grown on a large scale on the sandy now unused lands of our seacoast it will supply the cabinet-maker with wood which in quality and beauty equals that of the White Oak, the Black Walnut and the Wild Cherry. It is an interesting fact that although the *Ailanthus* is now known in all the countries of the world which enjoy a temperate climate its true home in China, that is the region where it is a really wild tree, is still unknown to European and American botanists who have now travelled in nearly all parts of the Celestial Empire. Two other species of *Ailanthus*, *A. Giraldui* and *A. Vilmoriniana*, are known, however, as wild trees in western China. The former which differs in the presence of prickles on the branches has not proved hardy in the Arboretum; the other, which chiefly differs from the common *Ailanthus* in the downy covering of the young branchlets, is now established here but has not yet produced flowers or fruits.

Mountain Ashes. The abundant flowers on these trees and shrubs last spring have been followed by an unusually heavy crop of fruit on most of the species, and Mountain Ashes have probably never been more beautiful in this part of the country than they are this autumn. Their fruit is now the most conspicuous in the Arboretum and deserves the attention of persons interested in plants which produce handsome and conspicuous fruits. There are two principal groups of Mountain Ashes in the Arboretum, one on the bank above the Shrub Collection and near the Forest Hills gate and the other on the left hand side of the Valley Road near and under the group of Swamp White Oaks. None of these plants have more abundant or brilliant fruits in larger clusters than the two Mountain Ashes of northeastern North America, *Sorbus americana* and its variety *decora* with broader leaflets and larger fruits. The value of these two trees is increased by the brilliant colors which their leaves will take on now in a few days. The various forms of the European species, *Sorbus Aucuparia*, in the collection are all fruiting well this autumn, the handsomest perhaps being a tree from northern Austria known as var. *moravica* or *dulcis*. This is a tall, slender, fast-growing tree with smooth bark, leaves with narrower leaflets than those of the common form, and larger and sweeter fruit which in its native country is used as food. The leaflets of the European Mountain Ash vary greatly in width, and in the group near the Forest Hills gate there is a handsome specimen of this tree with exceptionally narrow leaflets. The branches of the large plant of the Japanese *Sorbus commixta* in this group have never before been so weighed down by its clusters of small fruit although it has been growing in the Arboretum for more than thirty years. The bright orange and red autumn colors of the leaves add to the value of this tree. Near it a small plant of *Sorbus amurensis* from eastern Siberia is fruiting well for the first time in the Arboretum. The plants of *Sorbus pekinensis* which are in the Valley Road-Group have been covered with their large, open, drooping clusters of yellow fruit which is now beginning to fall. Both in spring and autumn this slender tree with narrow leaflets is handsome and conspicuous. It well deserves a place in collections of such plants. In this group, too, *Sorbus pohuashanensis*, so named from the mountain range in northern China, the Pohua-shan, where it was discovered, is covered with its erect clusters of large orange-red fruits. It is a handsome plant with leaflets broader than those of the common form of the European

Mountain Ash but no better for gardens in this country than that tree which is gradually becoming naturalized in this country. In the Arboretum, at least, the handsomest trees have sprung from seeds scattered by birds. One of the handsomest and certainly the most interesting Mountain Ash in the Arboretum is growing in the nursery near the top of Peter's Hill. It is a fast-growing tree of perfect shape, with a straight stem covered with smooth pale bark, leaves with unusually narrow leaflets, and wide, convex, compact clusters of pink fruit. No other Mountain Ash which is now known has fruit of this color. This tree which was grown in the Arboretum from seed was first thought to be a form of *S. pekinensis*; it is now believed to be a hybrid of *S. Aucuparia* and *S. pekinensis* to which the name of *S. Arnoldiana* has been given. In the convex, crowded clusters of flowers and fruits it shows the influence of the European plant; in the narrow leaflets and in the size of the small fruit it resembles *S. pekinensis*, while in color the fruit is intermediate between those of its supposed parents.

Autumn Colors. There is not yet any great show of brilliant colors in the Arboretum and the leaves of many trees, especially the Oaks, are as green as they were at midsummer, but as in northern New England the leaves of the Sugar Maples, the Birches and other northern trees are reported to be more brilliant than usual a good coloring of many trees may be expected before the end of the month. A few spots of bright color, however, are to be seen here, and these are mostly made by Asiatic trees and shrubs. Already the bright clear yellow leaves of the Siberian Cork-tree (*Phellodendron amurense*) have disappeared from this small tree which is most interesting in the thick, pale, deeply furrowed bark which covers the trunk and larger branches. Last week *Acer mandshuricum*, a Box Elder of northeastern Asia, with clear pure pink fading leaves was from the rarity of this autumn color the most interesting object in the Arboretum. This Maple is one of the largest and handsomest trees in Manchuria, but although other trees of the same region flourish here it has not yet found a place in the Arboretum which suits it, and as yet gives little promise of large size or old age. This is to be regretted for it is as beautiful in the spring as in the autumn, as the unfolding leaves are deep red. The leaves of a Japanese Burning Bush, *Evonymus alatus*, are just turning to the deep rose color which is unlike that of any other plant in the Arboretum at this season of the year and which makes it one of the most desirable of the perfectly hardy shrubs which can be used for the decoration of New England gardens. Very beautiful this autumn is a Chinese Sumach, *Rhus javanica*, which rivals our native species in the scarlet color of its leaves. This Sumach is a small round-headed tree which produces its large terminal clusters of white flowers at the end of July or in early August. The showy summer flowers and the brilliant October foliage should make this tree better known. In October the leaves of no North American tree are more brilliant than those of *Acer ginnala*, a Maple of eastern Siberia with deeply divided leaves and compact clusters of fragrant flowers. Unfortunately the leaves of this handsome tree fall soon after changing color.

1920. "Mountain Ashes." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 6(15), 59–60. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321072>.

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