

PLANTS OF CURRENT INTEREST. THE warm weather of the past fortnight has hurried many plants into bloom and the Arboretum is now in the height of its spring glory. Though that glory is this year somewhat dimmed by the ravages of last winter, some of the collections are in fine condition. The lilacs promise well. The earlier flowered *Syringa oblata* and its hybrids with the common lilac are in full bloom at the moment of writing (May 9th) and a few warm days will bring out the rest of the collection. The crab-apples likewise were practically unharmed by the cold winter and are now a lovely sight, though few visitors, unfortunately, find the large plantation at the foot of Peter's Hill. A number of small specimens planted several years ago to carry the line of apple bloom around to the conifer collection are flowering well this spring. In a few more years when they are larger and more conspicuous they will form a beautiful contrast to the evergreens and will lead many visitors to the main collection which is practically hidden from the road.

Many of the azaleas are showing very little color this spring. The Mongolian Azalea, *Rhododendron dauricum* var. *mucronulatum*, flowered very scatteringly. Some bushes showed no blossoms at all, many had flowers only on those branches which were below the snow line, and one or two bushes were nearly up to normal. *Rhododendron obtusum* *Kaempferi*, the Torch Azalea, will apparently flower well this year only where protected by deep snow. The same is true of *Rh. Schlippenbachii* and the Poukhan Azalea, *Rh. yedoense* var. *poukhanense*. Our native Azaleas, on the other hand are giving a good account of themselves. The charming *Rhodora*, *Rhododendron canadense*, is in fine flower as is also its showier southern relative, the Pinkshell Azalea, *Rh. Vaseyi*. A similar condition prevails in other groups such as *Viburnum* and *Berberis*. Speaking very generally the Chinese plants have suffered the most, particularly those from Western China. American species, even those native to the south, have given a good account of themselves and many things from northern Japan and north China are in excellent condition. By and large the botanical and horticultural curiosities from western China have been extensively injured though it is still too early to gauge accurately the full amount of the damage. The Dove Tree, *Davidia involucrata*, has been very badly killed back and there is much injury to *Euptelea polyandra* and *E. Franchetii*. *Dipelta floribunda* has been killed to the ground. Among the *Viburnums* it is the species from western China which have suffered most. The following species have either been killed to the ground or have been so badly injured that it was necessary to cut them back practically to the roots: *Vibur-*

num ovatifolium, *V.hupehense*, *V.lobophyllum*. *Viburnum erosum*, *V.erubescens*, and *V.tomentosum* and its varieties have been somewhat less extensively damaged. *Viburnum Sieboldii* was only slightly hurt and is now looking very decorative with its sturdy branches and crisply held leaves. The behavior of *Viburnum mongolicum* was particularly instructive. Bushes on their own roots were scarcely touched by the cold and are now in full flower. Those which had been budded on *V.Opulus* were very badly injured and will apparently have to be cut back to the ground.

It is encouraging to report that *Viburnum Carlesii* and the closely related *V.bitchuiense* are uninjured. Their fragrant pale pink flowers are borne in as great abundance as ever and are attractively set off by a full coat of foliage. *V.bitchuiense* is sometimes described as being decidedly inferior in flower to *V.Carlesii*. While it is true that its flowers are somewhat smaller and its flower clusters less compact, it has by reason of these very characteristics a grace which is lacking in the sturdier *V.Carlesii*. There must undoubtedly be situations in which its more delicate aspect would make it the more desirable of the two.

Both on the Overlook and in the Shrub collection, *Spiraea Henryi* and *Spiraea Veitchii* were very badly injured and have been cut back to the ground. *Kerria japonica* here, as elsewhere, has more dead wood than live among the branches. *Deutzia Vilmorinae*, *D.reflexa* and *D.scabra* and its varieties have been cut back to the ground.

Even the Beautybush, *Kolkwitzia amabilis*, did not escape injury. Young specimens received relatively little injury but the fine old bushes in the shrub collection and on the Overlook have been severely killed back, apparently to the roots.

EDGAR ANDERSON
LOUIS VICTOR SCHMITT



Anderson, Edgar and Schmitt, L. V. 1934. "Plants of Current Interest." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 2(3), 15–16.
<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322250>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/216948>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322250>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/322250>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

BHL-SIL-FEDLINK

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.