ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY BULLETIN
OF
POPULAR INFORMATION

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

MAY 5, 1916

Effects of the winter in the Arboretum. The high temperature of January started the development of the flower-buds of some plants, for example those of the Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) which was in full flower on the first day of February, or several weeks before the usual time. January was followed by two months of cold weather and frequent snowstorms. The snow protected small plants which without this covering would probably have suffered, and the number of plants that have been killed or seriously injured in the Arboretum is surprisingly small. The flower-buds, however, of many plants have been entirely or partially killed, while other plants which in an ordinary season lose their buds have not suffered and promise to yield unusual crops of flowers. The flower-buds of all Peach trees are killed but those of the Plums and Crabapples appear to be uninjured. The spring is from ten to twelve days later than usual.

Rhododendrons have suffered less than they did in the winter of 1914-15. Occasionally a leaf has been browned or a small branch killed, but apparently a good many flower-buds have suffered and the prospect for flowers is not so good as usual. *Rhododendron ponticum*, which usually suffers in this climate, appears to be killed outright. This plant which is so hardy in England, where it sometimes becomes a troublesome weed, has seriously interfered with the successful cultivation of Rhododendrons in this part of the world, for it has been used in European nurseries as stock on which is grafted the hybrids and varieties of other species, and the hardiness and vigor of many of these plants has been unfavorably influenced by this tender stock. A little hybrid Rhododendron known as *R. praecox*, "Little Gem," is per-

fectly hardy here but it blooms so early that in about nine years out of ten the flowers after they open are spoiled by frost. This year not a flower-bud has been injured and the plants are now in flower.

Forsythias. Many flower-buds of these plants have been killed as they were two years ago. All the flower-buds in the lower part of the great Forsythia bed on the slope above the Bussey Hill Road are entirely killed, while on the plants in the upper part of this bed, although many buds have suffered, there are open flowers enough to make this part of the bed conspicuous. In the lower ground of the general Shrub Collection the flower-buds of all the species and varieties of Forsythia have been entirely killed with the exception of those of the Albanian *F. europaea* which are uninjured. If the flower-buds of this species are better able to support cold than those of the other species, which are all natives of eastern continental Asia, the European plant should be better known and more generally cultivated. One of the last plants discovered in Europe, it is a vigorous, fast-growing shrub with more erect stems and branches than are usually found in the other species of this genus. The flowers are not quite so showy as those of *F. suspensa* and its hybrids and varieties, but they are always abundantly produced and of good color. This plant is still rare in gardens and it is doubtful if it can be found in American nurseries.

Magnolias. The Japanese shrubby species, *Magnolia stellata*, is usually the first of the Magnolias to flower in the Arboretum and the petals are sometimes browned by a late frost. This year many of the flower-buds have been killed and only a few flowers much reduced in size are now open on these beautiful and usually satisfactory plants. Some flowers are now open on the northern form of the Japanese *M. kobus* (var. *borealis*). This is a shapely tree, with small drooping flowers which open before the appearance of the leaves, and good foliage, but it never flowers here very freely and this year there are fewer flowers than usual. As a flowering tree for this climate it is inferior to the white-flowered Chinese species, *M. conspicua*, or as it now to be called, *M. denudata*, and its hybrids, which also flower before the appearance of the leaves and are not yet in flower.

Witch Hazels. The earliest of the Witch Hazels, *H. vernalis*, a native of southern Missouri and of Arkansas, opened its first flowers during the last week of December and these were followed in January and February by the flowers of the Chinese and Japanese species which were not affected by a temperature of several degrees below zero. In the size and color of its flowers and in foliage the Chinese *H. mollis* is the handsomest of these winter-flowering shrubs. It is hardy, fast-growing and free-flowering, and might well find a place in every garden where it can be seen from the windows of country or city houses. Unfortunately this shrub is still difficult to obtain from American nurseries.

The Cornelian Cherry (*Cornus mas*) is one of the earliest trees or arborescent shrubs to flower here. The flowers are light yellow and

1916. "Rhododendrons." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 2(1), 1-2. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320457>.

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320457>

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