

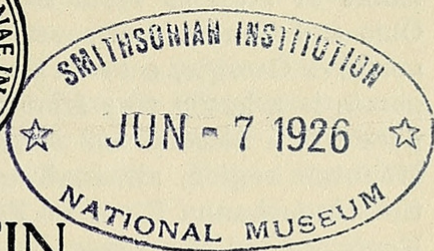
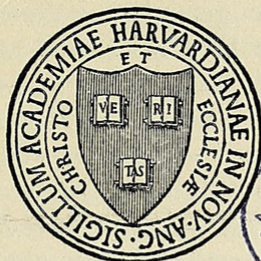
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# ARNOLD ARBORETUM

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## BULLETIN

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## POPULAR INFORMATION

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

JUNE 5, 1926

**American Magnolias.** Several of these trees are in bloom in the group on the right hand side of the Jamaica Plain gate. Unlike most of the Asiatic species, the American Magnolias flower after the appearance of the leaves, and are hardy and handsome trees. There are seven of these Magnolias, but one of them, *M. pyramidata*, grows only in the extreme southeastern corner of Alabama and adjacent Florida, and would not be hardy here. Of the other species, the so-called Mountain Magnolia, *M. Fraseri*, is the first to open its flowers in the Arboretum. It is a small tree, rarely more than forty feet high, with an open head of long branches, leaves often a foot in length and deeply divided at the base, and creamy white, sweet-scented flowers eight or ten inches in diameter and very conspicuous as they stand well above the crowded leaves at the ends of the branches. This Magnolia is a native of the southern Appalachian Mountain region, and, although it has not been found growing north of southeastern Virginia, is perfectly hardy in eastern Massachusetts. The next to flower is *M. cordata*, which for several days has been covered with its cup-shaped, bright canary yellow flowers unlike in color those of any other Magnolia. Discovered by Michaux on one of his journeys from Charleston, South Carolina, up the valley of the Savannah River to the high Carolina Mountains, it was introduced by him into French gardens where it flourished. For more than a century every attempt to rediscover this tree failed, and it is only within the last few years that it was found by the Berckman Brothers growing in the woods not many miles distant from Augusta, Georgia, where plants only a few feet high flower profusely. Grafts from Michaux's trees, however, preserved this tree



in cultivation, and the plants in the Arboretum were raised from grafts taken from old trees in the Harvard Botanic Garden for which they were imported from Europe probably when the Garden was laid out, that is more than a century ago. A little later the flowers of the Cucumber Tree, *M. acuminata*, the Umbrella Tree, *M. tripetala*, *M. virginiana* and *M. macrophylla* will open. *M. acuminata*, which is the tallest of the American Magnolias, sometimes attaining a height of ninety feet, has green or greenish yellow flowers covered with a glaucous bloom. This tree is a native of mountain slopes and rocky banks of streams from southern Ontario and western New York to Ohio and Illinois, and southward along the Appalachian Mountains to northern Georgia, central Kentucky, Mississippi and Louisiana. *M. tripetala* is a bushy tree from thirty to forty feet in height with large pure white flowers, and is widely distributed through the Appalachian Mountain region, although nowhere very abundant, from the valley of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania to southern Alabama, middle Kentucky and Tennessee, growing westward to southwestern Arkansas and southeastern Oklahoma. *M. virginiana*, as botanists now call the Sweet Bay, often a large tree at the south, northward is never more than a small tree or often a large shrub. The leaves are dark green and very lustrous on the upper surface and silvery white on the lower surface, and the flowers which continue to open in succession from the middle of June until August are small, cup-shaped, creamy white and delightfully fragrant. In all North America there is not a more delightful shrub or small tree to plant in a garden or one that will give larger returns in beauty and fragrance. It is, however, difficult to find in American nurseries and it is still practically unknown to American garden makers of this generation. *M. major*, often called *M. Thompsoniana*, a hybrid between *M. virginiana* and *M. tripetala*, has the general appearance of the former but has larger leaves, and larger, equally fragrant flowers. *M. macrophylla* is the last of the Magnolias to bloom in the Arboretum. A native of the southern states, it is perfectly hardy in Massachusetts where it grows to a height of thirty feet and forms a wide, round-topped head of branches spreading at nearly right angles to the trunk. This Magnolia has the largest leaves and largest flowers of any Magnolia growing in any part of the world beyond the tropics: the former are silvery white on the lower surface and from twenty to thirty inches long and from eight to nine inches wide. The expanded flowers are often a foot in diameter. Although perfectly hardy in Massachusetts, this tree is best planted in a position sheltered from the wind which often tears the large and delicate leaves.

**American Crabapples.** Nine species of the American plants are recognized, with several varieties and two hybrids. They have white or pink fragrant flowers which do not open until the leaves are partly or entirely grown, and green or pale yellow, fragrant fruit which, with the exception of that of the species of the northwestern part of the country, is depressed globose, usually broader than high, from an inch to an inch and a half in diameter, and covered with a waxy exudation. These are excellent plants for the decoration of wood borders and glades. *M. glaucescens*, which is named from the pale glaucous color of the under surface of the leaves, is the first of the American species





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