

Mountain Ashes. Many of these trees are now growing well in the Arboretum, and some of them are unusually full of fruit this year and handsome and interesting objects. Mountain Ashes have leaves divided into numerous narrow leaflets, compact clusters of white flowers which are followed by scarlet, yellow, orange-colored, pink or white, usually globose fruit which varies from a quarter to three-quarters of an inch in diameter. The best known and most commonly planted of these trees in the United States is the European *Sorbus Aucuparia*, the Rowan tree of Scotland. It is a tree from forty to sixty feet tall, of pyramidal habit while young, with erect branches which as the tree grows older spread out into a broad and graceful head. Here the leaves retain their color until the autumn is far advanced, and during September and October the contrast between the bright green leaves and the drooping clusters of brilliant red fruit makes this tree an attractive object until the birds strip it of its fruit. This Mountain Ash is common and widely distributed over the cooler parts of Europe and was probably early introduced into North America where it has been much planted in the extreme northern states and in Canada. Several varieties are recognized. The handsomest of these is the Moravian Mountain Ash (var. *moravica* or *dulcis*) of northern Austria. This is a tall tree with a smooth stem, leaves with narrower leaflets than those of the type and larger and sweeter fruit. It is used as food in central Europe. This Mountain Ash has grown in the Arboretum very rapidly and promises to become a large tree. Two specimens in the plantation near the top of Peter's Hill are now covered with fruit and are among the handsomest of the small trees in the Arboretum. There are forms of the Rowan tree with pendulous branches (var. *pendula*) and with fastigate branches (var. *fastigiata*). There is a form with yellow fruit and a variety from eastern Europe (var. *lanuginosa*) the leaves of which are covered on the upper surface with stiff hairs and are downy on the lower surface.

Asiatic Mountain Ashes. In recent years a number of these trees have been brought from eastern Asia to the Arboretum and some of them promise to be valuable trees here. The Japanese *Sorbus commixta* was the first of them which was planted here and it has now been growing in the Arboretum since 1888. There is a tall specimen of this species on the right-hand side of the path leading to the Shrub Collection from the Forest Hills Gate. It has smaller flower-clusters than the European species, the bright red fruit is smaller and its chief value is in the bright orange and red color of the leaves in autumn. A much handsomer plant is *Sorbus pekinensis*, a native of northern China, which is now well established in the Arboretum. It is a slender tree with narrow leaflets, compact clusters of flowers and lustrous pink or yellowish fruit in drooping clusters. The color of the fruit is unusual among Mountain Ashes. The narrow leaflets give this tree a particularly open and attractive appearance. There are a number of specimens in the Sorbus Collection in the low ground near the group of Swamp White Oaks on the Valley Road, but the largest and handsomest spec-

imen in the Arboretum is in the nursery plantation near the top of Peter's Hill. *Sorbus Koehneana* has flowered and fruited in the Arboretum this year for the first time. It is a shrub now about three feet high with slender erect stems, small leaves with numerous narrow leaflets, small compact clusters of flowers, and snow-white fruit. It is a beautiful shrub which when better known will become common in gardens. The plants in the Arboretum were raised from seeds collected by William Purdom in northern Shensi. *Sorbus pohuashanensis*, so named because it was discovered on the Pohua Mountains in northern China, is also well established in the Arboretum. The leaflets are rather broader than those of the Rowan tree, but it has the red fruit and woolly buds of that species and is not superior to it for general cultivation. Although they are not as large and shapely trees as some of the Old World species, the two Mountain Ashes of eastern North America, *Sorbus americana* and its variety *decora*, have no rivals in this group in the beauty of the great drooping clusters of orange fruit and in the orange and red tints of their autumn foliage. They are small trees or large shrubs and are often planted in gardens in Canada, northern Michigan and Minnesota, but unfortunately are still little known in those of eastern Massachusetts.

Sorbus alnifolia of the section *Micromeles* of the genus is perhaps the most satisfactory of the Mountain Ashes with entire leaves which can be grown here. It is a common Japanese tree and occurs also in Korea and northern and central China, and sometimes in its native countries grows to the height of sixty feet. Several specimens have been growing in the Arboretum since 1893 and are now from twenty to thirty feet tall. These trees are pyramidal in habit with pale smooth stems, upright branches which form a broad compact symmetrical pyramidal head, and dark green leaves three or four inches long, small white flowers in six- to twelve-flowered clusters, and abundant lustrous scarlet or scarlet and orange fruit which remains on the branches after the leaves and until eaten by birds which are fond of the fruit of all the species of *Sorbus*. The leaves turn bright clear yellow about the middle of October and soon fall.

Mountain Ashes thrive only in well-drained rich soil and suffer from drought and insufficient nourishment. They are particularly liable to the attacks of the San José scale, and in order to secure healthy plants it is important to spray them late in March or early in April with lime-sulphur.

The Spindle-tree or Burning Bush. By these names some of the species of *Evonymus* are popularly known. *Evonymus* is a genus of shrubs or small trees widely distributed over the temperate regions of the northern hemisphere and more abundant in species in eastern Asia than in North America or Europe. As a garden plant the species with deciduous leaves are chiefly valuable for their showy fruits, although the leaves of some of the Asiatic species become bright colored in the autumn. The flowers of all the species are inconspicuous. The fruit is a scarlet, red or whitish capsule, which when it opens displays



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