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APRIL 28, 1915

Effects of the winter in the Arboretum. The long and unusual drought of the autumn of 1914 thoroughly ripened the wood of the young branches of deciduous-leaved trees and shrubs, and those plants which produce their flowers on the branches of the previous year promise an unusual crop of flowers. The winter has not been a severe one and there are no losses to report among deciduous-leaved plants, which suffered so severely here during the winter of 1913-14. The dry autumn followed by the unusual drought of March has injured, however, many broad-leaved evergreens, especially Rhododendrons, which have never before suffered so severely in the Arboretum, large plants of the hardiest varieties, which have been growing here for at least twenty-five years, having been killed. The Rhododendron collection is in an exceptionally sheltered and favorable position, and is planted in soil perfectly suited to these plants. They have never suffered from the greater cold of other winters, and the condition of the collection at this time shows that what injures Rhododendrons is want of moisture during the summer and autumn rather than excessive cold, and that only a small number of species and varieties can be successfully cultivated in New England. The list of the varieties which have been killed or seriously injured will appear in a later bulletin.

Native and exotic early spring flowering trees and shrubs. It is interesting to note that our gardens depend almost entirely on foreign trees and shrubs for their greatest beauty in early spring. To this general statement, however, there are a few exceptions. The ground under the Red Maples, *Acer rubrum*, is now red with their fallen flowers, while the Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*) is just opening its

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