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Laburnums, small European trees or large shrubs, sometimes called "Golden Rain," can furnish our gardens in June and early July with the handsomest yellow flowered trees which can be grown in this climate. The best known Laburnum in this country is *Laburnum anagyroides*, or as it is more often called *Laburnum vulgare*. This is a native of central and southern Europe and a shapely tree from twenty to thirty feet in height. It is one of the most generally planted and popular exotic plants in England and probably was brought early to the United States where it has been more generally planted than the other Laburnums. Although not always perfectly hardy in Massachusetts large plants are occasionally found in the neighborhood of Boston and these are now covered with their drooping racemes of golden colored flowers. A number of varieties of *Laburnum anagyroides* are propagated in European nurseries but these are curiosities and certainly not better as garden plants than the type of the species. One of the most distinct of the abnormal forms, var. *bullatum*, with its curiously twisted and contorted leaflets is now in bloom in the Arboretum. The Scotch Laburnum (*L. alpinum*), probably so called because it is a most cultivated and favorite garden plant in Scotland, flowers later than *L. anagyroides* and is a hardier plant in this part of the country with longer racemes of flowers. When the plants growing in the Arboretum are covered with their long drooping flower clusters they are objects of great beauty and it is surprising how little this plant is known to American garden makers. Another Laburnum, *L. Watereri*, a natural hybrid between *L. alpinum* and *L. anagyroides*, which is intermediate between its parents in botanical characters and in the time of flowering, and is a beau-

tiful small tree better suited to the New England climate than *L. angustifolia*, and a good plant for the decoration of a June garden. *L. Watereri* appears to be little known in this country. The third species of Laburnum, *L. caramanicum*, a native of Greece and Asia Minor, has been planted in the Arboretum but has not proved hardy here.

Arborescent Viburnums. Four Viburnums assume the habit of small trees in the Arboretum. Three of these are eastern American, *V. prunifolium*, *V. Lentago* and *V. rufidulum*, and one is Japanese, *V. Sieboldii*. *Viburnum prunifolium*, which is known popularly as the Black Haw, is a common shrub in the middle Atlantic states where in early spring, on rocky hillsides and along roadsides and the borders of woods, it rivals in the beauty of its flowers the flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*) which naturally grows in open woods and not in such exposed positions as the Black Haw. *Viburnum nudiflorum* is a large arborescent shrub or a small tree rarely thirty feet high, with a short trunk usually less than a foot in diameter, rigid spreading branches beset with slender spine-like branchlets, ovate to suborbicular, thick, dark green and lustrous leaves which, handsome through the summer, are splendid in the autumn with their dark vinous red or scarlet colors. The white flowers in slightly convex clusters have been produced here this spring in the greatest profusion; in the autumn they will be followed by red-stemmed drooping clusters of dark blue fruit covered with a glaucous bloom, and from half an inch to three-quarters of an inch long. The Black Haw, which is one of the handsomest of the small trees of the eastern United States, takes kindly to cultivation and is quite hardy north of the region of its natural distribution which is in southern Connecticut. It has generally escaped the attention of American nurserymen who in recent years have made better known our northern arborescent *Viburnum Lentago*, the Sheepberry or Nannyberry, a usually larger and for some persons a handsomer plant. The flowers, which are arranged in larger and rather flatter clusters, are pale cream color and not white, but the fruit is as handsome as that of the Black Haw and rather larger. The leaves, too, are larger, equally lustrous, and also assume brilliant autumn colors. This Viburnum can grow in the shade of larger trees or in open situations which it prefers. In both May and early June the Arboretum owes much beauty to the flowers of these tree Viburnums, especially to those of *V. Lentago* which has been planted in large numbers along the drives and in the border plantations and is now covered with flowers. *Viburnum Jackii*, evidently a hybrid between *V. Lentago* and *V. prunifolium* with characters intermediate between those of its parents, was detected a few years ago by Professor Jack in one of the Arboretum plantations. An interesting plant it is not more valuable for the decoration of gardens than either of its parents. More beautiful than the Black Haw or the Nannyberry, the common tree Viburnum of the southern states, *V. rufidulum* is perhaps the handsomest of all the Viburnums with deciduous leaves. When it has grown under the most favorable conditions this Viburnum is a tree often forty feet high, with a tall stout trunk and branches which spread nearly at right angles from it; the leaves are thick, dark green and lustrous on the upper surface, with winged stalks covered, as are the winter-buds, with a thick felt

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