

Planting for Winter Effect in the North*

George Edward McClure, Buffalo

ONE of the chief delights of a winter garden is the effect of the berried shrubs and trees, and of course we always think of the berried plants in relation to Christmas, and very naturally of the holly that is so extensively used at that time. The northerner is denied the use of this most regal plant, but whenever evergreen leaves and red berries can be combined, it is regarded as the highest perfection of winter effect.

A few years ago I conceived the idea of using the winter berry, or leafless holly (*Ilex verticillata*), which is far more profuse with its berries than the southern holly, along with the English privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*), mixing the two kinds and planting in masses. The privet retains part of its green leaves until January and has splendid trusses of brilliant black berries, and the effect of these black berries and green leaves, with the dense masses of red berries of the leafless holly, give the effect that is obtained in English gardens by the famous holly plant. The ilex is vigorous, as also is the privet, and the whole in time becomes a tangled mass and the effect glorious. Sometimes the leafless holly is planted along with the mountain laurel, but as the laurel is low and the ilex high, the green leaves and berries

are not together, and the effect not as good. Even though it is not always possible to secure a background of green for berried plants in the winter, it is not always desirable as the snow itself is a sufficient background for many berried plants.

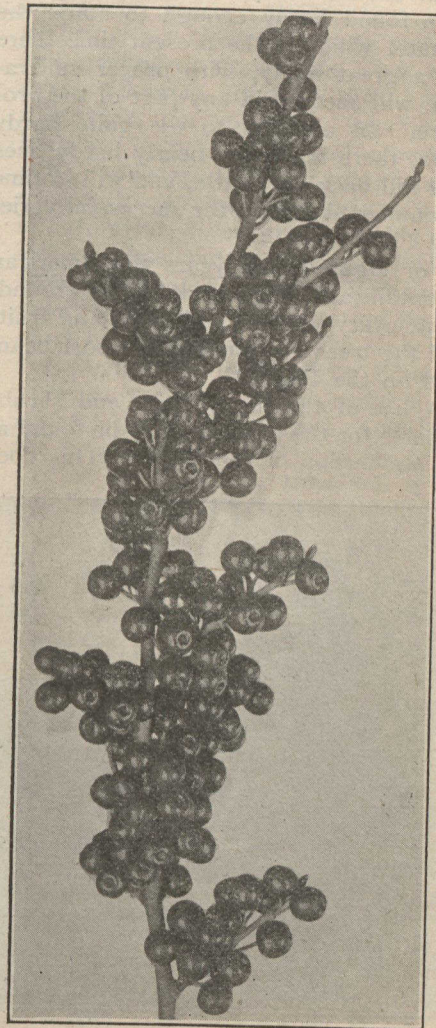
Among the most common and best of our berried plants are, the common barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*), with its racemes of brilliant berries which remain well into the winter, and the Japanese barberry (*Berberis Thunbergii*), with its single yet thickly borne berries of as brilliant a hue. The high bush cranberry (*Viburnum opulus*), whose bright and large trusses of berries last until the new leaves are formed in the spring and are very striking. Many of the endless number of forms of crataegas are useful for winter effect, and though their fruit are not persistent during the entire winter season, yet many are glorious in the early winter. The sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*) is also attractive in winter because of its yellow black dotted fruit, which is very persistent.

Many of the roses are extremely beautiful, as their fruits are often large. One of the best is the Japanese rose (*Rosa rugosa*), whose large haws or berries are highly colored and remain long on the plant to brighten up the landscape. *Rosa multiflora*, whose fruits although smaller, are borne in large clusters and last all winter. *Rosa lutescens* has the largest fruit, some of which are one inch long, and are borne in clusters of four. *Rosa blanda* is also useful.

The privets, both the common (*L. vulgare*), and the Japanese (*L. Itoya*), have large clusters of shining black berries, and are very striking with a background of the snow. The snow-berry (*Symphoricarpos racemosus*), with its profuse masses of white berries, and the coral berry (*S. vulgaris*), are both splendid species for effective winter planting. When planted in masses in richly prepared borders, they produce riotous masses of fruit. The European buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), so often used for a windbreak, has attractive black fruits, as has also *Rhodotypos herrioides*. The stag horn sumach (*Rhus typhina*) produces a marked effect in a winter landscape with its antler-like dense clusters of berries. The smooth sumach (*R. glabra*) is also useful as a winter fruited plant.

The European mountain ash (*Sorbus Aucuparia*), with its bright red berries in large clusters, is especially useful for winter effect, and the yellow berried form is also useful for variety. With an evergreen background they are especially attractive. Among the vines for

winter effect nothing can surpass the bitter-sweet (*Celastrus scandens*), with its winter array of orange berries, when the



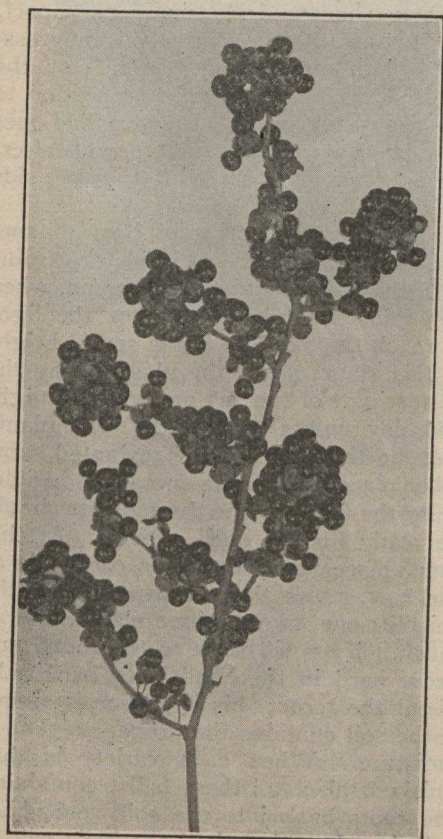
Elaeagnus Umbellata

vine is allowed to grow as a shrub, forming an uneven mass of twining stems, covered with attractive fruits it is particularly fine. *C. orbiculatus* is also a splendid berried vine similar to the bitter-sweet. *Vitis Heterophylla*, whose grape-like clusters of whitish-blue berries offer a variety in berry color, is also interesting from the standpoint of winter effect.

Simplicity and dignity should be the key-note of all landscape gardening.

Take a series of photographs of your garden from planting time until fall and send them for publication in THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST.

Wooden labels may be preserved by soaking them in a strong solution of copperas (sulphate of iron) and laying them, after they are dry, in lime water. By this process, a very insoluble salt, sulphate of lime, is formed in the wood.



Celastrus Orbiculatus

*The first installment of this article appeared in the February issue. It will be concluded in April.