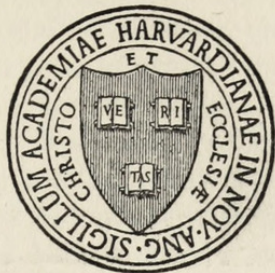


ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



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The Value of Native Shrubs for the decoration of American parks and gardens has we believe been demonstrated by the Arboretum and has never been more clearly shown than during the past month. The flowers of the late-flowering *Viburnums* have been conspicuous during the whole month of June. There are four of these species which deserve the attention of garden makers. The flowers of the earliest, *Viburnum dentatum*, have already passed. This shrub has handsome dark green leaves conspicuously toothed on the margins, and broad flat clusters of white flowers which are followed in early autumn by bright blue fruits on erect stems. This is a common roadside shrub in the northeastern part of the country. The second of these plants, *V. cas-sinoides*, has also flowered. It is a native of swamps in the north-eastern part of the country where it sometimes grows nearly twenty feet high with slender, straggling stems; in cultivation it forms a broad, low, round-topped bush and has proved one of the handsomest of the *Viburnums* in the Arboretum. The leaves are thick and lustrous, varying greatly in size and shape; the flowers, which are slightly tinged with yellow and open in slightly convex clusters, vary greatly in size; the fruit is larger than that of some of the early-flowering American species, and at first yellow-green later becomes pink and finally black covered with a pale bloom, fruit of the three colors occurring in the early autumn in the same cluster. The third of these late *Viburnums*, *V. pubescens*, resembles in general appearance *V. den-tatum* but flowers two weeks later and the young branchlets and lower surface of the leaves are thickly covered with a coat of stellate hairs. This *Viburnum* is found growing naturally only in the neighborhood of

the coast from Cape Cod and Nantucket to New Jersey. A larger and handsomer plant, with showier flowers and larger later-ripening fruit, *V. Canbyi* is the fourth of these species. It is the last of all the Viburnums in the Arboretum to flower. There are specimens of this plant on the right hand side of the entrance to the Administration Building which are now ten or twelve feet high and as much in diameter and covered with flowers. This is the largest and handsomest of American Viburnums and by some botanists is considered a variety of *V. pubescens* which it somewhat resembles; but the leaves and flower-clusters are larger and it blooms ten or twelve days later, and the flowers and fruits are larger. Its home, too, is not on the seacoast but in northern Delaware and the adjacent parts of Pennsylvania, and in central Indiana. This Viburnum reproduces itself from seeds and there is therefore no reason why it should remain so rare in gardens.

Two other native plants, *Cornus racemosa* and *Rosa virginiana*, are in bloom and the pure pink flowers of the Rose harmonize so well with the cream white flowers of *Cornus racemosa* that these two plants can well be used together in natural planting. *R. virginiana* is confined to the northeastern seaboard region of the continent and in its best form is a tall shrub with lustrous leaves and pure pink flowers which now perfume the borders of the roads in some parts of the Arboretum. This Rose has been used successfully on the left hand side of the Valley Road in the border between the road and the gravel path and it is, with the exception perhaps of the Prairie Rose, the handsomest of the North American species, beautiful when in flower, in the autumn with its yellow leaves and handsome fruit, and in winter with its shining bright red fruit.

Cornus rugosa, or *C. circinata*, the name by which it is best known, is a shrub sometimes ten feet high which with plenty of space spreads into a broad bush. The young branches are green blotched with purple, becoming purple as they grow older; the leaves are broad, sometimes nearly circular and dark bluish green; the flowers are ivory white, in compact clusters, and are followed in the early autumn by bright blue or nearly white fruits. It can be seen in the Cornel Group at the junction of the Meadow and the Bussey Hill Roads, and there are masses of it among the Hickories in the groups of these trees which well show the value of this shrub in park planting where broad compact masses of foliage are needed.

Cornus amomum, the Silky Cornel, which has been largely used in the Arboretum, is now covered with flowers. In cultivation it is not a satisfactory plant unless there is sufficient room for its wide-spreading branches, for when crowded by other plants the branches become erect and it loses its real beauty. To be seen at its best this Cornel should have a clear space with a diameter of not less than twenty feet in which to spread. There is no better shrub to plant by the margins of ponds and streams where its graceful branches can hang over the water. The purple stems are attractive in winter, and the bright blue fruit which ripens in the autumn adds to the value of this native shrub. Its value for planting near water can be seen on the borders of the small ponds on the Meadow Road.



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