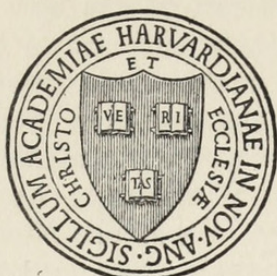


ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



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Pieris or **Andromeda floribunda**, judging by an experience of over fifty years, is the only broad-leaved evergreen to which nothing ever happens in this climate. It is not attacked by borers, the leaves never become discolored, and the flower-buds formed in autumn and almost as conspicuous during the winter as the flowers are not injured by the lowest temperature which has been recorded in southern New England. It is a round-topped shrub of compact habit, sometimes eight or ten feet across and five or six feet high, with small pointed, dark green leaves and short terminal clusters of pure white flowers. A native of high altitudes on the southern Appalachian Mountains, this shrub is rare and local in its distribution as a wild plant, but for more than a century has been valued in England and largely propagated by English nurserymen. It can be found in several American nurseries and is now covered in the Arboretum with its pure white flowers. A comparatively small compact shrub, it is more valuable for general planting than any of the dwarf *Rhododendrons*.

Amelanchiers. The Shad Bushes, as *Amelanchiers* are often called because they are supposed to bloom when shad begin to ascend the rivers from the sea, add much in early May to the beauty of the Arboretum. It is a genus in which North America has almost a monopoly as only one small shrubby species grows on the mountains of central Europe, and another in China and Japan. In North America it grows in many forms 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 ap-

pear or when they are partly grown, or in the case of a few species when the leaves are fully grown, the flowering time of the whole group extending through several weeks. They all have handsome flowers, with long delicate white petals and small, dark blue or nearly black pome-like fruit open at the top, the flesh of which in most of the species is sweet and edible. *Amelanchier canadensis*, which is the first species to bloom in the Arboretum, has now 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 silky white hairs, making the whole plant look white at this time of the year. This beautiful tree does not grow naturally nearer Boston than western Massachusetts; 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 appeared in them under this name. 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. By botanists this tree is now called *Amelanchier laevis*. It is a native tree in 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 where it blooms a few days later than *Amelanchier canadensis*. 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. This shrub has been largely planted in the Arboretum along the drive of the Valley Road near the base of Hemlock Hill. Several other species of the eastern states are established in the Arboretum; these are all shrubs, often spreading into wide clumps. There are other species in the west still to introduce into cultivation, and on the whole the genus is not well understood either in the field or in gardens.

Corylopsis is an Asiatic genus of the Witch Hazel Family, with fragrant yellow flowers in long drooping clusters appearing before the leaves which have a general resemblance to those of the Witch Hazel. Nearly all the species are represented in the Arboretum but they are not all hardy, and the flower-buds of the Chinese species are usually killed. Three Japanese species, however, are flowering well this year, *C. Gotoana*, *C. pauciflora*, and *C. spicata*. The first was introduced into the Arboretum from central Japan; it is the hardiest and largest specimen, growing five or six feet tall and broad in this climate. It can be considered one of the handsomest of the early spring-flowering shrubs. The other two species are flowering much better than usual this year but cannot be depended on every spring.

Prinsepia sinensis. The value of this handsome shrub becomes more evident every year. It is the first plant in the Arboretum to unfold its leaves; these are already fully grown and the bright yellow flowers are beginning to open. It is a perfectly hardy, fast-growing shrub; the young leaves and the flowers have never been injured by spring



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