ONCE again we publish in Arnoldia a series of notes made about some of the
shrubs and trees with colored foliage growing here in the Arnold Arboretum. Other studies were undertaken years ago, and many notes were published
in 1942 (Arnoldia 2: Nos. 11-12). The notes appearing in this issue were made
last year both in the Arboretum and in the nurseries of the Arboretum at Weston.
The plants were mostly observed by Mr. Heman Howard of the staff, at six dif-
f erent times from May 20 until September 10. In periodically observing these
plants, the color of their foliage was noted and the approximate time it changed
to another color or to a normal green.

We often read glowing accounts of a certain tree (take as an example the old-
fashioned Schwedler’s maple) which may have bright red foliage early in the
spring. This may be perfectly true, but for many a plant and this one in partic-
ular, there comes a time when the bright color of the foliage gradually turns to
a normal green. Certain other plants (like the new “Crimson King” maple) re-
tain their bright foliage color until fall. Just which plants do retain their color,
and when do some of the others lose theirs? In planning a garden in which such
plants are featured, it might prove helpful to know just how long their colors
will last.

All the plants noted here are not prominently important ornamental varieties,
nor is this a complete list of all the woody plants with colored or variegated foli-
age. Of the approximately 100 plants listed, there will be found some popular
favorites and some others which should never be grown for their “ornamental”
qualities in any garden. Many a gardener will not have a variegated leaved plant
in his garden, while others carefully select a plant with gray or blue foliage to
relieve the “monotony” of an otherwise green foliaged border. Also, it is of in-
terest to note that different soils may affect the foliage colors of some of these
plants in different ways; a variegated plant tending to have more white and yellow in its leaves when grown in poor soil, than when grown in a good rich soil. Be that as it may, here are some of the changes noted between May and September on the following plants in the Arnold Arboretum last year.

**Foliage Colors of Certain Trees and Shrubs Growing in the Arnold Arboretum**

**Abies pinsapo glauca** — foliage a good blue green throughout the year.

**Acer japonicum aconitifolium** — leaves a good deep red all summer.

**Negundo elegans** — each leaf about 50% yellow (outer edge of leaf) all summer.

**Palmatum** — at first reddish in spring, but turning green by July.

**Atropurpureum** — best red foliage of all Japanese maples throughout summer.

**Dissectum** — greenish red foliage turning green by August.

**Hessei** — good dark red foliage until August when brilliance goes.

**Ornatum** — excellent feathery dark red foliage, bronze by July 15, green by August.

**Sanguineum** — upper side of leaves dark red (under side green) until mid-August when it turns bronze green, but fruits bright red until September.

**Burgundy Lace** — good deep red foliage throughout summer turning a deep dull red by mid-August.

**Crimson King** — foliage a good deep purplish red throughout summer.

**Rubrum** — leaves dark green by end of June turning bronze in mid-July — not outstanding.

**Schwedleri** — dark red until mid-June when it begins to lose color, changing to green by mid-August.

**Berberis thunbergi argenteo-marginata** — slight yellow variation in leaves on new wood only, remaining through most of summer.

**Atropurpurea** — twigs and leaves dark red, especially those exposed to the sun — throughout summer.

**Nana** "Little Beauty" — same as above.

**Vulgaris** "Sheridan Red" — the best red foliage of any barberry we have — throughout summer.

**Buxus sempervirens albo-marginata** — white margin throughout summer — not outstanding.

**Chamaecyparis obtusa aurea** — young growth a good yellow all summer.

**Tetragona aurea** — foliage yellow to yellow green.

**Pisifera aurea** — tips of young growth slightly yellow at first, turning green by mid-June. Not outstanding.
Chamaecyparis pisifera “filifera aurea” — young tips good yellow throughout summer and fall.

“lutescens” — tips of shoots pale yellow to mid-July when they turn yellow green — not outstanding.

“plumosa argentea” — tips of young shoots a pale yellow to mid-August when they turn a yellow green — not outstanding.

“plumosa aurea” — young growth an excellent bright yellow during summer and fall.

“plumosa flavescens” — young tips a striking yellow until mid-August when color is no longer prominent.

“thyoides glauca” — tips of shoots a good gray green throughout summer.

Cornus alba argenteo-marginata — leaves with creamy white margin through summer until early September.

“gauchaulti” — foliage dark green with a thin ivory white margin.

“spaethi” — leaves with yellow green center and pale yellow green irregular margin until September.

“variegata” — foliage green, but 50% of each leaf is a wide ivory margin.

“alternifolia argentea” — foliage medium green with an ivory margin — good.

“kousa variegata” — dark green leaves, 50% of them having an ivory white margin, sometimes tinged with pink. The pink tint is gone by mid-June, but white variegation remains until September.

“sanguinea viridissima” — young twigs green throughout year.

Corylus maxima purpurea — foliage a rich dark red until end of June and by mid-August foliage is green.

Cotinus coggygria purpureus — first young foliage reddish but turns green by mid-June.

“Notcutt’s Variety” — young reddish foliage retains good red color until mid-July when it turns green.

Euonymus fortunei gracilis — leaves with cream colored border throughout year, but inferior to “Silver Queen” in effect.

“Silver Queen” — wide creamy white leaf border throughout entire year — excellent in effect.

Fagus sylvatica atropunicea — a good dark red foliage through mid-July, when brilliance starts to disappear, leaves turning a dull red bronze.

[ 15 ]
Fagus sylvatica riversi — slightly darker red in June, than variety atropunicea, but by August not much difference between the two. Both are excellent.

Forsythia intermedia variegata — foliage dark green with 50% of leaf an ivory white margin — good.

Hybiscus syriacus variegatus — foliage dark green with 50% of leaf an ivory yellow margin.

Hippophae rhamnoides — foliage gray throughout summer.

