FORTY-FIVE OF THE BEST SHRUBS FOR MASSACHUSETTS GARDENS*

There are actually thousands of different kinds of shrubs growing in Massachusetts gardens today, but many of these are decidedly inferior to others from an ornamental viewpoint. Just which ones are best will always be a debatable question. Some are meritorious for autumn coloration; some make far better hedges than others; still others are superior for spring bloom. No two people will ever agree on a small list of the best shrubs (the smaller the list the more the disagreement!) Even with these points clearly in mind, the plants discussed on the following pages are offered as among the best shrubs for Massachusetts gardens.

First, however, before scrutinizing the list, it should be understood that there are several "old stand-bys" that will always be most serviceable. New shrubs may be glowingly discussed in the catalogues, but these old-fashioned favorites have served reliably for many years and probably will continue to do so for many more. These are among the plants which every gardener should know and use, for one reason or another. Nothing is meant to be implied in the discussions of the forty-five "selected" types, that would cast a shadow of doubt on the serviceability of these. A few are listed on page 20.

With the above-mentioned "common" shrubs clearly in mind, let us consider some that are more unusual, either not used as frequently in gardens as they might be or are more difficult to find in nurseries. It should be emphasized that some Massachusetts nurseryman has indicated in 1951 that he has plants of each

*This list was prepared at the request of the Horticultural Committee of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, five of the plants to be discussed at each of the nine meetings of horticultural chairmen throughout the year. Because of wide-spread interest in this list, it is here reproduced for the benefit of ARNOLDIA subscribers. It is not perfect and many will take exception to it. However, it does include 45 top-notch shrubs that can be used more in our gardens today. Most important, all are available in 1951 from local nurseries!
one of the varieties listed (two exceptions only), available for sale in 1951, and those sources are given. It is useless to become enthusiastic about a plant that is unobtainable. Not so this list of forty-five. Every one is grown and offered for sale in 1951 by some easily available nurseryman (and there are other nursery sources on the record, outside the state, where these plants can be obtained likewise). Consequently, the gardeners of the state are urged to become acquainted with some of the shrubs in the following list in 1951, to purchase and use a few that they do not know already, and in this way increase their knowledge of good plants as well as improve the beauty of the plantings about their homes.

Forty-five of the Best Shrubs Recommended for Massachusetts Gardens

Berberis julianae 2, 5, 7, 10, 11
" koreana 1, 3, 4, 5, 6
Buxus microphylla koreana 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11
Chionanthus virginicus 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11
Clethra alnifolia rosea 4, 5, 10, 11
Cornus alba sibirica 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10
Cotoneaster dammeri 5, 6, 11
" divaricata 2, 4, 6, 8
Cytisus praecox 2, 4, 5, 7, 8
Enkianthus campanulatus 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Euonymus alata compacta 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11
Fothergilla sp. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11
Hamamelis mollis 5, 6, 7, 8, 11
" vernalis 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
Hypericum sp. 1, 2, 5, 6, 8
Ilex crenata convexa 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Juniperus chinensis sargentii 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Leucothoe catesbaei 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11
Lonicera amoena arnoldiana 5, 6
" bella 1, 6
" korolkowi floribunda 1, 4, 5, 6, 7
Magnolia stellata 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11
Mahonia aquifolium 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11
Malus sargentii 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Philadelphus lemoinei "Avalanche" 6, 7, 9, 10
" splendens 6
Pieris floribunda 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
" japonica 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Potentilla fruticosa 6, 7, 8
Rhododendron arborescens 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10
" caldulaceum 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Rhododendron gandavense 9
  " mucronulatum 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
  " schlippoenbachii 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11
  " smirnowi 4, 9
  " vaseyi 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Rosa multiflora 1, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11
Syringa persica 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
  " prestoniae 5, 6
Taxus cuspidata nana 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Tsuga canadensis pendula 5, 7, 8
  " diversifolia 5, 7, 9
Viburnum dilatatum 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11
  " sieboldi 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11
  " tomentosum 2, 5, 6, 7, 8

Sources for Shrubs Listed
5. Kingsville Nurseries, Kingsville, Maryland.
6. Henry Kohankie & Son, Painesville, Ohio
11. Tingle Nurseries, Pittsville, Maryland

Forty-five of the best shrubs for Massachusetts gardens

Berberis julianae 6’ Zone 5 Wintergreen Barberry

A very dense growing, hardy, evergreen barberry. This is one of the few barberries not susceptible to the black stem rust of wheat and hence it is allowed to be grown and sold freely. It should have some winter protection in the coldest parts of the state, and might well be used in evergreen foundation plantings where some protection is usually available. There are other evergreen barberries that are as good or possibly even better, but this one is available. Its spiny evergreen leaves, delicate yellow bell-like flowers and blue fruits combine to make it an interesting plant.

