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The Arboretum in October. This is one of the best months for a visit to the Arboretum, and after the abundant rains of the summer it has never looked better at this season of the year than it does now. The grass is as green as it usually is in early June. Frost has only touched the leaves of a few of the Grapevines which are perhaps more susceptible to frost than those of any other perfectly hardy plants; the leaves of only a few trees have fallen and on others they are as green as they were at midsummer, while in all directions are spots of brilliant autumncolor varying with every intermediate shade from the bright clear yellow of the Tulip-trees, the Sugar Maples and the Paw-paws to the scarlet of the Gum-trees and Virginia Creepers.

Autumn flowers are not abundant in the Arboretum in October, although a few may still be found here. The northern Witch Hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana*, however, is covered with its flowers which are conspicuous with their clear yellow strap-shaped petals. The autumn color of the leaves of this plant is also yellow but of a darker shade than the flowers, and the leaves usually do not fall until the flowers begin to open; these, however, remain for a long time in good condition on the naked branches, making this shrub one of the most attractive features of forest borders in the eastern states. This Witch Hazel may be seen in the Witch Hazel Group on the Meadow Road near its junction with the Bussey Hill and Forest Hills Road, and it has been largely planted in the general Arboretum plantations where many large specimens may be found.

Gordonia alatamaha. Flowers are still opening on this beautiful southern tree. They first appear in September and open in succession

for fully six weeks. *Gordonia* is related to the *Camellia*, and the pure white flowers which vary from three to three and a half inches in diameter, although more cup-shaped, resemble single *Camellia* flowers. This small tree was discovered in 1765 near Fort Barrington on the Altamaha River; it has entirely disappeared, however, as a wild plant, and it has only been preserved by the specimens cultivated chiefly in the neighborhood of Philadelphia where it was sent by its discoverers. There are well established plants on Hickory Path near Centre Street and on Azalea Path, and in these sheltered positions the plants are doing well and have not suffered at all in recent severe winters. This *Gordonia*, however, grows more rapidly and to a larger size in the middle states and there are many good specimens in Pennsylvania gardens.

Abelia grandiflora on Hickory Path near Centre Street is still well covered with flowers. These resemble in shape the flowers of some of the Honeysuckles; they are white faintly tinged with rose color, and their delicate beauty is set off by the small, dark green and lustrous leaves. *Abelia grandiflora* is a slender shrub with arching stems from three to four feet high and is thought to be a hybrid between two Chinese species. Until the introduction by the Arboretum of some of the species of this genus from western China it was believed to be the hardiest of the *Abelias*. In the Arboretum it suffers in severe winters but in sheltered positions it flowers well every year and the flowers continue to open during nearly two months. This *Abelia* has become an exceedingly popular plant in the gardens of the southern states and is cultivated with more or less success as far north as New York.

The Chinese Buddleias. The flowers are still in good condition on the different forms of *Buddleia Davidii* or, to use its more common name, *B. variabilis*. This plant has one-sided, pointed, many-flowered clusters which curve downward from arching stems and are thickly covered with small, blue-purple, fragrant flowers. In some of the forms of this plant are found perhaps the most beautiful of all summer and autumn flowering shrubs, and although only recently brought to the United States and Europe by Wilson they are already largely planted in this country where they have received the name of Summer Lilacs. Here at the north *Buddleia Davidii* is not perfectly hardy, and the stems are killed to the ground by cold, but new stems spring up and as the flower-clusters are produced at the ends of branches of the year this severe pruning improves the flowers. Few plants in their season are better suited to supply cut flowers, and for this purpose as well as for garden decoration this *Buddleia* in its various forms has proved one of the most useful shrubs of recent discovery.

The period for flowers in the Arboretum. It has been shown by the Arboretum that flowers can be found here in Massachusetts on trees and shrubs growing in the open ground during every month of the year with the exception of December. There will still be flowers on the native Witch Hazel in November and before the end of January the flowers will be open on the Witch Hazel of southern Missouri and Arkansas, *Hamamelis vernalis*. These will soon be followed by the

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