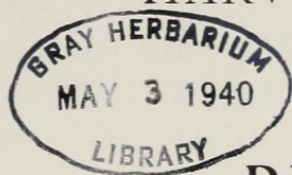


ARNOLD ARBORETUM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY



BULLETIN OF POPULAR INFORMATION

SERIES 4. VOL. VIII

MAY 3, 1940

NUMBER 2

THIS PAST WINTER

THIS past winter has been very hard on many of the evergreens not only in the Arboretum but also in many of the Boston suburbs. Particularly injured have been the rhododendrons, Canada hemlocks, and arborvitaes. It is difficult to cite the exact time when injury occurred, but it is doubtful whether any of it took place much before March 1. This is certainly the case with the hemlocks. Many of the native Canada hemlocks have been under observation, the trees apparently remaining in good condition throughout the winter, with green foliage and no apparent injury whatsoever even as late as the end of February.

However, during early March there were a few warm, sunny days. Since the ground was still frozen, transpiration from the foliage was at a maximum, and because of frozen soil, the plant roots were unable to take in sufficient water to make up for the loss from the foliage. The warm sunny days were followed by a period with low temperatures and high, cold winds. As a result, evergreens in exposed situations were badly burned, and in many cases have become unsightly.

One particular instance proved interesting. On the grounds of the Adams House, adjacent to the Arboretum, there is a planting of large Canada hemlocks. As would be expected, these were very badly burned on the southwest side. Standing in the same location, with exactly the same amount of exposure, was a fifteen year old Carolina hemlock. This tree showed no burning whatsoever. No general conclusions should be drawn from this, since Carolina hemlocks in other situations around Boston were injured also, but apparently in this particular soil with this particular exposure, the Carolina hemlock was more resistant to injury.

The rhododendron collection suffered considerably because of foliage injury, especially those plants immediately opposite the road junction. This is the windiest spot in the collection; and, though these plants were protected with evergreen boughs, as they are every year, the covering was not sufficient to protect the foliage completely. Some plants have lost a number of leaves and it may be necessary to prune these individuals later.

Other plants that have suffered are the green-twigged brooms on Bussey Hill. Some of the *Cytisus scoparius* varieties had grown to be about six feet tall, but were so badly injured that they will have to be cut back materially. The interesting hybrid Warminster broom (*C. praecox*), which has been recommended in other issues of the Bulletin, came through with no serious harm, showing that it is well adapted for New England planting.

Some years the oriental flowering cherries on Bussey Hill have suffered materially from sun-scald. However, though it is a little too early to tell definitely, there was apparently no injury to the trunks this past winter.

The winter has not been so unusually cold as far as low temperatures are concerned. According to the official figures of the Weather Bureau, the temperature went below 10° (above zero) only four times during the winter, one day in December and three days in January. Even then the minimum was 6° (above). Consequently, none of the injury can be blamed entirely on low temperatures even though these temperatures listed by the Weather Bureau are higher than those for the surrounding suburbs. As a result, we anticipate little, if any, injury to deciduous plant material.

This Spring

Officially spring began on March 20, but a few days later an unusually cold spell descended on the northeast. Four days after spring officially started the temperature went down to 14° (above) making this day an inauspicious one for spring flowers. At the time this is being written, woody plants are blooming almost two weeks late. Earlier this season, azaleas were blooming in northern Florida about four weeks late. Farther north, in Washington, D.C., the Japanese cherries were in full bloom in a snow storm, blooming as late as they have at any time during the past six years. In Philadelphia, forsythia was just beginning to show a yellow color on April 20; while in the Arnold Arboretum, it has not even started by April 27—at least two weeks later than it normally blooms.



PLATE II

Flowering branch of *Cornus mas*, one of the earliest shrubs to bloom in the spring.



Wyman, Donald. 1940. "This Past Winter." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 8(2), 13–16.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.250030>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/216992>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.250030>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/250030>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

BHL-SIL-FEDLINK

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.