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The black-fruited Elder, *Sambucus canadensis*, which is the last of the New England shrubs making a conspicuous show of flowers, now adds much beauty to the Arboretum where it is common in the neighborhood of the small ponds near the junction of the Meadow and the Forest Hills Roads and in the valley of the Bussey Brook. In the Shrub Collection are some interesting forms of this beautiful plant. The most conspicuous perhaps is the variety with finely divided leaflets, var. *acutiloba*; another variety, var. *chlorocarpa*, with yellow-green fruit, was found recently in southern New Hampshire. The variety *maxima*, which originated in a European garden, produces flower-clusters at least three times as large as those found on the wild plants, and these are followed by such large and heavy bunches of fruit that the branches are hardly able to support them. The European *Sambucus nigra* and its variety with yellow leaves is also in flower. As a foliage plant one of the most beautiful of all the Elders is the Japanese form of the red-fruited *Sambucus racemosa* (var. *Sieboldii*) which is well established in the Shrub Collection. The flower and fruit clusters are smaller, however, than those of the European and Siberian forms of this plant and the fruit ripens rather later.

The Chinquapin, *Castanea pumila*, is in flower about a week before the flowers of the northern Chestnut-tree appear. The Chinquapin is a native of the coast region of the Atlantic States from New Jersey to Florida. It is found also in the Gulf States and in the region west of the Mississippi River from southern Missouri to Texas. In the Atlantic States it is usually rather a low shrub spreading into thickets, but west of the Mississippi, especially in southern Arkansas and Texas, it grows into a large, round-headed tree, although it never becomes as large as the northern Chestnut-tree. A tree of this western form, and a large group of the dwarf form originally from Virginia are established in the Arboretum and can be seen with the other Chestnuts on the right-hand side of the Valley Road just beyond the Hickory Group. The nuts of the Chinquapin are produced freely in the Arboretum every year and, unlike those of the northern Chestnut-tree, they are cylindrical, not flattened, as only one nut is produced in a burr, and are bright and shining and of even better flavor than those of the common Chestnut. The silvery under surface of the leaves, which is covered with fine hairs, also distinguishes the Chinquapin from the Chestnut-tree.

Attention was called in a recent issue of these bulletins to the value of the eastern Siberian *Hydrangea Bretschneideri* as a garden plant. It is the first of the genus to flower here. More conspicuous is *Hydrangea paniculata* of Japan and western China. The most generally planted of the forms of this plant is one in which all the flowers are sterile, known as *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora*. This plant produces large clusters of white sterile flowers which turn rose color in fading, and it will not be in bloom for several weeks. There are two other forms in which some of the flowers only are sterile and are called ray flowers because they surround the clusters of fertile flowers. These are the wild plants from which the form *grandiflora*, with all the flowers sterile, has been developed. There are two forms of this *Hydrangea* with perfect flowers and one of these (var. *praecox*) will be in flower in a few days

while the other form, the type of the species, will not be in flower for several weeks. In the Shrub Collection are three plants of var. *praecox*, differing in the size of the flower-clusters and in the size and shape of the ray flowers. The handsomest of these was raised from seeds collected by Professor Sargent in Hokkaido where it grows into a small tree sometimes twenty or thirty feet tall. A variety of the American *Hydrangea arborescens*, known as *grandiflora*, is in bloom. This plant was found a few years ago growing wild in one of the western states and has been largely distributed in this country and Europe. It is a hardy, shapely shrub and produces large clusters of sterile white flowers in profusion. It blooms a few days before *Hydrangea arborescens* itself which is growing with it. Two other American species of *Hydrangea*, *H. cinerea* and *H. radiata*, will soon be in bloom; as a foliage plant the latter is the most beautiful of the American species for the leaves, which are dark blue-green on the upper surface, are silvery white below.

