SOME COMPARATIVELY NEW PLANTS WORTHY OF TRIAL

Berberis thunbergii 'Aurea'  7'  Zones 4–5  Yellow Japanese Barberry

Although the Morton Arboretum obtained this plant in 1935 from the Framingham Nurseries (Mass.) it did not become well known until a few years ago when two wholesale nurseries began growing (and selling) over 20,000 plants a year. Hence it is "new" to some, old to others. The leaves are a very bright yellow from spring to summer. It has all the sturdy attributes of the Japanese Barberry and if grown in very light shade, the foliage remains a good yellow throughout the entire growing season.

Berberis thunbergii atropurpurea 'Golden Ring' 7' Zones 4–5

A variety of the red-leaved Japanese barberry with a thin yellow line around the margin of the leaf, the line later changing to green at the end of the season. This is a most interesting plant originally obtained by the Holden Arboretum from Holland a few years ago and now being offered by at least one commercial nursery in the eastern U.S.

Betula pendula 'Scarlet Glory'  60'  Zone 2

Betula pendula purpurea (with purple leaves) has been grown in the Arnold Arboretum off and on since 1882 but never caused much interest. Now a form has recently been advertised as a "new" tree and named 'Scarlet Glory', differing from the white barked Betula pendula only in that the new leaves are purplish red when they appear in the spring. These turn reddish green in the summer and red in the fall. A similar form has recently been named 'Purple Splendor', with purplish leaves. These two forms would bring colorful interest to a collection of green leaved birches and are unique but it should be pointed out that similar forms have been grown (without publicity) for a long time.
Cedrus deodara ‘Kashmir’ 150’ Zone 5

Described in Arnoldia 29: No. 1; 1969, this is a fine tree which can apparently be added to those grown in hardiness Zone 5. Graceful, like the species, with pendulous branchlets and bluish green color it is certainly worthy of further trial in New England. Mr. Fordham, propagator at the Arnold Arboretum, propagates it easily (88%) by cuttings taken in October, placed under polyethylene plastic with a bottom temperature of 75° F. and lifted in four months time.

Cotoneaster dammeri ‘Skogsholmen’ 2’ Zone 5

A new variety originating in a German nursery about 1957 is showing excellent promise of becoming a fine ground cover, growing well in full sun or partial shade. It bears profuse small white flowers in mid-June but apparently none too many bright red fruits about the size of those of C. horizontalis. A two year old plant may be 3 feet across.

Hamamelis intermedia ‘Arnold Promise’ 20’ Zone 4

Although this witch-hazel originated as a seedling in the Arnold Arboretum in 1928, it was not named and introduced to the trade until 1963. It is a hybrid of H. mollis and H. japonica, the female parent being one of E. H. Wilson’s introductions of H. mollis from the Orient. It has been growing beside the Administration Building in the Arboretum for over 30 years, and blooms consistently in mid-March each year. It is vase-shaped and the original plant is only 15’ tall.

The flowers are a brilliant yellow, usually borne in clusters of three and each individual flower is as much as 1½” in diameter. It is best propagated by cuttings taken in June, but these cuttings are not repotted when rooted but left in their rooting flats and given a three month cold period (at about 41° F.) after they are rooted, i.e., December–March. Then they are repotted and carried on in the greenhouse. Mr. Fordham, the propagator at the Arnold Arboretum, has had difficulty bringing them through the winter period unless they are handled this way. This quirk in their propagation sequence probably explains why ‘Arnold Promise’ is extremely difficult to find commercially at present.

Ilex verticillata ‘Nana’ 3½’ Zone 3 Dwarf Winterbury

Apparently an excellent dwarf, this was found by the Hampden Nurseries of Hampden, Massachusetts before 1960. It is a fruiting form, bearing profuse fruits, if male plants of the species are in the near vicinity, and bearing them while only 15–18 inches tall. It grows well in light well drained soil, and in poor soils of course it grows more slowly. Its characteristics, other than height and early fruiting, are similar to those of the taller growing species.

Juniperus communis ‘Gold Beach’ 18’ Zone 4

This is an excellent low, dwarf form of the common juniper, probably originat-
PLATE I

ing on the Pacific coast slightly before 1960. It is flat, dense and spreading, and in the early spring the new growth on the tips of the branches is colored a bright yellow, making the plant conspicuous at this time. Later in the growing season, these tips turn a normal green.

**Leucothoe fontanesiana 'Nana'** 2' Zone 4 Dwarf Drooping Leucothoe

The original selection, probably made in the Hillier Nurseries, Winchester, England, now 30 years old is 15–23 inches tall but 6 feet across. A 7 year old plant in the nurseries of the Arnold Arboretum is 18 inches tall and 3 feet across. This is an excellent low evergreen for acid soils. It has leaves only about half the size as those of the species and the plant itself is less than half as tall. It can be used in many situations — certainly in many foundation plantings where the species (which grows 6 feet tall) gets ungainly.

**Mahonia aquifolium 'Compactum'** 3' Zone 5 Compact Oregon Holly-grape

This new low form of the Oregon holly-grape was introduced by the Wells Nursery of Mount Vernon, Washington before 1961. It is dense and compact in habit, apparently slightly hardier than the species because it does not lose its foliage in winter nearly as much as does the species. The compound leaves have 5–9 leaflets, each 1–3 inches long. The new young foliage is bronze colored in the early spring. It is an excellent plant for the foundation planting about a house.

