

Ornamental Fruits, 1960

Autumn color in the Arnold Arboretum is good this year. Hurricane "Donna" did not dry out much of the foliage here, and of course the Arboretum is sufficiently inland so that salt water, picked up by the winds, did not have any serious effect on the foliage as it did to a great extent along the shore of southern New England.

Unfortunately, many of the viburnums have few if any fruits, probably due to poor weather conditions when the flowers were open last spring. The same is true of the apple crop in this area — the McIntosh which is the favorite variety and widely grown, has produced extremely few apples. Some of the later-blooming varieties such as the Baldwin, have fared better. Incidentally, Baldwin is one of the few apple varieties which can produce a commercial crop without cross pollination; McIntosh practically requires it.

Cornus kousa and its variety have fruited very well indeed, as did *Cornus florida*. Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) is literally loaded with fruit, and many of the early flowering oriental crab apples are also well laden with fruits. On the other hand, the Lowbush Blueberry produced very few fruits in this area.

This can all be traced directly to weather conditions during the flowering period. A look at the "Local Climatological Data" received from the U.S. Weather Bureau shows that there was some rain on every day but four from May 8-24, and the rain was well distributed over each twenty-four-hour period, showing that the weather was damp and moist much of the time. It was also cold a greater part of the time — very poor weather for fertilization to take place.

Plants such as the early flowering crab apples, which are fruiting well, flowered before the cold rainy weather set in, or after it was over (*Cornus kousa* and its variety *chinensis*, *Ilex verticillata* all of which flowered in June when the weather was warmer and sunny). Those plants not fruiting well (McIntosh apples, many of the viburnums, Lowbush Blueberry, etc.) flowered when weather conditions were poor for pollination.

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