Berberis koreana 6’ Zone 5 Korean Barberry

This deciduous Korean Berberry is rapidly proving itself in gardens and nurseries throughout the eastern United States as a perfect substitute for the some-
what taller and certainly more common barberry (*B. vulgaris*). This latter is one of the many species which is an alternate host for the devastating wheat rust, and it is these that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is passing legislation against so that it is becoming increasingly difficult for commercial men to grow them. In this case, the Korean Barberry is a perfect substitute, with its small, pendulous fruit clusters of bright red berries in the fall and its fiery red autumn foliage coloration. It makes an excellent barrier plant as well as a fine specimen.

**Buxus microphylla koreana** 3-4' Zone 5 Korean Box

This is the hardiest of all the boxwoods. Because of the gardener's inherent desire for boxwood in plantings, even in New England, this variety may have merit. Admittedly there are several clons of the true English Box (*Buxus sempervirens*) that have shown indications of hardiness in New England under varied climatic conditions, but until these are propagated on a wide scale and thoroughly tested under all of New England's tough growing conditions, one might do well, if box must be grown, to confine one's efforts to this species. As time goes on, it may well be that some of the many clons above-mentioned will replace this variety in popularity.

**Chionanthus virginicus** 30' Zone 4 Fringe-tree

This native Fringe-tree makes a fine ornamental, either as a large shrub or as a small tree. Its fleecy white flowers are produced in the utmost profusion. Usually the sexes are separate with the staminate flowers the larger. One word of caution should be given, for since this plant is closely related to the lilacs, it is also susceptible to the same scale infestations. These should be rigidly controlled. Especially does this make a well-rounded specimen plant in the full sun where it seems to grow best. Some Europeans consider this one of the most striking of the American shrubs introduced into Europe. The fruits are large and grapelike, and the brilliant yellow autumn color is outstanding. Its leaves appear late in the spring, one of the last plants in the Arboretum to produce leaves. Even with this drawback, it makes a splendid specimen where it can be given plenty of room.

**Clethra alnifolia rosea** 9' Zone 3 Pink Summersweet

Either this variety or the species makes an excellent addition to the garden for summer bloom and fragrance. Not many shrubs bring forth deliciously fragrant flowers in the summer and the narrow spikes of the Summersweet are most beautiful. The flowers of the species are white, and this variety has flowers that are tinged a light pink. Sometimes they gradually fade white. If the pink-flowered form is not essential, don't overlook the species, a native along the New England coast. It tends to grow in clumps and it increases by underground stems. If the
PLATE I

*Cytisus praecox*, the Warminster Broom. An excellent shrub for dry sandy soils, with pale, lemon yellow flowers in mid-May and green stems all winter.
soil is too dry, there may be some danger from an infestation of red spider, which can be controlled, but in moist soils it is at its best. Native American plants should be exploited in our gardens to the utmost, and this is one that apparently has not been used as much as it should.

**Cornus alba sibirica**  
9' Zone 2 Siberian Dogwood

This variety does not spread as rapidly as does our native *C. stolonifera*, and this fact should be kept in mind so that it is not planted in borders and expected to "take over," as is *C. stolonifera*. However, the Siberian Dogwood has stems the winter color of which is the brightest red of any shrub available. Unfortunately it has become mixed in American nurseries, with some of the lesser brilliant red-stemmed forms, but the real plant is excellent for winter color. It is best to prune it heavily every third year or so, even cutting the planting to the ground in the early spring, so that the young shoots will grow vigorously. It is these that are the brightest colored. Its numerous white flowers in late May, and white to bluish berries in the early fall, are additional reasons why it should be grown.

**Cotoneaster dammeri**  
1' Zone 3 Bearberry Cotoneaster

Lower in habit than *C. horizontalis*, this makes an excellent ground cover or rock garden plant. It is not recommended in place of *C. horizontalis* but only in situations where a lower plant of this type is desired. Its bright red berries are most conspicuous in the fall.

