

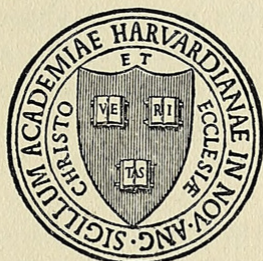
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COMPLIMENTARY

NEW SERIES VOL. XII

NO. 19

ARNOLD ARBORETUM

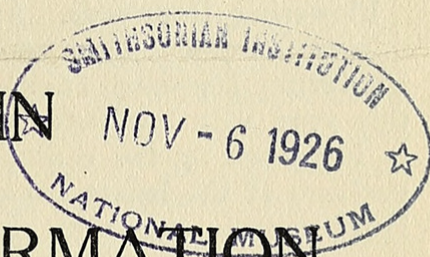
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



BULLETIN

OF

POPULAR INFORMATION



JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

NOVEMBER 1, 1926

Autumn in the Arboretum. It is not probable that the Arboretum has been more beautiful during the months of September and October than it has this year. The trees have not before been fuller of leaves and the grass as green at this season of the year. Many leaves, especially those of the Oaks, are still green; those of several trees have turned gradually and brilliantly, and the beauty and interest of the Arboretum has been increased by abundant crops of beautiful and brilliant fruits. This is particularly true of the fruits of many Crabapples in the great collection near the base of Peter's Hill, and by that of many Hawthorns, Honeysuckles, Viburnums and Cornels. The leaves of many plants have already changed their color and fallen, and this is true of those of the two trees of *Phellodendron amurense* on the right hand side of the Meadow Road. This is an exceedingly rare species in cultivation, and it is almost as beautiful after the autumn coloring of the bright yellow leaves has disappeared and left the gray trunks and branches bare, making this tree one of the conspicuous winter features of the Arboretum. Nearly all the forms of the American Horsechestnuts, or Buckeyes as they are called, turn brilliantly in the early autumn and have already fallen. The Sugar Maples are now brilliant objects and while the leaves have fallen from many Red Maples others retain their bright colors. The tree directly opposite the Administration Building in the Arboretum is a good example of this, and landscape gardeners who may wish to use trees and shrubs for autumn effects can find useful suggestions in this tree, for it has been raised from a graft taken from a tree with leaves of exceptionally brilliant autumn color. This exceptional color has been

preserved, and indicates that it is possible to graft plants with leaves of unusually brilliant autumn color just as it is possible to propagate trees with leaves abnormally marked with yellow or otherwise abnormal, or with double or other unusual flowers, or with improved fruits. Little has yet been done anywhere to propagate trees for their autumn colors, but the field is an interesting and important one for the makers of autumn gardens. That the making of such gardens will sooner or later receive attention in this country there can be little doubt, for the pleasantest months of the year are the autumn months, and in no other part of the world is the autumn foliage so brilliant and nowhere else are the fruits of trees and shrubs more abundant, varied and interesting.

Flowering Dogwoods. Among the smaller trees with scarlet or crimson autumn foliage none is more beautiful now than the so-called Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), which is unusually brilliant this year with its leaves of scarlet and green. Its autumn beauty is increased by the contrast in the color on the upper and lower surfaces of the leaves for only the upper surface changes color, the lower surface retaining the pale sometimes nearly white color of the summer. For regions with a winter climate as severe as that of eastern Massachusetts its eastern Asiatic relative (*Cornus kousa*) and especially the variety *chinensis* are more reliable plants. They are smaller trees than the eastern American plant but the leaves turn as brilliantly in the autumn; the flower-buds are not killed or injured by the severest cold of our winters and open from two to three weeks later, and the floral bracts which surround the clusters of small flowers and are the conspicuous feature of the inflorescence are narrower, further apart and pointed, not broad and rounded, at the apex. The fruit is even handsomer than that of the American plant for the individual fruits are united into a globose scarlet head which is raised on a long slender erect stem and are not, like those of the American plant, in clusters of separate fruits. The form discovered and introduced by Wilson from western China promises to be a better plant in this climate than the Japanese form, for it is equally hardy and the floral bracts are larger and overlap below the middle, forming a cup like those of the American species. This plant is still rare, but as it produces good crops of seeds in the Arboretum it is hoped that it will soon be within the reach of lovers of handsome hardy trees.

The Sassafras (*Sassafras variifolium*). This is one of the most beautiful and apparently one of the least known trees of eastern North America. It is interesting as the only member of the trees of the Laurel Family which is native to this part of the country, and is an aromatic tree with deeply furrowed red-brown bark, scaly buds, slender bright green lustrous branchlets, brittle branches containing a thick mucilaginous pith and marked by small semiorbicular elevated leaf-scars displaying single horizontal rows of fibrovascular bundle-scars, and stout stoloniferous roots covered by thick yellow bark. The flower-buds are terminal, ovate, acute, protected by nine or ten imbricated scales increasing in size from without inward, the



1926. "Autumn in the Arboretum." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 12(19), 77-78. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321750>.

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