

The *Aralia* Family furnishes the Arboretum with three handsome trees which flower in late summer and early autumn. They are *Acanthopanax ricinifolium*, *Aralia spinosa* and *A. chinensis* and its varieties. The *Acanthopanax* is a tree which is common in the forests of northern Japan, Korea and China where it is often seventy or eighty feet high with a massive trunk and great wide-spreading branches armed, like the stems of young trees, with many stout prickles. The leaves hang down on long stalks and are nearly circular, five- or seven-lobed and often fifteen or sixteen inches in diameter. The small white flowers are produced in compact, long-stalked clusters which form a flat compound, terminal panicle from twelve to eighteen inches across and are followed late in the autumn by shining black fruits which do not fall until after the beginning of winter. This tree is perfectly hardy in the Arboretum where it has been growing for twenty-four years and where it has flowered and ripened its seeds now for several seasons. It is one of the most interesting trees in the collection and, because it is so unlike other trees of the northern hemisphere, it is often said to resemble a tree of the tropics. *Aralia spinosa*, the so-called Hercules' Club of the southern states where it is a common inhabitant of the borders of woods and the banks of streams, is a tree often thirty feet high with a tall trunk and wide-spreading branches covered with stout orange-colored prickles. The leaves, which are borne at the ends of the branches, are long-stalked, twice pinnate, and from three to four feet long and two and one-half feet wide. The small white flowers are arranged in compound clusters which rise singly or two or three together above the leaves and are three or four feet long. The fruit is black, rather less than a quarter of an inch in diameter, and ripens in early autumn. It is now well established on the slope at the northern base of Hemlock Hill in the rear of the Laurel plantation and is now spreading rapidly there over a considerable area by shoots from underground stems. The Asiatic tree *Aralia* resembles in habit and general appearance the American Hercules' Club, but is distinct from that tree in the absence of stalks to the leaflets. There are a number of geographical forms of this tree; the one which is most commonly cultivated in this country is a native of Manchuria and eastern Siberia (var. *mandshurica*) which is sometimes found in nurseries under the name of *Dimorphanthus mandshuricus*. The Japanese form (var. *glabrescens*) is chiefly distinguished from it by the pale color of the under surface of the leaflets; it is less hardy than the Manchurian form and is not often seen in this country.

Sophora japonica, sometimes called the Pagoda-tree, is in spite of its name a Chinese tree which has been cultivated in Japan for more than a thousand years, and as it first reached Europe from that country was long considered a native of Japan. It is a round-headed tree which in Peking, where it has been much planted, has grown to a large size and looks from a distance like an Oak-tree. The leaves and branchlets are dark green, and the small, creamy white, pea-shaped flowers, which open here in August, are produced in great numbers in narrow, erect, terminal clusters. There are also in the collection the form with long pendent branches (var. *pendula*) which rarely flowers, and a young plant of the form with erect branches (var. *pyramidalis*).



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