**Cotoneaster divaricata**  
6' Zone 5 Spreading Cotoneaster

The arching, spreading habit of this 6' Cotoneaster is outstanding. The branches are covered with small bright red berries each fall. The leaves are only 1/2' long and in the experience of several Massachusetts commercial growers, this species is easily among the most reliable for the state.

**Cytisus praecox**  
6' Zone 5 Warminster Broom

If dry soil or very poor soil is present in the garden, where few other things will grow, the chances are the Brooms will thrive. This one in particular is recommended because of its hardiness (more hardy than the Scotch Broom which has been naturalized on the Cape) and because of its green twigs, that actually give the plant an evergreen appearance in the winter. It grows in a very dense manner, with minute leaves, but its pale yellow pea-like flowers appear in mid-May in the greatest profusion. It should be noted that large plants are hard to move. To avoid disappointments, buy small plants, preferably in pots, and set them out in spring in their permanent situation.
Enkianthus campanulatus 30' Zone 4 Redvein Enkianthus

An ericaceous shrub requiring the same type of cultural conditions as azaleas and rhododendrons, but differing in having small bell-shaped flowers in mid-May and brilliant scarlet autumn color. The flowers appear just before the leaves and so are easily seen. A good acid soil plant, not used nearly enough in our gardens.

Euonymus alata compacta 7' Zone 3 Dwarf Burning Bush

Everyone knows the Cork Bush, but this compact, dwarf form is one that should prove just as well known. It originated in the Adams Nursery in West Springfield in 1926, and only now is becoming widely available. It makes a splendid dense, rounded specimen and has been used in hedges requiring no clipping if sufficient room is available. When space is limited, it can be easily restrained with clipping every other or even every third year. One of the specimens growing in the Arnold Arboretum colors so vividly every autumn that it is easily among the best of all the plants there for fall color.

Fothergilla species 3-9' Zone 5 Fothergilla

There are several species available from different nurserymen, varying chiefly in height at maturity. All have interesting, white, thimble-like flowers in mid-spring, and all have an excellent yellow and red autumn foliage coloration in the fall, especially when grown in the full sun. If in the shade, neither flowers nor autumn coloration are quite so marked. However, in a foundation planting, especially with an evergreen background, these American natives can be kept restrained and still be among the most ornamental plants during the two seasons when they are at their best. They are rather difficult to propagate except by seed, one of the reasons why the nurserymen fail to grow them in large quantities, but from the standpoint of the home gardener, they are certainly worth seeking out!

Hamamelis mollis 30' Zone 5 Chinese Witch-hazel

This Witch-hazel has the largest flowers of the group, and they are fragrant as well — hence it makes a desired garden specimen. Its flowers with unique ribbon-like petals, and its brilliant yellow autumn color, are its chief reasons for two-season interest. It can easily be kept controlled with judicious pruning.

Hamamelis vernalis 10' Zone 5 Vernal Witch-hazel

There are several Witch-hazel species available, but this one should be better known. It is an American native, with deliciously fragrant small flowers in late winter — actually it is the first woody plant to bloom. It is vigorous in growth, needs almost no attention, and like others in this group has bright yellow fall
color. Although the Chinese Witch-hazel has larger flowers, this Vernal Witch-hazel makes a fine bush and is hardier, being amenable to all sorts of pruning and restraint, especially by the over-anxious gardener who likes to force things indoors.

**Hypericum** species **Ground Cover to 6’**  **Zone 4-7**  **St. Johnsworts**

The St. Johnsworts are low woody shrubs, sometimes ground covers, valued for their bright yellow flowers. Some of them, as they grow tall, will have a very interesting shiny brown exfoliating bark of considerable ornamental value in the winter. The ground covers, especially, are frequently avid growers and can quickly crowd out other low plants in the rockery if not restrained. Their fruits are dry capsules and have little autumn coloring. However, a splendid feature of this group, especially the ground covers, is the fact that they grow well in dry, sandy soil. Some of them, like *Hypericum prolificum*, continue to produce flowers over many weeks in the summer and, of course, summer-flowering shrubs, especially those with bright yellow flowers, are none too numerous. These plants should not be overlooked for the small garden especially since several species are available commercially to fit several types of situations. If summer bloom amongst the shrubs is not particularly needed, the shrubby types might be passed over, but the ground covers have merit regardless.