Juniperus chinensis aurea — foliage a bright yellow through entire summer and fall — best of this color in the junipers.

" " aureo-globosa" — about half the young tips are yellowish, but color is not outstanding.

" " pfitzeriana argentea" — all young tips are pale yellow and excellent, but lose brilliance by late June, and by mid-July a normal green.

" " plumosa aurea" — foliage greenish yellow in May, turning to dark yellow green in late June, then to golden yellow in mid-July, retaining this color throughout the summer and fall.

" horizontalis douglasi — steel blue foliage throughout the summer.

" scopulorum "Blue Moon" — foliage a good light bluish green throughout year.

" " Chandler’s Blue’ — same as above.

" " Gray Gleam” — same as above.

" " Hills Silver” — same as above.

" " Marshall’s’” — same as above.

" " Moonlight’” — same as above.

" " North Star”’ — same as above.

" virginiana burki — foliage a good light bluish green throughout year.

" " glauca — same as above.

Kerria japonica aureo-vittata — green branches striped with yellow.

Ligustrum ovalifolium aureo-marginatum — leaves variegated with greenish yellow throughout summer and fall — good color.

" " variegatum — foliage green with margin of lemon yellow to bright yellow orange.

" vicaryi — young foliage starts as light yellow green, but turns to a brilliant yellow by mid-June (in full sun) for remainder of summer and fall.

Liquidambar styraciflua aurea — most leaves heavily speckled with golden yellow on green throughout summer.
PLATE IV

*Juniperus horizontalis douglasii* photographed in the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois. This evergreen makes an excellent ground cover.
Liriodendron tulipifera variegata — dark green center with wide yellow green margin.

Lonicera japonica aureo-reticulata — foliage speckled yellow and green giving yellow appearance from a distance throughout summer and fall.

Malus with reddish bronze leaves throughout the summer:
- M. purpurea aldenhamensis;
- M. purpurea eleyi;
- M. pumila niedzwetzkyana;
- M. floribunda atropurpurea;
- M. moerlandsii;
- M. purpurea lemoinei;
- M. "Crimson Brilliant";
- M. "Oakes Rosy Bloom";
- M. "Profusion";
- M. "Redford";
- M. "Red Silver";
- M. "Strathmore";
- M. "Timiskaming."

Philadelphus coronarius aureus — brilliant greenish yellow foliage until early August when it turns a light yellow green.

Physocarpus opulifolius luteus — at first brilliant yellow, yellow green early June to early July, after that about a normal green for remainder of summer.

Picea abies argenteo-spica — young shoots bright yellow green, but gradually loses color until late June when it is a normal green.
- orientalis aureo-spicata — new growth brilliant yellow green, turning to light green by early June and normal green by late June.
- pungens glauca — a good blue throughout the year.
- " globosa — a very fine silver blue throughout the year.
- " kosteriana — same as above.
- " moerheimi — same as above — this is the best blue of the P. pungens varieties.

Prunus blireiana moseri — foliage a good dark red throughout the summer and fall.
- cerasifera atropurpurea — foliage dark purplish red throughout summer and fall, one of the best red leaved trees.
- " nigra — foliage dark red throughout summer and fall.
- " cistena — foliage dark red entire summer and fall.
- " spinosa purpurea — foliage deep reddish purple until early August, when it gradually turned a dull reddish purple.
- " "Newport" — foliage a glossy deep red entire summer and fall.
- " "Royal Red Leaf Peach" — leaves of new growth a brilliant dark red, rest are bronze green.
- " "Shubert" — foliage green until early July when leaves start to turn a dull dark red retaining this color the rest of the summer and fall.
- " "Thundercloud" — leaves a good deep purplish red.

Ptelea trifoliata aurea — good glossy yellow foliage till late July; by mid-August a normal green.
Quercus robur concordia — young foliage yellow, turning to yellow green by end of July.

" " variegata — young leaves speckled with white on green, but appearance is of diseased foliage.

Sambucus canadensis aurea — 50% of leaves are yellow to yellow on green, remainder are speckled with yellow throughout the summer.

" " nigra variegata — leaves with yellow margin entire summer.

Syringa vulgaris aucubaefolia — most leaves spotted with yellow, some more than others, retaining this color the entire summer.

Taxus baccata aurea — new growth bright yellow, brightest of all Taxus; by mid-July gradually losing some of its brilliance; turning dull yellow by mid-August and retaining this throughout fall.

" " elegantissima — foliage a brilliant greenish yellow until mid-August, gradually turning yellow green by mid-September.

" " variegata — foliage a pale yellowish green until mid-July when it gradually turned a normal green.

" " cuspidata aurescens — new growth bright yellow until mid-July when it gradually turns to yellow green by mid-August when it is no longer outstanding.

Thuja occidentalis alba — young foliage spotted with dirty gray and unattractive. By mid-July tips of young foliage are creamy white holding this all summer but not attractive.

" " aurea — new growth bright yellow turning to yellow green by late June and by mid-July about a normal green — not outstanding.

" " ericoides — golden brown foliage until mid-July gradually turning a yellow green with golden tips the remainder of the summer.

" " lutea — young growth a brilliant yellow, retaining this the entire summer and fall. This is the most brilliant yellow in our Thuja collection.

" " lutescens — foliage only slightly lighter than a normal green — not outstanding.

" " orientalis conspicua — tips of new growth bright yellow, turning yellow green by mid-July.

Ulmus carpinifolia variegata — leaves light green with speckled yellow green, retaining this throughout summer. General appearance is of tree with diseased foliage.

" " wredi — 90% of leaves are bright yellow. Maintained throughout most of summer.

Weigela florida variegata — dark green leaves with yellow green margin, retaining this through summer and fall.

DONALD WYMAN