A Hybrid Shad Bush. In 1892 the Arboretum received from Heinrich Zabel, Superintendent of the Botanic Garden at Zurich, seeds of an Amelanchier which he had obtained from the Simon Louis Nursery near Metz, and called *Amelanchier canadensis grandiflora*. He considered, perhaps correctly, that his plant was a hybrid between *A. canadensis* and *A. laevis*. The leaves are certainly intermediate between those of these species; the flowers, however, are only just now open, nearly three weeks later than those of *A. canadensis* and ten days after the petals of *A. laevis* have fallen. The flowers, too, of this plant are larger than those of either of its supposed parents, and larger and more beautiful than those of any Amelanchier which has ever grown in the Arboretum. The Arboretum plants are large shrubs rather than trees, but they look as if they would have formed a single trunk if they had been pruned. Whatever may have been the origin of this plant, or whatever habit it may assume, it is, when in flower, the most beautiful of all the Amelanchiers, and this week one of the conspicuous plants in the Arboretum. Several other handsome and interesting Amelanchiers are also in bloom in the collection on the left-hand side of the Meadow Road. Among them is the species of China and Japan, *A. asiatica*, and *A. vulgaris* of Europe, the only Amelanchiers which grow naturally outside of North America. The curious northern *A. Bartramiana* with small flowers in one or few-flowered clusters, and four or five other species from the northeastern part of the country, are still in flower or are beginning to shed their petals. The Amelanchier collection, however, is by no means complete for several of the western species have not yet proved amenable to cultivation in the east.

The Buckeye Collection on the right hand side of the Meadow Road beyond the Lindens is in good condition, and the southern species recently introduced by the Arboretum into gardens will all flower well this year. Buckeye, it must be remembered, is the name by which American Horsechestnuts (*Aesculus*) are popularly known in the regions where these plants grow naturally. From the Horsechestnuts of the Old World they differ, except the California species, in the absence of a gummy exudation on their winter-buds. As in previous years the earliest of these American plants to bloom is the form with leaves of seven leaflets of the so-called Ohio Buckeye from western Missouri (*Aesculus glabra* var. *Buckleyi*). The flowers of another yellow-flowered species, *Aesculus arguta*, a small shrub from central Oklahoma and northern and central Texas, will soon follow. This interesting little plant is related to the Ohio Buckeye, from which it differs chiefly in the nine narrow leaflets of the leaves and in its small flowers. Beautiful interesting flowers will open on Buckeyes and Horsechestnuts during and several weeks.

Rhododendron (Azalea) Vaseyi. This species of the southern Appalachian Mountains, which after the Rhodora is the first of the American Azaleas to open its flowers in the Arboretum, is in bloom. The pure pink flowers appear on the leafless branches, and in delicacy and purity of color are not surpassed by the flowers of any other plant. It is only within comparatively recent years that this Azalea has been

known to botanists or has found its way into gardens. It is perfectly hardy; the flower-buds are not injured by severe cold, and in time it will grow into a tall usually rather narrow shrub. There are no large plants yet in the Arboretum, but many small ones have been planted during the last two or three years on the sides of the Meadow Road and by the pond at its junction with the Forest Hills Road.

Malus theifera, one of Wilson's discoveries in western China, with its long spreading and irregularly ascending branches has such an unusual and picturesque habit for a Crabapple that it is easy to recognize at any season of the year. When covered with its innumerable clusters of rose-red buds and pale rose-colored or nearly white flowers it is one of the handsomest of the Asiatic Crabapples. Judging by the behavior of several plants in the Arboretum, they flower only on alternate years. Last spring the largest specimen in the Peters' Hill group was covered with flowers; this year it has not produced a single flower-bud. The plant on the southern slope of Bussey Hill and a younger one in the group on the left hand side of the Forest Hills Road are now covered with flowers and are objects of interest and beauty.

A New Crabapple. Flowering branches of a remarkable new Crabapple have been sent to the Arboretum from a garden in Brookline. It is evidently a hybrid, and there can be little doubt that one of the parents is the curious variety of *Malus pumila* from Turkestan and southwestern Siberia known in gardens as *Malus Niedzwetzkyana*; the other might well be *Malus floribunda*. Of this species it has the slender branchlets and the pubescence on the young leaves which soon become nearly glabrous and green. The bark and wood are tinged with red and thus show the influence of *M. Niedzwetzkyana* as does the red juicy flesh of the fruit which ripens in October and is about an inch in diameter. As a garden plant the value of this new hybrid is in the color of the flowers which is dark rose-red, and much more beautiful than that of the flowers of *Malus atrosanguinea*, which is the common red-flowered Crabapple of gardens. The flowers are fully an inch and a quarter in diameter and are produced in as great profusion as those of *Malus floribunda*. In habit the three plants of this hybrid which are known resemble *M. floribunda* and are as hardy. The handsomest of all the red-flowered Apples which have yet been seen, this hybrid promises to be an important addition to garden plants. Unfortunately nothing is known of its history beyond the fact that the Massachusetts Nurseryman who sold them to their present owner bought them as *Malus Niedzwetzkyana* from some one whom he has forgotten.

1920. "Rhododendron (Azalea) Vaseyi." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 6(5), 19–20. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321032>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/216956>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321032>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/321032>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

BHL-SIL-FEDLINK

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.