**Ilex crenata convexa** **15’**  **Zone 5**  **Convex Leaved Japanese Holly**

The best New England substitute for Box. As stated previously, some gardeners may want to try the true Box or one of its many so-called “hardy” clons. For those who do not want to take this chance, this small leaved evergreen is the perfect substitute. One plant in the Arnold Arboretum now is easily 7' tall and at least twice as broad without a dead branch in it. Like other varieties of this species, it is easily pruned and can be used in hedges, but as a specimen plant, untouched by the pruning shears, it makes an excellent well-shaped specimen.

**Juniperus chinensis sargenti** **Ground Cover**  **Zone 4**  **Sargent Juniper**

Certainly not a new plant to American gardens, but one that could well stand more general use. It is a low, prostrate ground cover, found in seashore areas in its native habitat in mats 8-10’ in diameter. Its steel blue color differs from that of most junipers used for ground covers.

**Leucothoe catesbaei** **6’**  **Zone 4**  **Drooping Leucothoe**

An American native, it is black-listed in New England sometimes merely because people do not know how to care for it properly. It may grow as high as 6’ in its native habitat, but in New England it should be kept much lower — mostly under three feet. Whenever it is severely injured by a hard winter it might well
Ilex crenata convera, the Convex Leaved Japanese Holly. The best substitute for box in the north, this plant is 7 feet tall and at least twice as broad. It has been growing in the Arnold Arboretum since 1919 when it was sent here as a small plant from Japan by E. H. Wilson.
be cut to the ground and started all over again. The lustrous dark green leaves in summer are reason enough why it should always be kept growing vigorously, and the bronze autumn color of the foliage lends value to any evergreen foundation planting in the winter. In spots where some winter protection is available, especially some shade during late February and March, the foliage will not be burned as much as when the plant is grown with full exposure to sun and winds. The small racemes of waxy white flowers borne on the under side of arching stems repay anyone for taking a few pains in providing the right growing conditions and winter protection.

**Lonicera amoena arnoldiana** 9' Zone 5 Arnold Honeysuckle

A very graceful floriferous shrub, it is meritorious for the arching habit of its branches as well as its delicate foliage. Since honeysuckles are not susceptible to serious disease pests, it is well to know a few others than the one or two common species that are planted so much.

**Lonicera bella** 6' Zone 4 Belle Honeysuckle

Several clones occur in this hybrid species that cause this group to be one of the most floriferous and most fruitful of all. Either for massing or for specimen use these plants have merit. The early summer fruits are, like other Loniceras, very bright and attractive to birds.

**Lonicera korolkowi floribunda** 12' Zone 5 Blue-leaf Honeysuckle

Either the species or the variety (they are very likely mixed in many nurseries) are outstanding for their bluish to grey-green foliage color, adding considerable color variation in the shrub border throughout the entire growing season. It must be noted here that this is one species, as opposed to all the other honeysuckles, that is apparently difficult to establish, but once growing well, it is a worthy addition to the plant population of any garden.

**Magnolia stellata** 20' Zone 5 Star Magnolia

Actually a tree, but easily grown as a shrub even on the small property. The white, fragrant, star-like flowers appear in late April as first among the Magnolias. It also is the hardiest and the only one with a good bronze autumn color when grown in the full sun. Its dense habit of growth, splendid green foliage and autumn color make it a valued addition to the larger shrubs available for Massachusetts planting.

**Mahonia aquifolium** 3' rarely 6' Zone 5 Oregon Holly-grape

This is perhaps the most popular of the Pacific Northwest plants now grown in the East, yet it could be used more. Its lustrous dark green, leathery leaves,
pyramidal spikes of bright yellow flowers and light-blue grape-like fruits in early summer, make it effective for use in many situations, especially in evergreen foundation plantings and in shaded spots. It does well in poor soil and can be kept low by proper pruning. Its spiny, holly-like evergreen leaves are interesting and its method of increasing by underground stolons insure its use as a ground cover of fair height.

**Malus sargenti**  
6’ Zone 5 Sargent Crab apple

The lowest of all the crab apples, included here for it seldom grows over 8’ in height, this is a crab apple that can be used on the small grounds. It usually grows twice as broad as high, and, of course, has two seasons of colorful interest, because of profuse white flowers in May and dark red fruits in the fall.

