The Japanese Yew. The value of this plant for the northern states has been pointed out before in these Bulletins, and as the years pass its hardiness and value are confirmed by longer trial. There are three or four quite distinct forms of this plant. The one probably most often seen here grows as a large, vase-shaped shrub with several spreading stems. Plants of this sort have been raised in the Arboretum from the seeds of tall forest trees collected by Professor Sargent in Hokkaido. Among these plants there are some which are beginning to develop a single leader and promise to grow into trees. There is another form which is grown in some American nurseries under the unpublished name of variety *capitata*. This is merely a seminal form which begins to grow with a single leader with treelike habit as soon as the seeds germinate. For those who want the Japanese Yew in the form of a tree rather than a bush this form will best produce the desired results. Another bushy form with wide-spreading, nearly horizontal branches, which on plants thirty or forty years old often turn up at the ends and darker green leaves, is often seen in American gardens in which specimens only four or five feet high but sometimes twenty feet in diameter are found. In this country this variety is generally called variety *brevifolia*, but the correct name for it is var. *nana*. A dwarf, round-topped plant (var. *compacta*) is the smallest and most compact of all the forms of the Japanese Yew in this country. A good plant of this dwarf form can be seen in the Arboretum collection where it has been growing for many years. Plants intermediate between the varieties *compacta* and *nana*, differing in size and habit, are sometimes found in American gardens. What is probably the largest Japanese Yew in the United States is one of the bushy vase-shaped plants which was planted about 1870 by Dr. George R. Hall in his garden in Warren on Bristol Neck, Rhode Island. In October, 1889, this plant was twelve feet high and covered a space on the ground of forty feet round. In October, 1916, twenty-seven years later, it is twenty-two feet tall and covers a space one hundred and thirty-two feet round. In 1887 there were only a few fruits on this Yew, but this year it is bearing such a great crop that the berries make the whole plant look red. The foliage unfortunately is not dense, and the plant is evidently failing, probably from insufficient nourishment. The Japanese Yew is now reported to be perfectly hardy in central New Hampshire and in Minneapolis, Minnesota, parts of the country where the winter cold is much greater than it is in eastern Massachusetts, and there is no reason to doubt the statement which has been made that this Yew is the most valuable plant which Japan has furnished our north Atlantic states.

Sorbus commixta. This Japanese Mountain Ash was the first of the species from eastern Asia cultivated in the Arboretum where it was first planted in 1888. It is a common plant in Japan, and as it grows here it is a narrow tree with a tall clear stem, leaves composed of narrow leaflets, flower-clusters of moderate size and bright red fruits. It is chiefly interesting on account of the beautiful orange and red colors of the leaves which turn later and more brilliantly than those

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