green leaves which in early autumn turn orange and scarlet, and then are not surpassed in brilliancy by the leaves of any other American tree. The bright blue shining fruits, which are about two-thirds of an inch long, are also ornamental. This tree varies greatly in habit. Near the coast it is low with a broad, flat or rounded head. Such trees are common on Cape Cod and near the northern shore of Long Island Sound. In the interior, and on the slopes of the southern Appalachian Mountains, where it grows to its largest size, it is often a hundred feet high, with a tall massive trunk four or five feet in diameter and a narrow head of erect branches. Few American trees are better worth cultivating for the ornament of parks, but no one in these days plants a Sour Gum. The long hard roots make it difficult to transplant, and only small seedlings can be successfully moved. Those persons who care only for "immediate effect," the slogan of Americans of the twentieth century who believe that money only is needed to secure fully grown trees, have little use for the Sour Gum which wisely rebels against the modern method of tree-planting which menaces the future of too many American country estates.

**Cornus kousa.** The flower-buds of this eastern Asiatic representative of our Flowering Dogwood were not injured by the winter which ruined those of the American tree, and the Japanese form of *Cornus kousa* is now in bloom. It is a small tree or large shrub and the white bracts which surround the clusters of flowers are smaller than those of our native tree and are pointed. The form from western China has rather larger flower-bracts than those of the Japanese plant. The fact that the flower-buds of the Asiatic tree have not been injured by the cold of the past winter adds to its value.

**The Mountain Laurel (Kalmia latifolia)** is in bloom. Occasionally more plants on the bank at the northern base of Hemlock Hill have flowered than are flowering this year, but the display is much better than it was a year ago, and the Arboretum Laurels are now well worth a visit. The Mountain Laurel is a remarkable plant. It can be seen in full bloom near the shores of Mississippi Sound during the first week of April, and travelling north one can see its flowers every day until early July when the northern limit of its range in New Brunswick and the northern shore of Lake Erie is reached. It grows as well in New England as it does in regions where the climate is less rigorous, but in New England the plants never grow to the size they attain on the Blue Ridge of North and South Carolina about the headwaters of the Savannah and Little Tennessee Rivers. Few plants have more beautiful flowers; and the Mountain Laurel is a broad-leaved evergreen, and broad-leaved evergreens which are hardy in Massachusetts, with the exception of a few low under shrubs, can be almost counted on the fingers of one hand. For of these plants only the *Kalmia latifolia*, *Rhododendron catawbiense*, *R. maximum* and *Andromeda floribunda* can be absolutely depended on. A few more Rhododendrons might be added to the list, but after the experience of recent years it is not safe to say that any foreign species or any hybrid Rhododendron will prove hardy under all the weather conditions Massachusetts may experience.