Cotinus americanus is a relative of the European and Asiatic Smoke-tree (*Cotinus coggygia*), an old inhabitant of American gardens where it is much better known than the American plant. The "smoke" of the Old World plant, which is its chief beauty, is composed of the large clusters of the hairy stems of abortive flowers, differing in color from yellow-green to red. The "smoke" of the American plant is much less conspicuous, and its value as a garden plant consists in the brilliant scarlet and orange tones of its leaves in autumn. The American *Cotinus* is quite hardy in the Arboretum where it has been growing since 1882. For many years this tree or shrub was known only in what is now eastern Oklahoma; later it was found always in comparatively small isolated stations in southern Missouri, western Arkansas, northern Alabama, and on the banks of the Ohio River in Davies County, Ohio. Its real home, however, is in western Texas where it spreads over thousands of acres of mountain cañons and high hillsides, growing there usually as a low shrub.

Some Shrubs of the Heath Family. Of all the shrubs in the Arboretum not one surpasses or perhaps equals the High Bush Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) in the splendor of the crimson of its leaves in autumn. It is handsome, too, in early spring, when its white, bell-shaped flowers open, and in August and September when the blue-black fruit covers the branches. A native of swamps, the High Bush Blueberry grows equally well here in dry gravelly soil, and the best plants in the Arboretum are on Bussey Hill near the entrance to Azalea Path from opposite the Overlook. The autumn color of the leaves of the other northern Blueberries and Huckleberries (*Gaylussacia*) is as brilliant as that of the High Bush Blueberry and some of these smaller plants, especially *Vaccinium pennsylvanicum*, the dwarfest of them, are invaluable for covering dry ground under Oaks and other hardwood trees. The white flowers are attractive; the bluish black berries, which are the earliest blueberries to ripen, have a fair flavor, and during a month or more in autumn the plants form broad masses of scarlet only a few inches high and more brilliant in color than that of the flowers of the Heather on the highlands of Scotland. Every encouragement, with excellent results, has been given in the Arboretum to the spread of these dwarf Blueberries.

Rhododendrons in autumn. The leaves of some of the American species with deciduous leaves (Azalea) are nearly as brilliant in autumn as those of the Blueberries, and their autumn colors greatly add to the value of these plants for the decoration of parks and gardens. For autumn beauty the yellow or flame-colored *R. calendulaceum* is the most conspicuous this year. But *R. dahuricum* from Siberia, one of the true Rhododendrons with deciduous leaves, growing by Azalea Path, is now in its autumn dress one of the conspicuous plants of the Arboretum and far more attractive than it was in early spring when its small rose-colored flowers were open.

Enkianthus. The Japanese species of this Asiatic genus of the Heath Family all grow well in the Arboretum and the group of these plants on the lower side of Azalea Path furnish pleasure to many persons in spring when they are covered with bell-shaped flowers, and in

late October when the leaves are of the brightest scarlet. The handsomest of these plants in the autumn, *Enkianthus perulatus*, is a compact round-headed shrub with white flowers. This is a popular plant in Japan and can be seen in many Japanese gardens cut into a round ball. It has never produced seeds in the Arboretum and has remained exceedingly rare in this country. More common is *E. campanulatus* which is sometimes in Japan a tree twenty-five or thirty feet high and which in the Arboretum has grown from seed in thirty years into a narrow shrub eight or ten feet tall. The yellow flowers tinged with red, or in one variety pure white, hanging gracefully in long racemes, are attractive. The plants produce quantities of seeds every year, and there is no reason why this beautiful shrub should not become a common garden plant in those parts of America where the soil is free of lime.

Dwarf Hawthorns. Many of these plants which were entirely overlooked by botanists until toward the end of the last century prove to be worth more general attention than gardeners have learned to give them. Some eighty species of these dwarfs have been distinguished. They are most abundant in Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio and Michigan, occurring as far north as Massachusetts and southward to Alabama. In the great Crataegus region west of the Mississippi River, in southern Missouri, Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma they are comparatively rare. Nearly all the species have large and conspicuous flowers in few-flowered clusters and handsome red or yellow fruit. Many of the dwarf plants are now well established in the Arboretum, and flowers and fruits are produced freely by several of them. Some of these plants are worth cultivating for the beauty of their autumn foliage which is not surpassed by that of any of the larger growing American Hawthorns. The Arboretum group of these dwarf plants at the eastern base of Peter's Hill, on the lower side of the road, is just now worth a visit. Many of the plants are covered with fruit and distinct and variously colored foliage.

Yellow leaves. The autumn picture owes much to the different shades of yellow to which the leaves of many plants turn in the autumn. Yellow leaves, especially those of many Maples, Birches, several Elms, Hickories and Poplars, however, ripen and often fall before the foliage of Oaks and many other trees and shrubs assume the red color of their autumn foliage. The yellow leaves of the Tulip-tree, the Japanese Cercidiphyllum, the Virgilia (*Cladastris lutea*), the Kentucky Coffee-tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) are conspicuous at this time. Conspicuous, too, now with their yellow leaves are the American Witch Hazels, *Hammamelis virginiana*, already in flower, and the winter-blooming *H. vernalis* with autumn leaves probably more beautiful in the delicate yellow tints of its fading leaves than any other plant in the Arboretum with yellow autumn foliage.

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