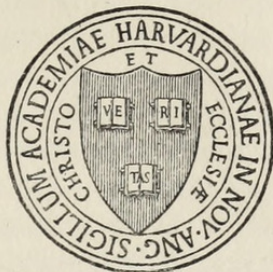


ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



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Horsechestnuts and Buckeyes. These are the English names of the species of the genus *Aesculus* which are widely distributed in the northern hemisphere, with one species in southeastern Europe, two in northern India, two in China, one in Japan, one in southern California, and seven with numerous varieties and hybrids in the southeastern United States. The Arboretum Collection is a good one but the Indian, one of the Chinese, the Californian, and one of the eastern North American species have not proved hardy here. It is arranged on the valley road beyond the Lindens, and many of the plants are now in flower. Horsechestnuts and Buckeyes differ in the presence of a resinous covering on the winter buds of the Old World and Californian species (Horsechestnuts) and in its absence from those of the other American species (Buckeyes). The European species (*Aesculus Hippocastanum*), a native of the mountains of Greece, is when in flower one of the most splendid trees which can be grown in the northern states when it can be planted in deep, rich, damp but well drained soil remote from the dust and dirt of large cities. This tree was first cultivated in England in 1633, having probably been sent there from Constantinople. The first knowledge we have of it in the United States was on April 18, 1746, when seeds were received by John Bartram of Philadelphia. There is now no evidence that it was planted at Mt. Vernon by Washington, who was a constant visitor at Bartram's garden, and the Arboretum does not know of any very large or old trees in the neighborhood of Philadelphia or New York. The handsomest Grecian Horsechestnut seen in the United States by officers of the Arboretum is in a garden in Salem, Massachusetts. This tree was planted one

hundred and ten years ago and is now seventy feet high with a trunk ten feet in girth and a perfectly shaped head eighty feet across. There are several varieties of the Grecian Horsechestnut in cultivation but none of them grow to such a large size or are as handsome in habit or in their flowers as the original tree. The double flowers of one of these abnormal varieties, however, have the advantage of lasting longer on the tree before fading. Among the red- and pink-flowered Horsechestnut trees, hybrids of *A. Hippocastanum* and a red-flowered American Buckeye, probably *A. Pavia*, are often handsome trees. The best known of these hybrids, *A. carnea*, which originated a good many years ago in Europe, is now a common tree in the suburbs of Boston. More conspicuous is a form of that tree with deep red flowers known in nurseries as *Aesculus Briottii* which was first raised in France. The trees in the Arboretum of this variety are now full of flowers.

Aesculus turbinata, the Japanese Horsechestnut, first introduced into the Arboretum in 1881, is in Japan a magnificent tree, often growing to the height of eighty or ninety feet and forming a tall trunk occasionally seven feet in diameter. Like the European Horsechestnut, the leaves are composed of seven leaflets but these are thinner and more lustrous and the leaf-stalks are longer. The Japanese tree in summer therefore appears less dark and massive than the Grecian species. The flower-clusters are narrower and the flowers, which are white with scarlet marking at the base of the petals, are handsomer. *Aesculus turbinata*, which grows to its largest size in central and northern Japan, is hardy in New England.

Eastern American Horsechestnuts and their hybrids are interesting trees but have none of the splendor when in flower which gives so great value to the European species and some of its hybrids. The largest American specimens in the Arboretum are two trees of the Ohio Buckeye (*A. glabra*) close to the left hand side of the South Street entrance. These are among the oldest trees planted in the Arboretum as they were raised from seeds gathered in Ohio in 1873. Several of the self-sown seedlings of these trees are now flowering in the general collection on the right hand side of the Meadow Road. The var. *Buckleyi* of *A. glabra* is the first of the Buckeyes to bloom in the Arboretum. This is a rare tree most abundant in Jackson County, Missouri, and is distinguished by the seven instead of the five leaflets. A little later to flower than the typical plant is the variety *leucodermis*, distinguished by its smooth pale bark and glabrous leaves pale green or glaucous below. This is the common form in southern Missouri, Arkansas and probably Oklahoma. A related species, *A. arguta*, is now covered with its yellow flowers; this is a small narrow shrub tree-like in habit but only a few feet tall which has been found in west central Oklahoma and in a few places in northern and central Texas. This should prove an excellent May and June flowering shrub for small gardens. *Aesculus georgiana* is covered again with its compact clusters of large red and yellow flowers, and is certainly one of the best of the plants which have been brought into our gardens in recent years by the Arboretum. When first discovered it was believed to be confined



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