

by small red fruits. A green fountain best describes this shrub. There are Barberries with larger and handsomer leaves, larger flowers and more brilliant fruit, but there is not one in this collection, at least, of such graceful habit; and *Berberis Vernae* as it grows here is not only one of the most beautiful of the deciduous-leaved species of the genus but one of the handsomest of the shrubs discovered in China during the present century which can be successfully grown in this climate. Plants of *Berberis Vernae* raised from seed collected by William Purdom in Min-chou in western Kansu, received at the Arboretum in 1912, are also well established here.

Neillia sinensis, uninjured by the severe winter, has been as beautiful as usual this month. The flowers are cylindric, clear pale pink, nearly half an inch long and are pendent on slender stems in long one-sided racemes terminal on short lateral branchlets, and do not open until the dark green leaves have grown to nearly their full size. This is one of the Chinese shrubs which seems destined to become popular in northern gardens. Several other species of *Neillia* are growing in the Arboretum; they are either not hardy enough to flower or their flowers are insignificant.

Kolkwitzia amabilis on the southern slope of Bussey Hill has not before flowered so profusely as it has during the past week. It is the only representative of a genus of western China related to *Diervilla* and *Abelia*. The flowers are in pairs on long stems at the end of short lateral branchlets, and rose color in the bud become paler after opening and are blotched with yellow at the base of the inner surface of the divisions of the lower lobe of the corolla. *Kolkwitzia* has not yet produced seeds in the Arboretum, and this interesting and beautiful shrub is still rare in American gardens.

Aesculus discolor var. *mollis*. This shrub or small tree has not before flowered so freely in the Arboretum. The type of the species has red and yellow flowers, but in the var. *mollis*, which is the only form in the Arboretum, the whole flower is bright scarlet. It is a common plant from northern Georgia to central Alabama and westward to the valley of the Guadalupe River in Texas, ranging west of the Mississippi River northward to southeastern Missouri, and appearing in southwestern Tennessee. In early spring no other plant in the southern states is more brilliantly conspicuous, and its unexpected hardiness in New England is one of the important discoveries made by the Arboretum in recent years. There is a form of *Aesculus discolor* (var. *flavescens*) with yellow flowers which is confined to the Edwards Plateau in western Texas. It is possible that this plant may also prove hardy here. *Aesculus Harbisonii*, which is believed to be a hybrid of *A. discolor* var. *mollis* and *A. georgiana*, is the last of the Buckeyes, with the exception of *A. parviflora*, to bloom in the Arboretum. It is a shrub with broad clusters of large flowers with a rose-colored calyx and canary yellow petals tinged with rose toward the margin. Still extremely rare, this hybrid which is perfectly hardy deserves to be better known.



1920. "Aesculus discolor var. mollis." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 6(9), 36–36. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321051>.

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