

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

of the eastern states and northern Canada where the soil is not impregnated with lime. Heather should be planted in well drained sandy soil in situations fully exposed to the sun, and the plants flower better if the stems are cut down to the ground in early spring. This prevents a straggling growth and insures a better bloom. The following varieties of *Calluna vulgaris* are established in the Arboretum: *alba*, *alba pumila*, *alba rigida*, *Alportii*, *argentea*, *aurea*, *cuprea*, *elata*, *erecta*, *Hammondii*, *humilis*, *hypnoides*, *minima*, *minor*, *monstrosa*, *multiplex*, *nana*, *pilosa*, *pyranaica*, *rigida*, *rubra*, *Serlei*, *spicata*, *tenuis*, *tomentosa* and *variegata*. The earliest to bloom, var. *rubra*, a dwarf compact variety with crimson flowers, is already covered with flowers.

Sophora japonica 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, pendant branches, (var. *pendula*) which rarely flowers, and a young plant of the form with erect branches (var. *pyramidalis*). The form of this tree with flowers tinged with rose color (var. *rosea*) is not in the Arboretum. The Sophoras are on the right hand side of the Bussey Hill Road, opposite the upper end of the Lilac Group. Near them the Maackias are growing. They also belong to the Pea Family, and the better known *Maackia amurensis* is a native of eastern Siberia; it is a small tree with handsome smooth, reddish brown, shining bark, dull, deep green, pinnate leaves and short, narrow, erect spikes of small white flowers which open here soon after the middle of July. There is a form of this tree (var. *Buergeri*) in northern Japan which differs from the Siberian tree in the presence of soft down on the lower surface of the leaflets. The species discovered by Wilson in central China, *M. hupehensis*, is growing well in the Arboretum but has not yet flowered.

Late Flowering Barberries. Three species of *Berberis* from western China flower late in July, *B. aggregata*, *B. Prattii*, and *B. subcaulialata*. These plants will probably become popular for they are the latest of the Barberries to flower. They are all erect growing, tall shrubs with small yellow flowers in drooping clusters which are followed by red fruits. There are plants in the Shrub Collection and with the Chinese shrubs on the southern slope of Bussey Hill.

***Amorpha canescens*.** This member of the Pea Family, the Lead Plant of the early settlers on the western plains, will soon open its small violet-colored flowers which are crowded on clustered terminal spikes and are set off by the hoary down which thickly covers the leaves and branches. This handsome and conspicuous plant grows three or four feet tall and is a native of the Mississippi valley where it is found on low hills and prairies from Indiana and Minnesota to Texas.



1926. "Calluna." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 12(15), 59–60. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321734>.

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