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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

bright yellow flowers, which will make this tree conspicuous for another week. Two interesting native shrubs, too, the Spice Bush (*Benzoin aestivale*, sometimes called *Lindera Benzoin*), and the Leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*), have been covered for several days with their small bright yellow flowers which appear before or with the unfolding of the leaves. There are large groups of these plants on the right-hand side of the Bussey Hill Road, opposite the upper end of the Lilac Group. Not very often cultivated they deserve a place in every spring garden. Among early-flowering American plants is also to be mentioned the Shad Bush of the Southern states, *Amelanchier canadensis*. This is the largest and earliest flowering of the whole genus, and is often a tree of considerable size. It is now in flower on the left-hand side of the Meadow Road, entering from the Jamaica Plain Gate, where the general collection of these plants has been arranged. In another week the Arboretum will be gay with the flowers of the Shad Bushes, for these plants have been largely used in the mixed plantation along the drives. With these few exceptions, however, the shrubs which make the greatest show here in the early spring, the Magnolias, Forsythias, Cherries, Peaches, Apples, Pears, Azaleas, Honeysuckles, Lilacs and Berberis are from the Old World.

Magnolias. The earliest of the Magnolias, *M. stellata*, has been in flower for several days in front of the Administration Building. This is a perfectly hardy, vigorous, wide-spreading shrub and an inhabitant of the mountain slopes of southern Japan. Like the other early-flowering Magnolias, it belongs to that section of the genus in which the flowers appear before the leaves. There is a variety of this plant with pale pink flowers which is also in bloom. The flowers of another Japanese species, *Magnolia kobus*, and its variety *borealis*, appear soon after those of *M. stellata*. The species is a large, irregular growing shrub and is inferior in size and habit to its variety which is a tall and shapely tree with larger flowers. These plants rarely flower freely in this climate and now carry fewer flowers than they did a year ago, and as flowering plants are inferior to the Chinese species and their hybrids which are also in flower. The best known of these Chinese Magnolias is the white-flowered *M. denudata*, better known in gardens as *M. conspicua* or as *M. Yulan*. This is one of the handsomest and hardiest of the spring-flowering trees which are hardy in eastern New England, producing freely every year its large tulip-shaped blossoms which usually escape injury from late frosts, by which the flowers of *M. stellata* are often discolored. There are a number of hybrids between *M. denudata* and *M. liliflora*, usually known as *M. obovata* or as *M. purpurea*. These hybrids all have flowers more or less deeply tinged or streaked with rose and bloom a little later than *M. denudata*. *M. Soulangeana* is the best known of these hybrids, but there are several others which are equally beautiful. These plants are near the Administration Building at the Jamaica Plain entrance.

Asiatic Cherries. This is one of the most interesting weeks of the whole year in the Arboretum for several of the Chinese and Japanese Cherries are in flower. The first of these plants to open its flowers, *Prunus tomentosa*, is a native of northern and western China. It is an old inhabitant of the Arboretum, although at this time larger plants

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