**Philadelphus lemoinei “Avalanche”**  
4’ Zone 5

This excellent little variety is only about 4’ tall, with single white flowers 1” in diameter and a fine arching habit from which the plant takes its name.

**Philadelphus splendens**  
8’ Zone 5

Of excellent habit, this is another mock-orange that can be used as a specimen if desired for it is well clothed with branches to the ground. The flowers are borne in groups of five with conspicuous yellow stamens, but they have only mediocre fragrance. In some situations sacrifices can be made in the fragrance of the flowers in order to have a plant that is symmetrical and well branched.

**Pieris floribunda**  
6’ Zone 4 Mountain Andromeda

One of the most serviceable of all broad-leaved evergreens in the North because it seems to do well in any normal soil and has no serious pests or diseases. The erect to nodding clusters of white flowers are composed of numerous small waxy flowers similar in size and shape to those of the blueberry. The flower buds are prominently evident all winter long — somewhat of a conspicuous promise that spring-blossoming time is just around the corner.

**Pieris japonica**  
9’ Zone 5 Japanese Andromeda

An excellent broad-leaved evergreen for the same reasons *P. floribunda* is popular. In addition, the Japanese Andromeda has a lustrous dark green foliage and flower clusters that are pendulous. A well-grown specimen of the Japanese Andromeda, covered with lustrous leaves and pendulous flower clusters, is about as beautiful an evergreen as it is possible to grow. In New England it should be grown in protected places, but farther South this is unnecessary. Young foliage is usually a rich bronze in spring, later turning a normal green. This species can
be grown in a shaded situation, but like many other plants, will not produce as many flowers there as in situations with more sun.

**Potentilla fruticosa** 4' Zone 2 Bush Cinquefoil

Many varieties of this species have been found over a wide area of the northern hemispheres. The sturdy, very hardy plants, bloom in mid-May and continue throughout summer, sometimes even into September. Because of its comparatively low height, its lack of interesting fruits and autumn color, its garden effectiveness is easily supplanted by annuals or perennials. Incidentally, a large number of potentillas are herbaceous. When comparing *P. fruticosa* varietal differences with those of the massive lilac, they do not appear very important. The extremely long blooming season is their only redeeming factor for the places where they might be used in the garden are limited.

**Rhododendron arborescens** 9' Zone 4 Sweet Azalea

An unusually fragrant species, blooming near the end of the azalea sequence. Even though the beautiful white flowers do appear after the leaves, they are conspicuous and their delicious fragrance makes them useful in mass plantings.

**Rhododendron calendulaceum** 9' rarely 15' Zone 5 Flame Azalea

This is the most showy of the American species and is among the best for northern gardens. It has the unique property of retaining its colorful flowers in good condition in full sun for nearly two full weeks in June. The flowers of many Asiatic azaleas quickly fade in direct sun and so must be used with partial shade if they are to be enjoyed for a longer period. When large numbers of seedlings are grown it is noticed that the flower colors vary from yellow (orange buff 507 to cadmium orange 8) to scarlet (19) on the Royal Horticultural Colour Chart. The lighter colored forms have been given the varietal name *croceum*, and the red-colored types the varietal name *aurantiacum*. Since very few azaleas are in flower at the time this species blooms, this variation in color is most helpful in making an interesting display — when planted singly and in groups in an open oak woods, there is nothing at this time of year more colorful.

**Rhododendron gandavense** 6-10' Zone 4 Ghent Azalea

There are many hybrid varieties of this hardy species of value because they bring brilliant red and yellow flowers into the garden at a time when they are greatly needed. Ghent azaleas have lived many years and been perfectly hardy as far north as Bryant Pond, Maine, where they have been exposed to temperatures as low as 20 degrees below zero. Some nurserymen grow these from seed, some propagate them by asexual means so that the definite colors of the variety will be maintained. A very interesting and lively colored group, these should be
Viburnum sieboldii makes a splendid specimen in flower or in fruit. This particular specimen is 37 years old.
used considerably more than they are, and it is hoped that more and more nurserymen will find means of propagating them asexually. They bloom just before *R. calendulaceum*.

