

ARNOLD ARBORETUM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

BULLETIN

OF

POPULAR INFORMATION

SERIES 3. VOL. III

APRIL 13, 1929

NO. 1

On April 7 and 8 the thermometer registered the abnormal temperature of 84° F. and the result was an explosive development of vegetation. On the 10th snow fell! On Saturday, April 6, the plants of *Magnolia stellata* in front of the Administration Building showed here and there in the shaggy caps which cover the flower buds slits through which white appeared. On Sunday afternoon hundreds of flowers were fully open. On Sunday the myriad buds on the Forsythia bushes showed greenish yellow. On Monday the whole mass was aglow with clear yellow. A few early blossoms on the bushes of *Rhododendron dauricum mucronulatum* on Bussey Hill were expanded on Saturday; on Monday afternoon the whole group was a billowy mass of rosy purple. The Larches in the Pinetum are pushing forth their bright green leaves and many of the branches are weighted down with male flowers, while others are strung with ruby colored female flowers. David's Peach (*Prunus Davidiana*) and its white form (*alba*) were in full blossom all last week and for almost the first time on record the flowers escaped injury by frost. At the moment the Manchurian Apricot (*Prunus mandshurica*), a broad, round-topped tree, is crowned with soft pink yellow-anthered blossoms. In the Cornus collection alongside Meadow Road the Cornelian Cherry (*Cornus mas*) and its Asiatic sister, *C. officinalis*, are in full bloom. Facing the Lilacs, the Benzoin (*Benzoin aestivale*) is opening its yellow blossoms and *Dirca palustris* is in full flower. In the Shrub Garden the earliest of the Honeysuckles (*Lonicera praeeflorens*) is past blooming, but nearby *L. Standishii* with white, faintly tinged purple, gaping blossoms is laden with flowers. Alongside Meadow Road and in the Maple collection the Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) is aglow with scarlet and orange-red, honey-scented blossoms. Willows are in full flower and on some species the leaves are pushing forth. Color in expanding bud and opening blossom is apparent on every hand and wherever one may stroll signs of spring are evident. It is fortunate that the heat wave was of short duration, otherwise the spring season would be short-lived. As it is the forcing effect of the high temperature of the 7th and 8th will cause many flowers to open and pass

much more quickly than they ordinarily would. After waiting through the long and dreary months of winter we are hungry for color, for fragrance, and for blossom and we feel a natural impatience when these delights are too long delayed or too quickly snatched away.

Winter Effects. From the point of view of the Arboretum, the winter has been almost ideal. There have been no long periods of low temperatures and the abundant snowfall in February came at the right time. So far as one can see the few broadleaf evergreens that can withstand this climate have wintered well. Evergreen Rhododendrons show no sign of burning and even the Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*), which usually suffers more or less, is this year unscathed. Such ground covering plants as Heather, which last year fared badly, are this year in perfect condition. Conifers wintered well and even the Canadian Yew, which browns badly in the Arboretum, is this year much less discolored than usual. The Japanese Yew is, of course, its usual healthy black-green. Spruce, Fir, and Pine show no ill effects and the pleasure of walking through the Pinetum this April is much greater than is sometimes the case. In a general way the last three winters have been favorable to vegetation here and have given newly arrived exotic plants a chance to get acclimatized. A number of Lilacs, both French hybrids and such species as *Syringa microphylla*, were unfavorably affected by the rather warm weather experienced in late autumn. The buds swelled and in many instances the incipient flowers were killed by frost. However, this is not unusual and the loss will scarcely be noticed. On the whole the deciduous shrubs and trees are well laden with flower buds and there is promise of abundant blossom.

Viburnum fragrans is a Chinese species that in recent years has been much lauded in the horticultural press of Europe. Apparently it is well-suited to the milder climate across the Atlantic and, putting forth clusters of sweetly fragrant blossoms earlier than any other species, has naturally won for itself many friends. This year for the first time it is flowering freely in the Arboretum. In the *Viburnum* collection near Centre Street Gate there are two plants; one is about 5 feet tall, narrow in habit with ascending branches and now covered with short, paniculate masses of rose-pink, flushed white, exceedingly fragrant blossoms. Favored by the mild weather, it is giving us a taste of what it is really capable of. For a very sheltered position or for growing against a wall, this plant is worthwhile in New England, but except in such favorable seasons as the present it is not hardy enough to stand fully exposed out-of-doors. It has been long a favorite with the Chinese, who force it into flower for their New Year season. Known since 1831, it was introduced into cultivation by William Purdom, who sent seeds to the Arboretum and to Messrs. Veitch of England in the autumn of 1910. Later the same collector accompanied Reginald Farrer through northern China to Kansu and on this expedition *V. fragrans* was also sent back to England. Where hardy, it is undoubtedly a first-class plant, but for Massachusetts it can never rival its Korean relative, *V. Carlesii*.



Wilson, Ernest Henry. 1929. "[Introduction]." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 3(1), 1-2.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322004>.

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