ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY BULLETIN
OF
POPULAR INFORMATION

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

JUNE 30, 1921

A few late-flowering shrubs. As the summer advances the number of trees and shrubs in flower in the Arboretum rapidly diminishes and in the last week of June their number is not large. Some of the most interesting of them are

Rhododendron maximum, with its pink and white flowers an inch long, in dense sixteen- to fourteen-flowered umbels four or five inches in diameter and overtopped by the fully grown branches of the year developed from buds in the axils of leaves just below the inflorescence bud. This growth of the branches before the opening of the flower-buds occurs in most late flowering Rhododendrons and hiding, in part at least, the flowers obscures their beauty. *Rhododendron maximum*, nevertheless, is a handsome and useful plant, with leaves larger and handsomer than those of any other Rhododendron which is hardy in this climate. Rare at the north where it grows in cold deep swamps in a few isolated stations in Nova Scotia, Ontario and New England, it is very abundant on the Appalachian Mountains from Pennsylvania to Georgia, making great impenetrable thickets along all the mountain streams and occasionally growing to a height of thirty or forty feet and forming a trunk a foot in diameter. When cultivated this Rhododendron grows well in any soil which is not impregnated with lime; it will grow, too, in comparatively dense shade and when fully exposed to the sun. When exposed to the sun, however, it is often badly injured by the lacewing fly. Several hybrids between *R. maximum* and *R. catawbiense* hybrids have been raised. One of the earliest and the best known of these hybrids, *R. delicatissimum*, is a handsome plant with pink and white flowers which open two or three weeks before those of *R. maximum* and are not hidden by young branches. *Rhodo-*

dendron Wellsianum, another hybrid of the same parentage or perhaps a seedling with nearly white flowers opening from pale rose-colored buds, and marked by a conspicuous yellow blotch on the upper lobe of the corolla, is a handsome plant which was raised by Anthony Waterer at the Knaphill Nurseries; it has not always proved perfectly hardy, although this year it has bloomed well and rather later than *R. delicatissimum*. Hybrids of *R. maximum* with hybrids of *R. catawbiense* raised at Holm Lea by Charles Sander have handsome rose or rose pink flowers, but have often lost their flower-buds in severe winters.

Rhododendron minus, better known perhaps as *R. punctatum*, which has flowered unusually well this year, is still little known in American gardens. It is a plant of the southern Appalachian Piedmont region, and ascends on the Blue Ridge of the Carolinas to an altitude of at least three thousand feet. The small, pale, rose-colored flowers are produced in small clusters which, like those of *R. maximum*, are overtopped by the shoots of the year which begin to grow before the flower-buds open. This *Rhododendron* varies greatly in size, the largest plants growing at nearly the highest altitudes where individuals seven or eight feet high, and often forming in thickets, are not uncommon. Less attractive perhaps than *R. carolinianum*, with which it grows on the southern mountains, *R. minus* is well worth a place in the gardens of a region in which so few species of *Rhododendron* can be successfully grown as in Massachusetts. In northern Georgia there is a form of this plant (var. *Harbisonii*) with larger leaves and larger flowers in larger clusters which may be expected to make a handsome garden plant. It is not yet in cultivation.

Zenobia pulverulenta is flowering unusually early this year. A native of the coast of North Carolina, where it grows along the borders of swamps, this plant, which is one of the most beautiful shrubs of the American flora, is perfectly hardy in Massachusetts where it has flowered in the Arboretum for many years. *Zenobia* is related to the *Andromedas* and is chiefly distinguished by its open campanulate flowers and four-awned anthers. The leaves are deciduous, thickly covered with a glaucous bloom, and the ivory white flowers, which are about half an inch long and broad, are borne on slender arching stems and are arranged in axillary clusters forming terminal racemes from twelve to eighteen inches in length and arching from the upper part of the branches of the previous year. The form of *Zenobia* (var. *nitida*) with green leaves, that is destitute of the glaucous bloom, is a more common plant in North Carolina and is equally hardy in the Arboretum. *Zenobia* is occasionally seen in English gardens. Is there an American nursery in which this beautiful plant can be found?

Pieris (Lyonia) mariana is another late flowering *Andromeda*-like plant of the coast region of the eastern states from Rhode Island southward to Florida and Texas. Not as handsome as *Zenobia*, with green leaves and smaller white flowers in shorter erect clusters, this *Pieris* is well worth a place in the garden where it is not particular about soil and grows nearly as well in dry gravelly sand as in rich loam. It is one of the common plants on the sandy plains of Long Island.

1921. "Rhododendron maximum." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 7(12), 45–46. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321144>.

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