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On the morning of November 26th eastern Massachusetts was visited by a storm of frozen rain which was more serious in its injury to trees than any previous storm of this character in the state of which there is an authentic record. Branches of trees were covered with a coat of ice often in the case of terminal branchlets several times thicker than their diameter, making a load which taxed the strength of the strongest trees. The amount of the rainfall varied in different parts of the region affected and the damage to trees was often local. Fortunately the rain was not accompanied by a high wind. For some reason not easy to explain the damage was largely confined to trees with deciduous leaves, and conifers were generally uninjured. Even the White Pine (*Pinus Strobus*) suffered rarely, although no tree which grows naturally in Massachusetts has more brittle branches which are usually broken by storms of this character. Fortunately the Arboretum was on the edge of the region of greatest damage, and in Franklin Park and Forest Hills Cemetery only half a mile to the southward trees were not injured. In the Arboretum the injury was confined to the region east and south of the summit of Bussey Hill, to the neighborhood of the Centre Street Gate, and in a less degree to the southern slope and to the summit of Peter's Hill. The trees which were most injured were the Willows in the belt along the northern margin of the north meadow which makes the boundary between the Arboretum and the Boston Parkway. These Willows lost many large and small branches but will soon recover. The damage to Birch-trees was more serious and no other group of trees here has suffered so severely. Nearly every plant in the collection was injured and the damage to the River Birches

(*Betula nigra*) was serious. It has been necessary to remove entirely two large specimens and the others were badly mutilated. The trees in the group of Green Ashes (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) suffered almost as much as the River Birches although other Ash-trees growing in the same general region on the northeastern slope of Bussey Hill escaped injury. Although the Elm-trees of eastern Massachusetts were more mutilated by this storm than other trees, the Elms in the Arboretum escaped serious injury with the exception of the plants of the Asiatic *Ulmus pumila* on Bussey Hill Road above the Lilac Collection. These were badly broken, including the fine form of this tree from Turkestan. This was one of the rarest and most interesting trees in the Arboretum. It is not dead and new trees can be propagated from it, but twenty or thirty years must pass before the Arboretum can show its visitors such a handsome specimen of this tree as the one which was injured by the November storm. Hickory-trees, in spite of their strong tough branches have been generally much injured in the storm area, and in the Arboretum a few trees of the species with slender branchlets, like the Bitternut (*Carya cordiformis*) and the others with small fruit (*C. glabra* and *C. ovalis* and its varieties) have lost a great deal of wood. Fortunately the Arboretum's large specimen of the Pecan-tree was uninjured. In the Poplar Collection on the southern slope of Peter's Hill the trees of the Siberian *Populus laurifolia* were badly broken, as were the two largest specimens of the Chinese *Populus Simonii*. The trees of *Populus Maximowiczii* from northeastern Asia growing with these species did not lose a twig. This is a matter of congratulation for this is one of the handsomest of all Poplar-trees, and of the trees with deciduous leaves brought from Asia to North America in recent years it is the one which promises the greatest usefulness here. Although the storm brought to the ground many hundred loads of branches and left few deciduous-leaved trees entirely free of injury, the Arboretum as compared with other parts of the state has been fortunate; its important collections are generally still in good condition and the injuries will soon disappear.

On the morning of February 17th the thermometer in the Arboretum registered 12° below zero. This and the following were the only really cold days of the winter and were followed by several weeks of unusually mild weather. It is not possible yet to determine the damage caused by the low temperature of February. It has evidently injured the flower-buds of a number of plants. In Massachusetts orchards the buds of Peach-trees appear to have been generally killed. On April 12 the pink and white-flowered forms of the wild Peach of northern China (*Prunus Davidiana*) were in bloom, although not more than ten per cent. of the buds were able to open. The flowering of Forsythias will on many plants be again irregular and poor as many flower-buds are killed. The north China *Rhododendron mucronulatum* was first raised in the Arboretum in 1882. It is the earliest of the Rhododendrons and Azaleas to flower, and only occasionally in past years have the flower-buds been injured. A few of the plants under the shade of Pine-trees on the lower side of Azalea Path were covered last week with their rose-colored flowers, but on other plants growing near them but beyond the shade of the Pines every flower-bud had been killed.

The buds of the Japanese *Corylopsis Gotoana* have for the first time been injured, and those of *C. pauciflora*, which has never been very hardy in the Arboretum, are destroyed.

As compared with last year the season is a late one. The Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) was in flower, however, on the 15th of March, only six days later than last year. Other flowers which were to be seen in the Arboretum this year in March were those of half a dozen species of Hazel (*Corylus*), *Salix acutifolia*, *S. gracilistyla*, the native *Alnus incana*, and those of several exotic Alders. On March 29th the native Arbor Vitae (*Thuja occidentalis*) and the native White Cedar (*Chamæcyparis thyoides*) were in bloom.

Magnolia stellata. On March 26th last year the flowers of *Magnolia stellata* were opening; this year the plants in front of the Administration Building were nearly in full bloom on April 15th and have not yet been injured by the late frost which often destroys their flowers after they have opened. This *Magnolia* is a perfectly hardy shrub of excellent habit and good foliage; it never fails to cover itself with flower-buds, and if it could be persuaded to bloom two weeks later it would be one of the best plants for the decoration of small New England gardens which has been brought from Japan.

The Siberian *Rhododendron dahuricum* blooms as early or a little later than *R. mucronulatum*, but the flowers are more sensitive to cold than those of that plant and are usually disfigured or destroyed by frost after they have opened. Although some of the flower-buds had been killed on the plants on Azalea Path, they were well covered with expanded flowers by the 12th of April and have not yet been injured. The variety with persistent leaves (var. *sempervirens*) has lost more of its flower-buds than the typical deciduous-leaved plant. Like *Magnolia stellata* this little *Rhododendron* would be a better garden plant in New England if it would flower two or three weeks later.

Erica carnea began to flower in the Shrub Collection during the first week in April. This is a common European plant often covering in the northern countries considerable areas of sandy or gravelly soil. It is an evergreen plant only a few inches high, with dark green leaves and small rose-red flowers. There is also a variety with white flowers. This is an excellent plant for the rock garden or to form the edging for walks. When it finds the soil and position which suit it it will soon spread into a broad mat. There are no Heaths native to the New World, and the neighborhood of Cape Town in South Africa, where there are some four hundred species, is the place where they are most abundant. They flourish, too, in the countries adjacent to the Mediterranean and in central Europe but of them all only *Erica carnea* is really hardy in New England, although one or two other species, especially *E. Tetralix*, can with care be kept alive here for a few years.

Prinsepia sinensis is covered with its bright yellow flowers. It is a hardy shrub with long gracefully ascending and spreading branches furnished with stout spines, and covered with bright green leaves which are almost the first to appear on any plant in the Arboretum and are

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