeysuckle, as it is called in the country, is an inhabitant of swamps and is common in the Cape region of Massachusetts and southward. In cultivation it grows as freely and flowers as abundantly on dry hillsides as it does in its native swamps, and masses of it on the lower side of Azalea Path are now covered with opening flower-buds.

*Crataegus phaenopyrum*. The so-called Washington Thorn, a native of western North Carolina to southern Missouri, which is now in flower is the last of the Hawthorns to bloom in the Arboretum. It is a slen-
der tree growing under favorable conditions to a height of twenty-five or thirty feet. The leaves are nearly triangular in shape, not more than two inches long and an inch and a half wide, and are dull green, turning to bright scarlet in the autumn. The flowers are creamy white, smaller than those of most Hawthorns and arranged in small compact clusters. Few if any of the American species have less attractive flowers. The fruit, too, is small, barely more than half an inch in diameter, and the Washington Thorn owes its value as a garden plant to the brilliancy of the autumn foliage and to the abundance of the fruits long persistent on the branches.

Hawthorns began to flower in the Arboretum before the first of May and they have been flowering here almost continuously ever since. In less than a month some of the species will begin to ripen their fruit and the fruit of others will still be on the branches in April. There are not therefore many weeks in the year when Hawthorns in this climate cannot furnish either flowers or fruit, and in cold countries like New England no other group of plants has such a long season of flowers except the Viburnums, and none of these retain their fruit into the winter. When in bloom some of the American Hawthorns are objects of great beauty, and only the fruit of some Crabapples is more conspicuous than that of the large-fruited species. As they grow naturally over a large part of eastern North America, although more sparingly in the west, there are few parts of this country or Canada where some of the species cannot be successfully grown. They all thrive in cultivation and respond to generous treatment with larger size, more treelike habit and handsomer foliage and fruit.

Pentactina rupicola. This plant, the only representative of a genus of the Rose Family closely related to Spiraea, is now in flower again in the rockery connected with the propagating department of the Arboretum on Prince Street. Discovered in 1916 by a Japanese botanist among the Diamond Mountains in northern Korea, Wilson collected seeds which he sent to the Arboretum the following year. In speaking of the region where this plant grows Wilson says,— "In all the East I know of no place more lovely and interesting than the Diamond Mountains. In the glens and ravines, on the cliffs and peaks, there are a great variety of plants, and several like Pentactina are not known to grow elsewhere." This monotypic genus grows on the steep slopes near the Makenan Monastery. It is a tufted plant with slender arching stems and alternate tufted leaves. The flowers are borne in terminal pyramidal panicles each from three to four inches in length. The individual flowers are small with a pale-colored calyx with reflexed lobes and narrow, spreading, strap-shaped petals; and the fruit is dry and surrounded by the persistent stamens which are reflexed. From Spiraea this genus may be distinguished by the shape of the petals and by the two-ovuled fruit opening along both sutures. This little shrub is a hardy and useful subject for a shady rockery but probably will not stand full exposure to the sun as its natural home is on the cliffs of well shaded ravines.