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 There is another form which is grown in some American nurseries under the unpublished name of variety *capitata*.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

of the other Mountain Ashes in the collection. This tree is growing with other species of *Sorbus* on the right-hand side of the path leading into the Shrub Collection from the Forest Hills Gate.

***Berberis diaphana*.** In the early days of November no Barberry in the Arboretum equals this Chinese species in the brilliancy of its scarlet leaves. It is a low, broad, compact, round-topped shrub with small leaves which appear very late in the spring, usually solitary but large, pale yellow flowers and large oblong red fruits. The beauty, however, of this plant is chiefly found in its habit and in the color of the leaves in late autumn. There is a plant of this Barberry in the Shrub Collection and others in the supplementary Barberry Collection on Hickory Path near Centre Street.

***Crataegus Boyntonii*.** This small tree, which is a native of the Appalachian foothills from southwestern Virginia to Alabama, and one of the largest of the *Intricatae* Group, is well worth a place in collections of these plants for the brilliant orange and red colors of the leaves at this time. It has large flowers in few-flowered clusters, yellow anthers and nearly globose yellow-green fruit flushed with red which is still to be found on the plant in the Arboretum where it can be seen among the other *Intricatae* on the lower side of the road at the eastern base of Peter's Hill.

***Crataegus Buckleyi*.** This is another arborescent species of the *Intricatae*, which inhabits mountain slopes from two thousand to three thousand feet elevation from southwestern Virginia through western North Carolina to eastern Tennessee. It has flowers in more compact clusters than those of *C. Boyntonii*, rose-colored anthers, and sub-globose, red or russet-red fruit. The leaves of this little tree turn as brilliantly as those of the last named species near which it is growing.

An illustrated guide to the Arboretum containing a map showing the position of the different groups of plants has recently been published. It will be found useful to persons unfamiliar with the Arboretum. Copies of this guide can be obtained at the Administration Building in the Arboretum, from the Secretary of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, from The Houghton, Mifflin Company, 4 Park Street, Boston, and at the office of the Harvard Alumni Bulletin, 50 State Street, Boston. Price, 30 cents.

The subscription to these Bulletins is \$1.00 per year, payable in advance.

1916. "Sorbus commixta." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 2(17), 67–68. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320614>.

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