

**Oxydendrum arboreum**, the Sour Wood or Sorrel-tree, so-called from the acrid taste of the leaves, is the only American tree in the Arboretum which flowers in August. It is a native of the Appalachian forests from southwestern Pennsylvania and is most common on mountain slopes, but reaches the coast of Virginia and North Carolina. The Sorrel-tree, which is perfectly hardy in New England, is a beautiful tree with bright green shining leaves which turn bright scarlet in the autumn, white Andromeda-like flowers erect on the branches of spreading or slightly drooping terminal clusters, and pale capsular fruits which in the autumn are conspicuous among the brilliant leaves. There is a group of these trees among the Laurels at the base of Hemlock Hill.

**Summer Flowering Shrubs.** Many shrubs with conspicuous flowers bloom in the Arboretum during the summer months. The list includes the Heathers (*Calluna vulgaris*), and several species of *Genista* and *Cytisus*. Of this European group the handsomest which can be grown here is the bright yellow-flowered *Cytisus nigricans*, the yellow-flowered *C. capitatus*, the white-flowered *C. leucanthus* and the yellow-flowered Woad Wax and its varieties (*Genista tinctoria*), too well known in Essex County, Massachusetts, where escaped from cultivation it has ruined many hundred acres of hillside pastures. The *Lespedezas* with their abundant purple, pea-shaped flowers, and the handsomest of the Chinese *Buddleias* are still to bloom, as is the very hardy *Acanthopanax sessiliflorum*, a vigorous shrub of eastern Siberia, most conspicuous in winter when the compact round clusters of the shining black fruits are on the ends of the branches. The Japanese *Hydrangea paniculata* and its varieties, and the *Hydrangeas* of North America produce here the showiest July and August flowers. The early-flowered forms of *Hydrangea paniculata* (var. *praecox*) which is the handsomest of the group, is already in flower; and all the American species are blooming or just opening their flower-buds. The most popular of these American plants is the form of *H. arborescens* (var. *grandiflora*) with snow-ball-like heads of white sterile flowers. There is a similar abnormal form of another of the American species, *H. cinerea*. More beautiful, and one of the handsomest of the genus, *H. quercifolia* will flower this month in the Shrub Collection. This is an unusual event for this shrub, which is a native of the southern states, is frequently killed to the ground here. In the middle and southern states it is an important and valued garden ornament. Of the American *Hydrangeas* which are perfectly hardy in the north the handsomest is *H. radiata*, a native of mountain slopes in North and South Carolina, once a popular garden plant but now rarely cultivated. It is a broad, round-topped shrub with leaves of ample size, dark green above and silvery white below, and broad flat heads of flowers surrounded by a ring of white neutral flowers.

**Amorpha canescens**, the Lead Plant, is beginning to open its small, violet-colored flowers arranged in long, narrow clustered spikes, which are conspicuous by the contrast with the color of the leaves and branches and are thickly covered white gray down. This plant is a native of the Mississippi valley where it grows on low prairies from Indiana and Minnesota to Texas.





1919. "Amorpha canescens." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 5(12), 47-47. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320976>.

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