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Horsechestnuts and Buckeyes. Horsechestnut as generally applied is the name of the Old World species of *Aesculus*, and Buckeye is commonly used for the American species of this genus. The Old World species which are found in southeastern Europe, on the Himalayas, in central and northern China and in Japan have white flowers often marked or tinged with yellow, but the flowers of the American species are yellow, red, scarlet, red and yellow, and white. The European species, however, are best distinguished from those of the New World by the resinous exudations which thickly cover their winter buds and are not found on those of the American species with the exception of the one which grows in California (*A. californica*). The original Horsechestnut, *Aesculus Hippocastanum*, long cultivated in western Europe but only in recent years known to be a native of the mountains of Greece, is the handsomest of the whole genus and one of the most splendid trees in the world. It was brought to America at least one hundred and fifty years ago, and there are noble specimens in many of the seaboard cities and towns of the eastern states. The Himalayan Horsechestnut and the species of central China are not hardy here; it has not yet been possible to establish the north China Horsechestnut in the Arboretum, but the Japanese species (*A. turbinata*) is hardy and grows fairly well here, although it is less satisfactory in cultivation and a less beautiful tree than the Grecian Horsechestnut. The earliest of these trees to flower here are the Ohio Buckeye and its varieties. They are small trees with small yellow or yellow-green flowers, and fruit covered like that of the Old World Horsechestnuts with prickles. These trees have no great value as ornamental trees, but are inter-

esting in having furnished from their fruit one of the great states of the union with its popular name. A related species, *A. arguta*, has not before bloomed so well in the Arboretum. It is a small yellow-flowered shrub, with leaves composed usually of nine narrow long-pointed leaflets, which has been found only in west central Oklahoma and in a few places in northern and central Texas. The yellow-flowered Appalachian species, *A. octandra*, the largest of the Buckeyes, blooms a little later, but a shrubby species from central Georgia (*A. georgiana*) is just now covered with its short compact clusters of large yellow and red flowers. Of recent discovery and introduction this Buckeye has proved a first-rate garden plant in this climate. *Aesculus Pavia*, the best known, in books at least, of the red-flowered southern Buckeyes, is in bloom this year for the first time in the Arboretum. An even more beautiful plant, the red-flowered variety of *A. discolor* (var. *mollis*) will be covered in a few days with its scarlet flowers. Generally distributed from the coast of North Carolina to southern Arkansas and western Texas, and when in flower one of the most brilliant plants of the south, it is a matter of congratulation that it can be grown successfully in Massachusetts. Many of the handsomest of the Horsechestnut-trees are natural hybrids. The first of these appeared in France more than a century ago and is evidently a cross of two American species, *A. octandra* and *A. Pavia*. There are many forms of this hybrid to which the general name *A. versicolor* has been given. The flowers are red and yellow in various degrees and some of these forms can be placed among the most beautiful of the Buckeyes. The next hybrid appeared many years ago in a nursery at Ghent in Belgium, evidently a cross between the common Horsechestnut and the American red-flowered *A. Pavia*. This is the common red-flowered Horsechestnut of gardens the name of which is *A. carnea*. The flowers vary from flesh color to the deep red of those of the tree known as *A. Briotii*. Trees of this and other varieties of the red-flowered Horsechestnut are now in bloom in the Horsechestnut Group on the right-hand side of the Meadow Road. A single tree of an interesting hybrid Buckeye, *A. Bushii*, was found a few years ago in the woods near Fulton on the Red River in Arkansas, evidently produced by the crossing of a form of *A. glabra* with the red-flowered *A. discolor* var. *mollis*. The original tree has disappeared but this hybrid is fortunately preserved in a tree growing on Peter's Hill in the Arboretum where it has flowered regularly for several years. This perhaps is the rarest tree in the Arboretum.

American Magnolias. Several of these trees are in bloom in the group on the right-hand side of the Jamaica Plain Gate. Unlike most of the Asiatic species the American Magnolias flower after the appearance of the leaves; they are hardy and handsome trees. A hundred and fifty years ago letters of English plant lovers written to their American correspondents contained many appeals for Magnolia plants and seeds, and in the early years of the nineteenth century these trees were to be found in the principal collections of plants in the middle states. To the present generation they are almost unknown, and it is only in a few American nurseries that an occasional plant of one or two of the species can be found. There are six of these Magnolias, but one of them, *M. pyramidata*, grows only in the extreme southeastern corner of Alabama and adjacent Florida, and would not

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