**Rhododendron mucronulatum** 6'  Zone 4  Korean Rhododendron

Although another member of this genus blooms earlier in the Arnold Arboretum, this Korean Rhododendron can really be considered the first of its clan to bring forth flowers in the spring, since the other is not a good ornamental. It is not wise to use this plant in the coldest parts of the state, but if planted where it obtains some winter protection, it will usually bloom in mid-April except in the coldest years. A particularly good plan is to use it on the northern slopes where its early opening flowers may be retarded just long enough to protect them from late freezes. Easily pruned, and perfectly at home under pine trees, it is one of our earliest flowering shrubs.

**Rhododendron schlippenbachi** 15'  Zone 4  Royal Azalea

A handsome azalea because of its good growth habits and general appearance. It has very large flowers appearing in mid-May and is fortunate in being in the group with colorful autumn foliage. These are two important reasons for including it in the garden.

**Rhododendron smirnowi** 6-18'  Zone 4  Smirnow Rhododendron

Perfectly hardy as far north as Boston, this dense rhododendron makes a good ornamental not only for its large flowers but also because the undersurfaces of the leaves are covered with a conspicuous white, woolly tomentum that adds to its attractiveness. Because of this woolly undersurface, the plant is not infested with lace bug — an important maintenance item. Sometimes the flowers have corollas with a wavy margin which is another desirable characteristic. All in all this species, though little used yet in American gardens, can well be added to an ever lengthening list of worthy rhododendrons.

**Rhododendron vaseyi** 6-9'  Zone 4  Pinkshell Azalea

This native azalea is one of a very few with colorful autumn foliage in the fall, hence it has two good seasons of interest in gardens. It does well in moist situations bordering ponds where its delicate pink flowers can be reflected in the water, or it will do well on drier soils. One of the best of the native azaleas, the flowers appear at the same time that the young leaves of the oaks are unfurling.

**Rosa multiflora** 10'  Zone 3  Japanese Rose

Perhaps the most vigorous of all the rose species, this splendid plant is being used more and more as an ornamental. Although its flowers are small and white,
PLATE IV

*Tsuga diversifolia*, the Japanese Hemlock, is slower growing than its American relatives and so can be used on small properties readily.
they are produced in large quantities so that when the bush is in full bloom it is literally covered with blossoms. These are followed by myriads of small red berries which remain on the plant throughout the winter and afford food for the birds, so much so that it is being widely planted for this reason alone.

It also makes an excellent understock in grafting, especially a thornless strain which has recently become popular among nurserymen. There are nurseries which use it entirely as an understock for the grafting of hybrid tea and perpetual roses.

One other important asset is its definite arching habit of growth. A mature plant may easily be 8′ high and 12′ across, a dense thicket of spiny growth. In fact, it is now being recommended by the United States Soil Conservation Service for hedge-row planting, where it not only affords an excellent medium for holding soil in place, but also is a perfect barrier and source of food for wild life.

Where plenty of space is available, this rose, requiring practically no care except an occasional pruning, might well be tried. It is one of the parents of the modern rambler. Where space is limited other plants might be grown in its place since it does not look well when pruned heavily.

**Syringa persica** 6′ Zone 5 Persian Lilac

This is the smallest of the lilacs and might be used on the small property where there is not sufficient space for the larger growing common lilacs or the vigorous Preston lilacs. When grown properly, the branches are covered with small, pale lilac blossoms. It is not seen very often in gardens, but might well be included in small property planting lists.

**Syringa prestoniae** vars. 9′ Zone 2 Preston Lilac

Some time before 1925 Miss Isabella Preston, then Horticulturist of the Canadian Experimental Station at Ottawa, Canada, made the initial cross of *S. villosa* × *S. reflexa* resulting in a large number of seedlings. A few of the best varieties are "Isabella," "Audrey," and "Handel." Several others are being propagated by American nurserymen that are similar. They are all sturdy, dense and upright in habit, with leaves as large as those of *S. villosa* but the flowers are all tinged pink—a carry-over from the other parent *S. reflexa*. The flowers are borne in large pyramidal spikes, and appear considerably after those of the common lilac varieties. A splendid group of late blooming lilacs, not especially fragrant but making outstanding specimens, they can be used either in windbreaks or in flowering hedges. They are among the hardiest of the lilac species.

