eastern Asia can only reach other gardens slowly for the plants in a large collection like that of the Arboretum hybridize so persistently that seedlings raised from seeds produced here are rarely like the seed parents, and the Arboretum Crabapples in their true form can only be obtained by grafting or budding.

Chinese Cotoneasters. The handsomest shrub in the Arboretum during nearly the entire month of September was a form from western China of *Cotoneaster racemiflora* which has been called variety *soongorica*. It is a tall shrub with spreading and drooping stems, pale leaves, white flowers, and large bright red fruits which completely cover the branches. Some of the Chinese species have more conspicuous flowers and handsomer foliage, but none of them have yet equalled in the Arboretum this inhabitant of the dry arid river valleys of western Szech'uan in the size, brilliancy and abundance of their fruits.

Cotoneaster divaricata. Of the large-growing Chinese species this is perhaps the handsomest at this time, for the small bright red fruits which are produced in great abundance make a handsome contrast with the small, dark green, shining leaves. The flowers of this shrub are small and bright rose color. The new Chinese Cotoneasters are best seen on the southern slope of Bussey Hill, and the collection will repay careful study as it contains some of the most valuable shrubs for American gardens of recent introduction.

The Sassafras. There is now no more beautiful tree on the margins of New England woods and by New England roadsides than the Sassafras, as the leaves have turned or are turning orange or yellow more or less tinged with red. The autumn colors of several trees are more brilliant but none of them equal the Sassafras in the warmth and delicacy of their autumn dress. The Sassafras is a handsome tree at other seasons of the year. In winter it is conspicuous by its deeply furrowed, dark cinnamon-gray bark and slender light green branches; in early spring before the leaves appear it is covered with innumerable clusters of small bright yellow flowers which make it at that season a conspicuous and delightful object. The leaves are thick, dark green and lustrous above, paler below, and vary remarkably in shape as they are sometimes deeply three-lobed at the apex and sometimes entire without a trace of lobes. The fruit is a bright blue berry surrounded at the base by the much enlarged and thickened scarlet calyx of the flower and raised on a long bright red stalk. No other northern tree produces such brilliantly colored fruit. Unfortunately there is little time to enjoy it for the birds eagerly seek it as it ripens. The living wood of the Sassafras is not attacked by borers and the leaves are not destroyed and are rarely disfigured by insects. The thick spongy roots of the Sassafras produce suckers freely and these with a little care can be easily and safely transplanted. How many persons now plant the Sassafras and in what American nursery can it be found? It was, however, one of the first North American trees carried to Europe as it was established in England some time before the middle of the seventeenth century. The American tree was believed to be the only Sassafras until 1879 when another species, *S. tzumu*, was discovered in central China. This tree is now in the Arboretum but its ability to grow here has not yet been established.

1916. "The Sassafras." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 2(14), 56–56. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320589>.

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