**Malus 'Barbara Ann'** 25' Zone 4

This is an open-pollinated seedling of Malus 'Dorothea', the seed collected in the Arnold Arboretum in 1953. It was introduced by the Arnold Arboretum in 1966 and will probably grow 25' tall, whereas its parent, 'Dorothea', has only grown 10–12' tall in 25 years. 'Barbara Ann' is named after my younger daughter.

'Barbara Ann' is annual bearing, with deep purplish pink flowers 1½–2'' in diameter, bearing 12–15 petals. The fruits are dark reddish purple, about ½'' in diameter with reddish pulp. Since the young leaves and inner wood are also reddish it is probable that the male parent of this clone was one of several varieties of *M. purpurea*.

The tree itself seems to be rather open in its branching. It is probably one of the best of the double-flowering ornamental crab apples and certainly is worthy of wide trials.

**Prunus maackii** 45' Zone 2 Amur Chokecherry

Although this was introduced into America by the Arnold Arboretum in 1878 it has not been grown commercially in America until recently. The flowers are not particularly outstanding, being small in 2-3 inch long racemes in mid-May,
PLATE II

Prunus maackii, a native of Korea and Manchuria, with decorative, light brown exfoliating bark.
but the bark is striking. It is brownish yellow, peeling off like that of paper birch, and gives a great deal of colorful interest to the tree in winter for this character alone. Native to Korea and Manchuria, it is hardy in Zone 2, and it is fast growing and vigorous, rounded in habit with dense branching.

**Rhododendron arborescens rubescens 9′ Zone 4 Pink Sweet Azalea**

This has all the good characteristics of the late blooming Sweet Azalea, but the flowers are pink. The plant was collected in the wild in the southeastern United States by Mr. C.D. Beadle, and sent to the Arnold Arboretum in 1962 by the Biltmore Estate, Asheville, North Carolina.

**Rhododendron 'Golden Sunset'**

One of the deciduous Exbury Hybrid Azaleas with strong reddish orange flowers in late May, each flower being as much as 4 inches in diameter when fully spread out. Many of the Exbury Hybrid Azaleas fade quickly in the hot sun of late May and early June, but these do not. Thus they might be considered among the best of this very distinguished group.

**Rhododendron×P.J.M. Hybrid 6′ Zone 5**

A cross between *Rhododendron dahuricum sempervirens* and *R. carolinianum* originating at the Weston Nurseries, Hopkinton, Massachusetts in 1943. About 30 clones were selected from the original cross but the differences among them were so slight that no attempt was made to name them individually. "P.J.M." are the initials of the owner of the nursery, Peter John Mezitt now deceased. The flowers are a vivid bright lavender pink and bloom in April. They are small, on the order of those of *R. carolinianum* but a cluster is borne on the tip of every single branch. The foliage is better than that of *R. carolinianum* in that it does not curl up in extreme cold and turns a rich purple in the late fall and winter.

In fact the more I see of this the better I like it. Flowers appear at a time when little else is in bloom except forsythia. However, it is the foliage which is particularly ornamental, especially in the winter. Cut branches are valued in arrangements at any time of year, and if forced indoors the flower color is almost white.

**Spiraea japonica alpina 10′ Zones 4–5 Japanese Alpine Spirea**

Introduced about 1958, this Japanese native is a low, mounded, dense little plant bearing clusters of small pink flowers in July blooming for several weeks. The small lance shaped leaves are only \( \frac{3}{2} \)–2 inches long. It is a tidy plant increasing readily and might be used as a specimen or for massing in sunny situations.
Upper: *Mahonia aquifolium* 'Compactum', a dwarf holly-grape not over three feet tall. Lower: *Taxus baccata* 'Adpressa Fowle'. This is the original plant (over 30 years old) growing in the Arnold Arboretum and given by Harry W. Fowle of Newburyport, Mass. in honor of his uncle, Herbert J. Fowle, after whom it was named.
Stephanandra incisa 'Crispa' 18\" Zone 4

Found about 1930 in the nursery of A.M. Jensen, Holmstrup, Denmark and introduced there about 1949. It was first introduced into the United States by the Gulf Stream Nurseries, Wacheprague, Va. a few years before 1957. This is a low growing, mounded form of Stephanandra incisa that roots readily where its branchlets touch the ground, also sending up new plantlets from underground stems. Apparently an excellent plant for bank or rocky areas where a cover is needed over irregular rock-strewn ground.

Taxus baccata 'Adpressa Fowle' 20' Zones 4-5

Already mentioned in Arnoldia, No. 1, 1969, this plant is certainly worth growing in hardness zone 5 and possibly 4. It is similar in most respects to plants of T. baccata 'Adpressa', having small dark green needles only about \frac{1}{4} of an inch long, but is definitely more hardy than any other plants of this clone we have grown here at the Arnold Arboretum. Because of its dark green foliage, fine texture and especially because of its hardiness, it is recommended in this group of new plants.

Viburnum opulus 'Compactum' 5' Zone 3 Compact European Cranberrybush

A dwarf variety of the 12-foot Viburnum opulus, this is much better for ornamental use, not only because of its smaller size, but also because it flowers and fruits profusely, even while young. The Arnold Arboretum received its first plants from the Hillier Nursery, Winchester, England, January 30, 1957. These did very poorly in the greenhouse for some reason or other but by the first of April, 10 cuttings were taken from the original plants before they died. Mr. Fordham, the propagator, frequently does this with recently introduced new plants, just on the chance that the newly rooted cuttings will live when the introduced plants may not. This is one time when this practice paid off. Now we have vigorous, dense, heavily fruited 5-foot plants that are living examples of this excellent ornamental variety. It is being propagated in large numbers by a leading wholesale nursery and should be available from many sources.

Donald Wyman