**Taxus cuspidata** nana 12′ Zone 4 Dwarf Japanese Yew

Of all the yews this one is selected merely because it is slower in growth than most and so can be used on the small property without the fear that it will outgrow its allotted space in a short time. All yews are among the best of ornamen-
Hamamelis mollis, the Chinese Witch-hazel, the largest flowered of this genus, first introduced into America by the Arnold Arboretum in 1902.
tal plants, serviceable the year round as dark evergreen masses of foliage which are practically free of insect or disease pests. All have sexes separate, that is, the staminate flowers are on one plant and the pistillate flowers are on another. Both types must be in the near vicinity in order to insure the fruiting of the pistillate plant. There should be a spot for some yews in every garden!

**Tsuga canadensis pendula** 15' Zone 4 Sargent Hemlock

The Sargent Hemlock, a dwarf weeping form of the native Canada Hemlock, is an ideal plant for the garden where space is not too limited. In the rockery, or at the rear of a low perennial border or beside a pool, it has considerable merit. Its definite form — flat topped with drooping to pendulous branches — limits its use some, but gardeners certainly should know it and use it if the right place is available. It has all the good traits of the Canada Hemlock which is one of the best of all ornamental woody plants.

**Tsuga diversifolia** 90' Zone 5 Japanese Hemlock

This tree is listed here merely because it is an excellent slow-growing hemlock and can fulfill the place of an evergreen shrub in many situations. If the Canada Hemlock were used, it would have to be sheared repeatedly, whereas this plant grows sufficiently slow so that it must be sheared but seldom. Worthy of a trial in evergreen plantings where the hemlock type of foliage is desirable.

**Viburnum dilatatum** 9' Zone 5 Linden Viburnum

One of the best of the viburnums for its very colorful bright red fruits. Dense and compact in habit, it is usually covered with red fruits every fall, the fruit clusters being sometimes as much as 5" in diameter. The yellow-fruited variety is just as clean a shrub with regularly formed foliage and both are very dense, well adapted for either specimen planting or for massing in general.

**Viburnum sieboldi** 30' Zone 4 Siebold Viburnum

If I were to choose only one viburnum for my garden, I think it would be this because of the splendid long (6") leaves, its very desirable branching habit which results in rounded masses of foliage interspersed with open areas where lights and shadows add much interest, and also because of its colorful fruits. Although these are black at maturity, they remain unripe and bright red for several weeks in summer, and even after they turn black and fall off or are eaten by birds, their red fruit-stalks remain another three or four weeks to give color to the plant at a time when the fruits of most other shrubs are not sufficiently ripened to be colorful. As a specimen plant it is the best of the viburnums for the northern United States at least.
PLATE VI

*Syringa prestoniae* "Isabella" one of the most prominent in flower of all this hybrid group *(left)*.

*Syringa prestoniae* "Hecla" showing a smaller and more compact flower cluster typical of some varieties *(right)*.
Viburnum tomentosum 9' Zone 4 Doublefile Viburnum

This is really an old-fashion favorite but the more conspicuous flowered variety, the Japanese Snowball, has taken its place too often. The central flowers in the flat clusters of the species are small and fertile, the flowers on the perimeter of the cluster are the large sterile flowers. This plant is outstanding in the fall because of its numerous red fruits, that eventually turn black and are most attractive to birds. It also has merit because of its decidedly horizontal branching, interesting throughout the entire year. Several varieties of this species are also excellent for the same reasons, especially the variety mariesi, the fruit of which is even more ornamental than that of the species, but unfortunately this variety is not being offered in 1951 by any of the nurserymen here listed. An excellent species, this may easily grow as broad as it does tall. In the coldest sections of New England it may need some winter protection.

Among The Best Common Shrubs Everyone Uses Are:

Berberis thunbergi 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Cornus mas 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11
Cotoneaster horizontalis 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
Ilex crenata microphylla 5, 6, 11
" glabra 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11
" verticillata 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Juniperus chinensis pfitzeriana 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Kalmia latifolia 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Kolkwitzia amabilis 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Ligustrum species 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
Lonicera tatarica 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Myrica pensylvanica 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
Rhododendron catawbiense hybrids 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Rosa harisoni 3, 8
Spiraea prunifolia plena 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9
" van houttei 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Symphoricarpos albus laevigatus 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Syringa vulgaris 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Taxus cuspidata 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
" media hatfieldi 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
" hicks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Vaccinium corymbosum 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

Donald Wyman