Zenobia is a genus of the Heath Family, by some botanists treated as a section of *Andromeda*, composed of a single species which inhabits pine barrens from North Carolina to Florida, and is a deciduous-leaved shrub from two to four feet in height. The flowers, which are pure white and from one-third to one-half an inch long and broad, are produced in compact clusters arranged along leafless branches of the previous year and are perhaps more beautiful than those of any of the *Andromeda*-like plants. There are two forms, the type, *Zenobia pulverulenta*, with chalky white leaves covered with a dense white bloom, and the variety *nitida* with green leaves. Although natives of a region which produces few plants able to survive the cold of New England, these *Zenobias* are perfectly hardy in the Arboretum and can now be seen in flower in the Shrub Collection and on the right-hand side of Hemlock Hill Road where there is a large group of them in which the green-leaved form is the most numerous. Another deciduous-leaved plant of the same family, *Pieris* or *Andromeda mariana*, also produces its flowers on leafless branches of the previous year, but the flowers are smaller and the plant is less attractive in habit than the *Zenobias*. It is a native of the coast region from Rhode Island southward, and is very abundant on some parts of Long Island. There is a large group of this shrub now in flower on the right-hand side of the Meadow Road in front of the Horsechestnuts.

The common Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*), one of the old-fashioned fragrant pot herbs and a native of southern Europe, is now not often seen in American gardens; it is a dwarf shrub growing in the Arboretum only a few inches high but spreading rapidly into broad mats which are now completely covered with short clusters of purplish blue two-lipped flowers. Masses of this plant can be seen in the Shrub Collection and on Azalea Path.

Among the climbing Honeysuckles on the north trellis of the Shrub Collection *Lonicera Heckrottii* is exceptionally beautiful this year. This is believed to be a hybrid, probably of American origin, although its history cannot be traced, between the scarlet-flowered American *Lonicera sempervirens* and *L. italica* supposed to be itself a natural hybrid between *L. Caprifolium* and *L. etrusca*, which, though growing naturally only near Lyons in France and near Trieste in Austria, is common in cultivation. The flowers of *L. Heckrottii*, although not fragrant, are very beautiful; the outer surface of the corolla is deep rose color and the inner surface is pale yellow, closed buds and open flowers occurring together in the same cluster and making a beautiful contrast of color.

The leaves of many of the climbing Honeysuckles are often disfigured by attacks of an aphid and can only be kept in good condition by careful spraying early in the season and just as the leaves are unfolding.

The Bush Honeysuckles are now the handsomest plants in the Arboretum with ripe fruits. They produce fruit in great quantities and it remains in good condition for several weeks, and as the different species ripen their fruit from now until October the second period of their beauty is a long one. On different species and hybrids there are blue, black, orange, yellow, crimson and scarlet fruits, and these beautiful and abundant fruits following beautiful flowers make some of the Bush Honeysuckles extremely desirable garden plants especially in the northern United States where they are very hardy and where they appear to fruit more freely than in other parts of the world. The orange-yellow translucent fruit of *Lonicera minutiflora* is one of the most beautiful perhaps in the collection. This plant is a hybrid between the Tartarian Honeysuckle from central Asia and a species from eastern Siberia, *L. Morrowii*. *L. muscaviensis*, another hybrid, is covered with large and translucent scarlet fruit. The fruit of the Tartarian Honeysuckles on some plants is red and on others bright yellow. Two hybrids of this species, *L. bella* and *L. notha*, bear crimson fruit. *L. xylosteum* bears large, dark crimson, lustrous fruit, and a hybrid of it, *L. xylosteoides*, large red fruit. All the numerous forms of *L. coerulea*, a species which is found in all the colder parts of the northern hemisphere, have bright blue fruit, and that of *L. orientalis* is black and lustrous. No group of shrubs in the Arboretum is more worthy of the careful attention of persons who desire to form collections of large, fast-growing, hardy shrubs beautiful when covered in early spring with innumerable flowers or in early summer when their showy fruits are ripe.

The fruit of *Eleagnus longipes* is now ripe and will continue to remain on the plants for several weeks. This hardy Japanese shrub flowers and fruits here profusely. The fruit hangs gracefully on long slender stems and is oblong, nearly three-quarters of an inch in length, scarlet, lustrous and covered with small white dots. It has a tart and rather agreeable flavor, and is sometimes used in cooking. Specimens of this plant can be seen on the right-hand side of the Bussey Hill Road above the Lilacs in the Eleagnus Group.

An illustrated guide to the Arboretum containing a map showing the position of the different groups of plants has recently been published. It will be found useful to persons unfamiliar with the position of the different groups of plants. Copies of this guide can be obtained at the Administration Building in the Arboretum, from the Secretary of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, from The Houghton, Mifflin Company, 4 Park Street, Boston, at the Old Corner Bookstore, Bromfield Street, Boston, and at the office of the Harvard Alumni Bulletin, 50 State Street, Boston. Price, 30 cents.

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



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