

contrast between the pale green of the young foliage and the black green of the old is vivid.

The Lilacs are blossoming well this season and are now at the height of their beauty. The rejuvenation induced by severe pruning three years ago is now complete and the bushes are shapely in habit and even in size. The flower trusses are much larger than before the pruning but the individual flowers show no increase in size. To those who have Lilacs more or less decrepit with age the Arboretum's experiment is of importance. It is astounding how well such Lilacs respond to drastic pruning, however, to those contemplating such work it cannot be too strongly emphasized that the pruning be done as early as possible in the spring, the ground about the roots broken up and the plants well fed. Also it is well to avoid half measures since Lilacs push forth young growth immediately below the cut and unless they are pruned low the after effects of strong winds is disastrous. The popularity of the Lilac is steadily on the increase, and rightly so, for where winters are cold and summers hot no shrub gives greater returns. For a greater length of time than any other exotic shrub it has been associated with the American home and of all hardy flowering shrubs it is the one which people irresistibly bury their noses among the flowers to inhale the fragrance. Of the 290 varieties of the Common Lilac growing in the Arboretum nearly all are now in full blossom and those interested would do well to visit the collection and appraise them at their own worth. The Persian Lilac (*Syringa persica*) and the hybrid between this and the Common Lilac (*S. chinensis*) are also in flower and so, too, is *S. pubescens*, the most fragrant of all Lilacs.

The Asiatic Crabapples almost invariably give a good three week's succession of blossom but this year they were over within ten days. The American species and forms are now beautiful, both in the collection at the foot of Peters Hill and on the left of Forest Hills Road near its junction with Meadow Road. The favorite Bechtel Crabapple (*Malus ioensis plena*) is garlanded with rose-like, fragrant blossoms. This is essentially a tree for the lawn or for proximity to the house, but its wild parent, *M. ioensis*, and other American species are well adapted for planting in the wild garden and on the margin of woods; their fragrance is suggestive of that of Violets and their floriferousness is scarcely inferior to that of their Asiatic relatives.

In the Shrub Garden a general miscellany of bushes are in bloom and for the next six weeks this part of the Arboretum will well repay a visit. It may be taken for granted that all the plants flourishing in this garden will thrive in almost any part of New England. The Japanese Quinces in variety are laden with their brightly colored blossoms, varying through different shades of red to pink; in some cases the flowers are white. The low growing tufted *Iberis sempervirens* suggests a sheet of snow and nearby the yellow blossomed Cytisus and Genistas afford striking contrast.

Bussey Hill is the heart of the Arboretum and the mecca of those interested in Azaleas and newer Asiatic plants. Of Azaleas the flaming



Wilson, Ernest Henry. 1930. "In the Shrub Garden." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 4(5), 18–18.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322143>.

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