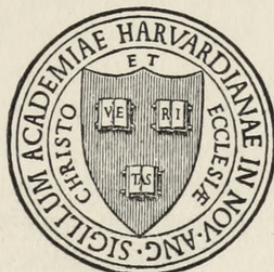


ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITYBULLETIN
OF
POPULAR INFORMATION

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

MAY 14, 1920

Amelanchiers. The forests of eastern North America surpass those of other regions of the northern hemisphere in the number of small trees and shrubs which enliven them with beautiful and often conspicuous flowers. Eastern North America is the home of the Hawthorns which grow here in an almost unbelievable number of species with innumerable individuals; in the Missouri-Texas region are more species and varieties of Plums, great and small, than in all the other countries of the world; in early spring swamps and their borders and low woods are gay with the bright yellow flowers on the leafless branches of the Spice Bush (*Benzoin aestivale*), the Leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*) and the Fragrant Sumach (*Rhus canadensis*). No other part of the world can boast a forest undergrowth more beautiful than that made by the so-called Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), one of the commonest of the small trees in all the region from southern New England to eastern Texas. Even Japan cannot make a braver and more varied show of Azaleas than our south Atlantic and Gulf States; poor in Rhododendrons and these of comparative insignificance, in its Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) eastern America possesses a broad-leaved evergreen shrub or small tree which grows naturally from New Brunswick to Louisiana and is not surpassed by many plants in the beauty of its flowers. Amelanchier is another plant in which North America has almost a monopoly; one small shrubby species grows on the mountains of central Europe, and there is another shrubby species in China and Japan. All the other species are natives of North America where Amelanchiers grow with many species from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Newfoundland to the Gulf States. Some of the species are trees and others large or small shrubs

they flower in the spring before the leaves appear or when they are partly grown, or, as in the case of a few species, when the trees are nearly fully grown, the period of flowering of the different species extending through several weeks. The species all have handsome flowers, with long delicate white petals, and small, dark blue, or nearly black pome-like fruit open at the top, with flesh which in most of the species is sweet and edible. It is these edible fruits which probably have earned for these plants one of their popular names, Service Berry. Shad Bush, another of their popular names, came from the fact that they were in flower when the shad began to ascend the rivers flowing into the Atlantic Ocean. *Amelanchier canadensis*, the first species to bloom in the Arboretum, has been in flower for several days. It is a tree which occasionally grows to the height of sixty feet with a tall trunk eighteen inches in diameter. The leaves begin to unfold as the flowers open and are then covered with pale gray silky hairs, making the whole plant look white at this time of the year. This beautiful tree does not grow naturally nearer Boston than the western part of the state; it is common in western New York, and it is the common and often the only species in the southern states in which it grows to the Gulf coast. Owing to an old confusion in determination and names this fine tree, which was originally named by Linnaeus, has been rare in gardens, an entirely different plant having long appeared in books and gardens under the name of *Amelanchier canadensis*. This is also a fine tree, differing conspicuously from *A. canadensis* in the red color of the young leaves which are destitute or nearly destitute of any hairy covering. This tree is now called by botanists *A. laevis*. It is one of the native trees of the Arboretum, and there are a number of specimens growing naturally on the bank above the Crabapples on the left-hand side of the Forest Hills Road which begin to flower a few days later than *A. canadensis*, and are easily recognized by the color of the young leaves. Another species which is a native plant in the Arboretum, *A. obovalis*, is a large shrub rather than a tree with young leaves like those of *A. canadensis* covered with white silky hairs. Large numbers of this shrub have been planted along the drives and in the other Arboretum shrubberies; they will still be in bloom when this Bulletin reaches its Boston readers and will make this week one of the pleasantest of the year to visit the Arboretum. Five or six other species of the eastern states are now well established in the Arboretum collection on the grass path which follows the left-hand side of the Meadow Road; they are small shrubs rarely more than five or six feet high, in some species spreading from the roots into clumps of considerable size. They are all delightful plants well suited for the decoration of small gardens or the margins of shrubberies. Generally, however, they are unknown to garden lovers.

Some Early-flowering Viburnums. The first Viburnum to bloom in the Arboretum this year is *Viburnum alnifolium*, the Hobble Bush or Moosewood of cold, wet northern woods. It is a large shrub spreading by shoots from the roots, with broad flat clusters of small flowers surrounded by a ring of large pure white neutral flowers, dark green leaves with prominent veins, which turn orange and scarlet in the autumn,



1920. "Amelanchiers." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 6(3), 9–10. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321021>.

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