depends on knowledge which can only be obtained by the constant study at all seasons of the year of living plants. Opportunity for such study is found in the Arboretum, in which nearly every tree and shrub which can grow in the northern United States is established. The leaves on some individuals of a species turn more brilliantly than on other individuals of the same species and this individual character is constant from year to year. It is therefore possible to increase the number of trees with exceptionally handsome autumn foliage by grafting or budding, grafts or buds being taken from selected trees worked on stock of the same species, as trees with pyramidal or pendulous branches are propagated. The value of propagating trees for the autumn color of their leaves is shown by the Red Maple-tree which stands on the left-hand side of the Meadow Road directly opposite the entrance to the Administration Building. This tree was obtained by grafting a Red Maple seedling with a branch of a tree growing in Brookline with crimson autumn foliage. The leaves of the grafted tree have the same color as those of the Brookline tree, and for more than two weeks this tree has been the brilliant object of the Arboretum. Near it are standing two seedling Red Maples. The leaves of one of these trees turned pale yellow and are fast falling; from the other the nearly green leaves have already fallen.

Plants for the Edge of Beds of Large Shrubs. A correspondent of the Arboretum writes: "Can you recommend several shrubs suitable for edging planting before taller shrubs? I have used *Xanthorrhiza* considerably, but it is almost the only shrub that I find low enough for that purpose. I want to bring some Cornels down to the edge of a drive and I also want to plant in front of Privets and Thorns." There are not many shrubs with deciduous leaves which can be successfully used for this purpose. The best which has been tried in the Arboretum is the Fragrant Sumach (*Rhus canadensis*, or as it was formerly called *Rhus aromatica*). This widely distributed North American shrub rarely grows more than five feet tall, and when planted in good soil is often broader than tall with lower branches spreading flat on the ground, and upper branches erect spreading or drooping. In early spring before the leaves appear the branches are covered with clusters of small bright yellow flowers which in June are followed by dull red fruits which are pretty much hidden by the small compound leaves. Among the small shrubs in the Arboretum few are more brilliant at this season of the year for the leaves turn gradually to bright scarlet and orange. This *Rhus* has been largely planted along some of the drives and this week it is a conspicuous feature of the Arboretum. The *Xanthorrhiza* has also been largely and successfully used here. It makes a neat border plant, and it is also well suited to grow under tall shrubs or trees. The *Xanthorrhiza* spreads rapidly by underground stems which do not grow more than from twelve to eighteen inches high; the small purple flowers which are arranged in drooping clusters, appear as the leaves unfold; these are pinnate, of a cheerful green color and in the autumn turn pale yellow. Some of the North American Roses might be used to edge beds of larger shrubs although most of them are too upright in habit to be really useful for this purpose. There is a dwarf form of the Choke-berry (*Aronia nigra*) in the Arboretum collection which might be used to advantage for this

purpose. Unfortunately, however, it probably cannot be found in commercial nurseries. This is true, too, of the dwarf Quince of Japan (*Chaenomeles japonica*, sometimes called *Pyrus* or *Cydonis Maulei* in European nurseries). This is a shrub with spreading branches which do not rise more than two feet above the ground. The flowers vary on different plants from crimson to pink and to white, and are followed by small yellow, fragrant quince-like fruit. These handsome little shrubs, like the larger Quinces and many related plants, attract the San José scale, which needs careful watching and frequent spraying. All the Snowberries (*Symphoricarpus*) including the red-fruited *S. vulgaris* can be used in front of larger growing shrubs; and the trailing stems of one of the American Burning Bushes (*Evonymus obovatus*) make a good border when taller plants protect them from the direct rays of the sun. Some of the low-growing Chinese Cotoneasters, like *C. horizontalis* with its varieties *Wilsonii* and *perpusilla*, and *C. apiculata* are well suited in habit to plant before larger shrubs. If used, however, with Cornels or Privets they might appear too exotic, and their proper place is in front of beds of the large-growing Chinese Cotoneasters. Their value for this purpose can be seen on the southern slope of Bussey Hill where dwarf Cotoneasters have been planted before the large growing species. There are a few broad-leaved Evergreens which can be successfully used here to form an edging to beds of larger Evergreens. The best of them is probably *Andromeda floribunda* from the southern Appalachian Mountains, one of the hardiest and handsomest of the broad-leaved Evergreen plants which can be grown in this climate. It makes a good edging, and with abundant space a wide, symmetrical specimen. Two low hybrid Rhododendrons, *R. myrtifolium* and *R. arbutifolium* (*R. Wilsonii* of many gardens) are useful to plant on the margins of groups of taller growing kinds; and *R. carolinianum*, although it blooms earlier than most Rhododendrons which are hardy in this climate, might be used for the same purpose.

Crataegus in Autumn. A pretty good idea of the value of American Hawthorns as ornamental plants at this season of the year can be had by following the path which leads to the right just inside the gate at the Forest Hills entrance to the Arboretum. On the bank between this path and the boundary wall are a few Hawthorns which are now forty years old, and have grown to a good size in spite of the poor soil in which they were planted. Among them are *C. nitida*, *C. Dawsoniana*, *C. arkansana*, *C. Douglasii*, *C. aprica*, *C. pruinosa*, *C. succulenta*, *C. coccinioides*, *C. prunifolia* and *C. fecunda*. These trees are covered with ripe or ripening fruit; on some of them the leaves are still as green as they were in summer, on others they have assumed brilliant shades of scarlet and orange. American Hawthorns thrive in soil impregnated with lime; they can therefore be successfully grown over a large part of the United States where Rhododendrons, Azaleas, and related plants to which lime is fatal cannot be used. Little is known yet of the beauties of American Hawthorns as cultivated plants but enough has been seen of them at the Arboretum to show that among them are some of the most beautiful trees and shrubs which can be grown in this country especially in the middle western states where lime abounds and there are great extremes of temperature.

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