

splendid for boundary planting or for the wild garden. The tree sorts are fine as specimens a little removed from the dwelling house, where their beauty may be glimpsed from the windows. All are easily propagated by seed and the bush forms may be increased by lifting the sucker-growth and by layering. Although they fill a niche and add welcome beauty to any garden, Shadblows are difficult to procure. Their loveliness notwithstanding, nurserymen have treated them with contumely for are they not common native plants? A few of the more enlightened and progressive, however, are beginning to catalogue them, which is an encouraging sign of the awakening that is taking place. In the Arboretum these plants have been extensively planted along the drives, and on the edge of woods two species (*A. laevis* and *A. oblongifolia*) are native.

**Tree Shadblows.** In the last Bulletin we told that the earliest Shadblow to blossom is *Amelanchier canadensis* and as its petals fall and the white fluff of its foliage is flung off the flowers of *A. laevis*, a second tree species, expand. This has red-brown young leaves almost destitute of hairs and in fine contrast erect or nodding racemes of white flowers. Widespread from Newfoundland south this is a tree up to 50 ft. tall with a trunk 5 ft. in girth and a rather open narrow crown. The ruddy tinted young foliage gives to it distinction and character and associated with other deciduous trees it is most effective in springtime. One of the loveliest of all is *A. grandiflora*, a natural hybrid between these two species. Like its parents this is a tree but the flowers are much larger than those of any other American Shadblow. The blooms also last long in unsullied whiteness and the plant stands forth an aristocrat. This hybrid grows wild in the woods round Rochester, New York, where a lovely form of it (*rubescens*) with rose-tinted blossoms also occurs. The third American tree species is *A. alnifolia* known to the Indians as the Saskatoon. It is a slender tree, rarely exceeding 25 ft. in height, with a loose crown or irregular shape and white flowers in erect racemes opening at the same time as the leaves which are densely clad with an evanescent white floss. Its fruits are sweet and juicy, nearly globose in shape, dark blue-black, often three-quarters of an inch in diameter, larger and more valuable than those of any other Shadblow. Found over an immense area of country from the southwestern shores of Lake Superior west and northwest to the Valley of the Yukon River it is a most important tree to the Indians who gather and dry the fruit which serves them as an article of food.

**Bush Shadblows.** The largest of the bush Shadblows is *A. oblongifolia*, a very common species through eastern North America. This shrub grows 18 ft. tall and forms dense ovoid clumps of many erect stems sometimes 12 ft. through. Its flowers and leaves with white cottony covering unfold at the same time. Throughout New England this species is a conspicuous feature of the landscape in spring with its blossoms, in June with its wealth of fruit and in autumn with its vari-colored foliage. Another shrubby Shadblow is *A. spicata* which grows from 6 to 10 ft. tall and is distinguished by its erect dense-flowered racemes. *A. humilis* is dwarf and twiggy and *A. stolonifera*



spreading from underground stems forms low thickets. Both are well suited to the wild garden. So, too, is *A. florida*, native of the Northwest, which produces a mass of erect stems from 8 to 10 ft. tall and has rich yellow autumn foliage. Handsome also are *A. sanguinea* and *A. amabilis*, both shrubs of good size with relatively large blossoms. Quite distinct is *A. Bartramiana* an inhabitant of bog lands from Labrador southward with large milk-white, saucer-shaped flowers solitary or rarely in few-flowered clusters. Growing from a few inches to a full yard tall it is a floriferous little plant of twiggy habit.

**The European Shadblow.** The European Shadblow is known by several names, most widely perhaps as *A. vulgaris* but correctly as *A. ovalis*. It is the oldest known Amelanchier and has been in cultivation for upwards of two hundred years. A native of central and southern Europe it is usually a shrub but under favorable conditions forms a good-shaped tree from 18 to 25 ft. in height. It has stouter branchlets, fatter and more ovoid winter buds than its American kindred. Also it produces the largest flowers of any species, each blossom being often 1½ inches across and clustered in erect racemes. The leaves with their coat of woolly hairs unfold at the same time and the whole plant appears mantled in white, hence in Europe it is called Snowy Mespilus. About four other species are natives of southeastern Europe and western Asia but are not in cultivation.

**The Oriental Shadblow.** The Oriental Shadblow is *A. asiatica*, a small tree from 15 to 25 ft. tall, with a flattened crown of irregular outline. It is rare in Japan and Korea but in central China a variety, named *sinica*, is one of the most common and most beautiful of the lesser trees. An inhabitant of thickets and thin woods it is abundantly floriferous and in spring the trees are conspicuous from afar. The flowers are large, white as driven snow, and produced in nodding racemes. Unlike all other Shadblows the fruits do not ripen until late September or October and unless eaten by birds hang on the trees throughout the winter.

**Prinsepia sinensis.** In the Shrub Garden a large, dome-shaped bush of this fine shrub is in full blossom; there is another less shapely specimen on Centre Street Path. The arching, spreading branches are densely clothed with clusters of yellow plum-like blossoms which emit a strong odor of almonds. The fruit is plum-like, enclosing a flattened prettily sculptured stone. This plant has been growing in the Arboretum since 1903 and has never known winter injury. Its name, notwithstanding, it never knew China, its home being the adjacent country of Manchuria where a harsh climate prevails. Among the Chinese plants on Bussey Hill a white-flowered species (*P. uniflora*), introduced through Purdom in 1911, is loaded with flower-buds which will open later. Though not so fine as its yellow-flowered sister this is a good plant especially for rocky places. To those interested in the curious it may be worth noting that among the great Rose family this small genus Prinsepia is the only one that has a lamellate pith. E. H. W.



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