cidedly a handsomer flowering plant. The long-pointed leaves are interesting and of a good color, but the fruit is small, dull in color and inconspicuous. These Viburnums are all flowering in the Viburnum Collection where many of the Asiatic species are also now in flower.

Early Summer Lilacs. The so-called Persian Lilac (*Syringa persica*) is now in flower. This is a native of Afghanistan and is said to have been cultivated in Persia and India from time immemorial and to have reached eastern Europe nearly three centuries ago. It is a broad, rather low shrub with long-pointed leaves and small fragrant flowers in few-flowered clusters which are crowded at the ends of the slender drooping branches and appear like one long narrow inflorescence. The flowers are pale lilac color. There is a white-flowered form (var. *alba*) and one with deeply lobed leaves (var. *laciniosa*). The Persian Lilacs are graceful and delightful plants, and although they were early brought to the United States they are now too rarely found in American gardens. Crossed with the common Lilac (*S. vulgaris*) the Persian Lilac produced in the Botanic Garden at Rouen a hybrid with broader leaves and immense clusters of reddish flowers intermediate in size between those of its parents. This hybrid is one of the most vigorous, largest and most useful of all Lilacs. Unfortunately it has been called *Syringa chinensis*; it is also known as *S. rothomagensis* and as the Rouen Lilac. There is a variety (var. *alba*) with pale pink, not very attractive flowers, and there are forms with flowers deeper red than those of the type, and with double flowers.

Syringa villosa is a large, very vigorous and hardy shrub from northern China which is now just beginning to open its flower-buds. The flowers are pale rose-color or rarely nearly white, and are produced in immense quantities in short broad clusters. In spite of the disagreeable odor of the flowers this is a valuable plant as it is one of the last of the true Lilacs to flower and greatly prolongs the season of Lilac flowers. Crossed with the Hungarian *S. Josikaea*, which is also now in flower, *S. villosa* has produced in Paris a hybrid race to which the name of *S. Henryi* has been given. One of these hybrids known as Lutèce is now in flower and is one of the handsomest of garden Lilacs. It is a large and vigorous shrub with large dark green leaves and great clusters of blue-purple flowers. Some of the new Chinese species will flower a little later and these will be followed by the tree Lilacs of northeastern Asia.

***Robinia Kelseyi*.** This Rose Acacia, which was discovered only a few years ago on the slopes of the southern Appalachian Mountains, proves a hardy and valuable garden plant. The flowers are smaller and lighter-colored than those of the well known Rose Acacia (*R. hispida*) which flowers a little later, and the branches are not covered with the viscid hairs to which the Rose Acacia owes its name. *R. Kelseyi* is a shrub sometimes growing from six to eleven feet high, with slender stems and branches, leaves composed of nine or eleven narrow lanceolate leaflets which are bronze color as they unfold, and short racemes appearing with the unfolding leaves and composed of from four to seven flowers produced from the axils of the leaves of short lateral young branchlets which grow from end to end of the branches of the previous year. Sometimes as many as four flower-

clusters are developed on one of the short lateral branchlets, and as the flowers in the upper clusters on the branchlet do not open until later than those of the lower clusters the plants are covered with fresh flowers for a long time. This Robinia will probably prove to be a better garden plant than the Rose Acacia, for although the flowers are not as large or of as deep rose-color it does not spread by underground stems, a habit which makes the Rose Acacia a weed which once established it is almost impossible to control.

The Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*). A colony of this handsome tree, which is very common in the southern states but at the north occurs in only a few isolated stations, is now established on Hickory Path near Centre Street, and this year the leafless branches have been well covered with the curious, dark-brown, bad-smelling flowers. Under favorable conditions the Pawpaw is sometimes a tree forty feet high with a tall stout trunk; it has handsome drooping, dark green leaves often a foot long and six inches wide, but it is chiefly interesting as the only extra-tropical North American tree, with the exception of some of the wild Plums, which produces edible fruit. This is borne in few-fruited clusters and is from three to five inches long and from an inch to an inch and a half in diameter, greenish yellow, becoming almost black when fully ripe with semitranslucent, sweet, luscious flesh. The ripe fruit does not bear transportation and is rarely sold in markets, and so is little known except to boys who live near Pawpaw thickets. The American Genetic Association, however, has now taken up the possibility of the improvement of this fruit and is offering prizes for information about the largest trees, and about trees, regardless of their size, which bear fruit of unusually good quality.

Rhododendron (*Azalea*) *calendulaceum*. Of the American Azaleas the pink-flowered *R. Vaseyi* and the Rhodora are already past blooming. The flowers of two other pink-flowered species, *R. canescens* and *R. nudiflorum*, are fast falling, but *R. calendulaceum* from the Appalachian Mountain slopes, the handsomest of the whole group, is now beginning to open its yellow or orange-colored flowers. This is a perfectly hardy shrub which can be found scattered through the roadside plantations in the Arboretum and in a large mass on the slope below Azalea Path where the variation in the color of the flowers can be studied. As a garden plant this is superior to any of the hybrids which have been in part derived from it. A large number of these hybrids were raised in Europe nearly a century ago by crossing *R. calendulaceum* with the American *R. viscosum* and the Caucasian *R. luteum*. These plants are usually known as Ghent Azaleas, but the correct name for them is *Rhododendron (Azalea) Mortierii*, for the Ghent baker named Mortier who raised a number of such hybrids. As found in nurseries these plants are all grafted and therefore do not grow so well as seedlings. The hardiness of many of them is reduced by the blood of the Caucasian species which is not hardy in this climate, and they are more or less valuable here as garden plants as the influence of the blood of the American species is greater or less. None of them surpass, however, *R. calendulaceum* in the beauty of their flowers and none of them are so long-lived or so satisfactory garden plants.

1916. "Robinia Kelseyi." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 2(7), 27–28. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320513>.

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