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MAY 29, 1918

The early spring. The cold of last December exceeded the cold of any previous December in Massachusetts of which there is a record, and now in this month there have been the hottest May days eastern Massachusetts has known since a record of temperature has been kept. April, too, was warm and dry, and even the early-flowering shrubs bloomed earlier than usual. Lilac flowers, which last year did not open in time for Decoration Day were fading this year by the 19th of May, and *Viburnum Lentago*, which usually blooms here about the middle of June was opening its flowers on the 20th of May and for the last ten days has been one of the conspicuous plants in the Arboretum. Many plants, especially Crabapples, Pears, Lilacs, Hawthorns, Honey-suckles and Viburnums have not before flowered more profusely and those which normally bloom a week or two apart have this spring flowered simultaneously, with the result that during one or two weeks more flowers have been open in the Arboretum than in any other weeks in its history. The spring, however, has not been a satisfactory one, so many plants have flowered together that visitors have been unable to enjoy them all; and flowers forced by excessive heat to open before their natural time have been short-lived. Plants crippled by the winter have further suffered by the heat and drought of May which have seriously interfered with the recovery of some plants.

Some early-flowering Rhododendrons. During the past week several Rhododendrons have been in flower. One of the handsomest of these plants, *Boule de Neige*, shows no effects of a hard winter. The leaves

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