tined to play an important part in the decoration of parks and gardens in the northeastern United States where few *Rhododendrons* or other broad-leaved evergreen plants can be grown. They are as hardy as the hardiest of the *catawbiense* hybrids, and flowering two or three weeks later than these prolong the flowering time of hybrid *Rhododendrons* into July, that is to the time when the conspicuous flowering of trees and shrubs is not abundant.

Schizophragma hydrangeoides, now that it has at last, after forty years of failure, found a place that suits it on the east side of the Administration Building, is growing rapidly and promises to cover as much space as the great plant of the Japanese Climbing Hydrangea which is its neighbor. It is already half way to the top of the building, and its value as a flowering plant in July is now shown by its conspicuous flower-clusters. The Japanese *Schizophragma* now grows as rapidly as the Climbing Hydrangea and clings as firmly to a brick wall. The leaves are smaller, more circular in shape, more coarsely toothed and darker and duller in color. The inflorescence, which is terminal on short lateral branchlets, which stand out from the stems, is interesting but not perhaps as showy as that of the Hydrangea, for instead of the surrounding ring of neutral flowers there are only two neutral flowers to each of the divisions to the large compound cluster of perfect flowers; these neutral flowers are snow white, ovate, often an inch or more long, and hang on long slender stems an inch in length. *Schizophragma hydrangeoides* seems to be a rare plant in American and European gardens, and in this country *Hydrangea petiolaris* is often sold for it. The Chinese species, *S. integrifolia* introduced by Wilson, has not yet found a place in the Arboretum which suits it, and has not proved hardy here. It is a handsomer plant than the Japanese species with much larger sterile flowers.

Decumaria barbara is another climbing plant of the Saxifrage Family which is now flowering in the Arboretum Nursery. It grows naturally by the banks of streams and in swamps from southeastern Virginia to central and western Florida, western Louisiana, and western Tennessee, often climbing up the trunks of trees by its aerial roots to the height of thirty feet. This handsome and interesting plant has dark green and lustrous leaves, small, white, fragrant flowers in large, terminal, compound clusters, and capsular, urn-shaped fruit with a persistent style and stigma. It is rare in gardens, certainly in those of the northeastern United States, but there is an old and well established plant in that of Mr. N. T. Kidder in Milton, Massachusetts, which flowers every year. It is now growing well and promises to become established in the Arboretum. The Chinese species introduced by Wilson is growing well in a cold pit here but has not yet flowered.

Itea virginica, another plant of the Saxifrage Family, was in flower last week in the Shrub Collection. It is a shrub two or three feet high, with simple, alternate, minutely serrate, deciduous leaves and small white flowers in terminal erect racemes. This interesting little plant is widely distributed from New Jersey to Florida and Louisiana, and northward to Missouri and southern Illinois, ascending on the Car-

olina Mountains to altitudes of from two thousand to two thousand five hundred feet. It grows usually in swamps. The beautiful species introduced by Wilson from central China with persistent leaves, *I. ilicifolia*, is not hardy here.

Ceanothus pallidus plenus is the only one of the hybrid Ceanothus tried in the Arboretum which has proved hardy. It has been growing here since 1889 and is an attractive shrub of dwarf compact habit which every year late in June covers itself with clusters of pale pink double flowers. It is believed to be a hybrid of *C. ovatus* and *C. Delilianus* which is a hybrid of *C. americanus* and *C. coeruleus*, a Mexican species often called *azureus*. Hybrid Ceanothus are popular plants in Europe, especially in France and Germany, but are not often seen in this country although south of New England many of them would probably flourish. Ceanothus is an American genus with three species in the eastern United States; it is represented by a few species in the Rocky Mountain region and is most abundant in California where several beautiful plants of this genus occur, and in Mexico. The two species of the northeastern states, *C. americanus* and *C. ovatus* with its variety *pubescens*, and the Colorado *C. Fendleri*, are the only species which are hardy in the Arboretum. The northeastern species are attractive small shrubs with white flowers and are good plants to naturalize on the borders of woods and by the side of roads. *Ceanothus Gloire de Versailles*, a form of *C. coeruleus* with bright blue flowers is one of the popular garden plants in temperate Europe and might well be grown in the gardens of the middle states.

Two Japanese Hollies with deciduous leaves and red fruit, *Ilex serrata* and *I. geniculata*, are in flower on Hickory Path near Centre Street. The berries of the former are smaller than those of our native Black Alder, *I. verticellata*, but they are of a brighter color and remain on the branches although changed in color by severe cold until the leaves of the following year are fully grown, and in the autumn the leafless branches covered with fruit are sold in great quantities in the streets of Tokyo and other Japanese cities. *Ilex geniculata* is a delightful little plant with small bright scarlet fruit gracefully hanging on long slender stems. Little known, it is a plant for any garden.

The ripening of fruits has already begun and the varied and beautiful fruit of many trees and shrubs will make the Arboretum an interesting place to visit for several months, and one of the best places in America to supply birds with food. Although not yet ripe, the bright red "keys" of the Tartarian Maple are now the showiest fruits in the Arboretum. They are the chief ornament of this hardy little tree of southeastern Europe and western Asia (*Acer tataricum*), many years ago much more often seen in American gardens than it is now. The fruit on several Bush Honeysuckles is ripe or nearly ripe. A few of the most conspicuous of these plants now are those of the hybrids of the Tartarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*), called *L. bella*, *L. muendeniensis*, and *L. notha*. There are varieties, too, of *L. tatarica* with red and with yellow fruit which are attractive at this season of the year and the bright yellow flowers of *Lonicera Ruprechtiana* var. *canthocarpa*

1922. "Itea virginica." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 8(14), 54–55. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321268>.

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