

flower clusters. *H. arborescens* and *H. cinerea* with flat flower clusters are common woodland shrubs southward, and have no great value as garden plants. There are monstrous forms of the two plants on which all the flowers are sterile, forming nearly globose white heads. A form of *H. arborescens* (var. *grandiflora*) has become in recent years a popular garden plant with American nurserymen, by whom it is sold in great numbers. The handsomest of the entirely hardy American species, *H. radiata*, is a native of the elevated regions of North and South Carolina. It is distinguished by its broad leaves which are dark green above and snow white below, and by its broad clusters of flowers surrounded by a ring of large white sterile flowers. In gardens this *Hydrangea* is a broad and shapely shrub, and one of the handsomest of the midsummer flowering shrubs in the Arboretum. It was once fairly common in cultivation but now nurserymen do not cultivate it, and how many gardeners of the present day have ever seen it?

***Hydrangea paniculata*.** Three forms of this Japanese shrub or small tree are in the Arboretum collection. The flowers of the three forms are borne in large, terminal, oblong, pointed clusters and the long, acuminate, dark green leaves make the plants attractive before the flowers open and after they fade, although like those of other *Hydrangeas* they fall in the autumn without change of color. The clusters of fertile flowers on what is considered the typical form are surrounded by the ring of white sterile flowers to which *Hydrangeas* owe the beauty of their inflorescence. This form, which is a handsome and valuable garden plant, will not be in bloom for another month. There is, however, an early flowering form (var. *praecox*) which is now just opening its flowers, and which is very similar, except in its time of flowering, to the type. This form has, however, rather larger and whiter ray flowers, and is a more ornamental plant. Indeed, when in flower in early July it is one of the handsomest shrubs in the Arboretum. This early flowering form appears to be exceedingly rare in American gardens. This unfortunately cannot be said of the third form of *H. paniculata* (var. *grandiflora*) on which the entire inflorescence is composed of sterile flowers which form a great cone-like white mass of abortions which as they fade turn to a dirty red. This plant has been propagated and sold by American nurserymen during the last fifty years by hundreds of thousands, possibly by millions, so that it is now perhaps more generally cultivated throughout the country than any other garden shrub, and certainly no other shrub has done so much to disfigure the surroundings of the homes of the people of the northern United States. A few years ago the only plant within the fence which surrounds Jefferson's Grove at Monticello was *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora*. And Thomas Jefferson published in 1784 in his "Notes on the State of Virginia" the first comprehensive list of the plants of his native state, among which are some of the most beautiful trees and shrubs in the world.

***Aralia spinosa*.** This is a common tree growing usually in the neighborhood of streams in the region from western Pennsylvania to Missouri, and southward to northern Florida, Louisiana and eastern Texas. It is a slender tree thirty or thirty-five feet high with a stem rarely



more than eight inches in diameter and wide-spreading branches furnished, like the young trunk, with stout scattered prickles. The leaves, which are clustered near the end of the branches, are from three to four feet long and about two and a half feet wide, on stems from eighteen to twenty inches in length which clasp the branches with their enlarged base, and are usually armed with slender prickles. The small, greenish white flowers appear in August in many-flowered umbels arranged in broad compact panicles three or four feet long which rise above the leaves singly or two or three together from the end of the branches. The small black fruit ripens in early autumn. This *Aralia* is now thoroughly established at the northern base of Hemlock Hill in the rear of the plantation of Laurels (*Kalmia*) and is spreading to a considerable distance from the original plant by means of underground stems from which new plants rise.

***Aralia chinensis*** is so closely related to the American species that it has sometimes been considered a geographical variety of that tree. *Aralia chinensis* appears in the Arboretum collection in several varieties. The best known of these varieties, a native of Manchuria and eastern Siberia (var. *mandschurica*), is a hardier plant at the north than the American species and has been much more generally planted. In commercial nurseries it is often sold under the name of *Dimorphanthus mandschuricus*. Japanese and Chinese varieties of this *Aralia*, although less hardy than its Siberian representative, can be seen in the group of these plants near the junction of the Meadow and Bussey Hill Roads.

***Ceanothus*.** Of this important North American genus, which is best represented in California, only two species of the eastern part of the country and one Rocky Mountain species, *C. Fendleri*, are hardy in the Arboretum where the beautiful Pacific Coast species cannot live. The two northeastern species, often called New Jersey Tea, *C. americanus* and *C. ovatus*, are shrubs two or three feet high and broad, with small white flowers in dense, oblong, terminal and axillary clusters produced on branches of the year. These two species vary chiefly in the shape of the leaves, but *C. ovatus* bloomed nearly a month ago, while *C. americanus* is just now covered with flowers. These plants are valuable for naturalizing on wood borders, and few shrubs make better returns in midsummer flowers than the New Jersey Tea which appears to be rarely cultivated. A large number of hybrids between *C. americanus* and some of the California species have been raised in Europe and one of these hybrids, known as Gloire de Versailles, with its large clusters of deep blue flowers, is a popular plant there. Unfortunately these hybrids, with a single exception, are not hardy in this climate. The exception is a beautiful plant with pale rose-colored flowers which came many years ago to the Arboretum from the Lemoine Nursery at Nancy, France. It has not been possible to find the name or trace the origin of this plant. It is now in bloom in the Shrub Collection and on the lower side of Azalea Path.

***Calluna*.** Few Americans appear to realize that the *Calluna*, or Scotch Heather as it is called, can be successfully grown in all parts





1926. "Aralia spinosa." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 12(15), 58–59. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321731>.

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