Rhododendron maximum, the Great Laurel or Rose Bay, is the last of the true Rhododendrons to blossom in the Arboretum. This plant is found wild from Nova Scotia and the northern shores of Lake Erie, southward through New England and New York and along the Appalachian Mountains to northern Georgia, and is especially abundant on the mountains of western Pennsylvania and southward, covering the steep banks of streams to the elevation of 3000 feet. It grows to its largest size on the mountains of Tennessee and the Carolinas, there forming thickets hundreds of acres in extent and often impenetrable. It is a bushy, tree-like shrub, sometimes more than 30 feet tall, with stout stems and contorted branches, forming a rounded head. The short-petioled, more or less oblanceolate-oblong leaves are lustrous green on the upper surface, pale or grayish, sometimes rusty, on the lower surface, and each from 5 to 10 inches in length. The flowers are relatively small but are borne many together in a compact, pyramidal truss which is often much hidden among the leaves. They are pinkish in the bud and in the typical species the expanded corolla is more or less stained with pink. There is a variety (album) with pure white flowers. The honeyguide on the upper corolla lobe is greenish yellow, the stamens are markedly unequal in length and the anthers are often tinged with purple. The pedicels and peduncles are very glandular, a character which it has transmitted to its hybrid progeny. As a matter of fact, many of the so-called Catawbiense Hybrids are really hybrids of *R. maximum* and these may be distinguished by this glandular character. On account of the intense hardiness, handsome, evergreen foliage and late-flowering qualities, this Rhododendron is for northern gardens a very valuable plant. It is seen to best advantage when planted in open mixed woods, especially those clothing sloping, rocky ground.

Rhododendron maximum purpureum is more showy than the type. It came to the Arboretum in 1912 from the Cross Highways Nursery, Westport, Connecticut, under the name of *R. maximum superbium*. This variety has bright, rose-pink blossoms and brownish yellow honeyguides. The outside of the corolla is deep rose-color but within it is
flushed with white. The botanist, Frederick Pursh, first recognized this variety in 1814, giving its specific rank, stating that "It is found on the highest mountains of Virginia and Carolina near lakes." It is strange that a late flowering Rhododendron of so good a color should remain so rare in gardens.

Buddleia alternifolia has the distinction of being the only species of this very large genus that has leaves alternately arranged on the shoots. The leaves are narrow, oblong-lance-shaped, very short-stalked, dull green above and gray on the underside. The flowers are lavender-purple with a reddish crimson eye and are borne many together in compact rounded clusters from the axils of the leaves of the previous year's shoot, and, later in the year, in those of the current season. The flower clusters are freely produced and often shoots 3 to 4 feet in length are knotted, as it were, with bunches of blossoms. Native of northwestern China, it was introduced into cultivation through seeds collected in southeastern Kansu by Messrs. Farrer and Purdom in 1914. The plants in the Arboretum were raised in 1923 from seeds received partly from the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens at Wisley and from the Edinburg Botanic Gardens. It is the hardiest member of the family and by blooming at high summer and continuing into the fall it is a valuable mid-season plant. Like its relative, B. Davidii, it is easily propagated from cuttings of half ripe wood. When properly known it is destined to be a favorite garden shrub. A handsome bush may be seen in full blossom on Bussey Hill.

Schizophragma hydrangeoides. This uncouth name has been known to nurserymen and gardeners for at least three quarters of a century but the plant to which the name actually belongs is still scarcely known outside a few botanic gardens. Under this name, two root-climbing Japanese plants were confused in gardens. For a long time the name was used for the plant which we now know as Hydrangea petiolaris. Indeed, it was not until early in the twentieth century, when the true Schizophragma hydrangeoides blossomed for the first time under cultivation, that the confusion existing began to be straightened out. Although in a general way similar, the two plants are really very distinct and when seen growing side by side in leaf, much more in flower, the distinctions are obvious. In the Hydrangea the leaves are relatively thin, bright green with finely serrated margins; the flower cluster on its outer circumference bears 4-partite conspicuous blossoms; the fruit opens at the top and the seed is minute and not winged. In the Schizophragma the leaves are relatively thick, dull green, pale on the under surface and coarsely toothed; the flower cluster is furnished with numerous white, ovate bracts, the fruit opens down the sides and the seeds are winged. The Hydrangea is the earlier to open its blossoms. Both are valuable root-climbing plants but the Schizophragma is the more beautiful of the two. Its flowers open later and the numerous white bracts retain their color for a long period, changing finally to pink and brown. This Schizophragma is not so common a plant as the Climbing Hydrangea, neither does it grow so vigorously, nor is it quite so hardy. However, on the northerly wall of the Administration Building a magnificent plant may now be seen in full flower.
Schizophragma hydrangeoides
In China there is a species (S. integrifolium) with larger flower trusses but, unfortunately, this has not proved hardy in the Arboretum. It does well in France, notably around Paris, and in certain parts of the British Isles.

_Elaeagnus longipes_ on the bank at the upper end of the Lilac Collection is now beautifully in fruit. This is a broad shrub with spreading branches laden with ovoid, cherry-like fruits, each suspended on a long, slender stalk. They are orange to bright red in color and close inspection shows them to be covered with wart-like dots. The leaves are short-stalked, more or less elliptic-ovate, with a blunt point and silvery on the under surface. This is the earliest to fruit of a useful group of shrubs, chiefly oriental, of which some half dozen species are growing in the Arboretum.

_Cornus dubia_ is a supposed hybrid raised in the Arboretum from seeds of _C. paucinervis_. It is a densely branched shrub of good habit some 5 feet tall and more in diameter, clothed with dark to lustrous green, lanceolate leaves with the veins strongly impressed on the upper surface and prominent on the lower. It bears flat clusters each from 2 to 3 inches in diameter, of small white blossoms with prominent stamens. The flowers are sweetly fragrant and are followed by deep blue, changing to black, fruits. This and its presumed parents, _C. paucinervis_ and _C. amomum_, are the last of the Cornels to blossom. The first to bloom is, of course, the Cornelian Cherry (_C. mas_), which opens its blossoms early in April, and from then on the whole group has a flowering period covering three and a half months. In flower and fruit the Dogwoods form one of the most useful groups of shrubs or lesser trees that the gardens of northeastern North America enjoy.

_Leptodermus oblonga_ is again flowering on Centre Street Path. A low, twiggy plant, almost a subshrub, it is never more than 2 feet high, and has small, dark green, oblong leaves and bears a profusion of blossoms clustered at the end of branch and branchlet. The flowers are of a pleasing wine-purple color, tubular, with five spreading lobes. It is an exceedingly floriferous plant, which is well adapted for growing in rockeries. It is native of northern China, from whence it was introduced by the Arnold Arboretum through seeds collected by Mr. J. G. Jack in 1905. This subshrub with the Buttonbush (_Cephalanthus occidentalis_) and the Partridge-berry (_Mitchella repens_) are the only members of the great family of Rubiaceae which are hardy in the Arboretum.

_Berberis aggregata_. Among the wealth of Barberries that are hardy in Massachusetts this and its relatives form an interesting group, for they flower after midsummer. They all agree in having rich green, more or less blunt, oblong-lanceolate leaves and terminal masses of deep yellow flowers, which are followed by clusters of small, round, salmon-red fruits. In _B. aggregata_ the flower cluster is dense, in the variety (Prattii) it is looser and more paniculate. In _B. polyantha_, which is the handsomest of the group, the flowers are in loose, more or less spreading or hanging, panicled clusters. E. H. W.