

Stewartia pentagyna is an American species found from North Carolina to Florida. It is a shrub or tree-like bush with ovate to oblong-ovate leaves, each from 2 to 5 inches in length. The flowers are cup-shaped, 3 to 4½ inches across with concave petals and orange-colored anthers. More beautiful is its variety (*grandiflora*), which has purple stamens. The bright green leaves change in the autumn to orange and crimson. A second American species (*S. malacodendron*), also known as *S. virginica*, is, unfortunately, not hardy in the Arboretum. This species differs from *S. pentagyna* by having the styles united and by its smaller, differently shaped leaves. The species of *Stewartia* hardy in the Arboretum may be seen on Bussey Hill.

Ehretia thyrsoflora is the only tree of the Borage family that is hardy in the Arboretum. It is native of southern Japan and eastern China and is a very interesting addition to the list of hardy trees. The specimens growing here were raised from seeds sent by Wilson in 1907 and may be seen on Bussey Hill and along the Centre Street Path. They are about 12 to 15 feet tall with spreading branches, polished, yellowish green shoots and petioles, and handsome, dark green, oblong-obovate leaves, each from 3 to 5 inches long and sharply serrated along the margins. The flowers superficially resemble those of the Privet (*Ligustrum*) and are borne in thyrsoid panicles, each from 4 to 6 inches long, at the end of the current season's shoots. In a wild state the panicked masses of flowers are often a foot in length. The flowers are small, white and give off an unpleasant odor. The fruit is small, shot-like and has no ornamental value. In China and Japan this is a tree 75 feet tall with gray, fissured, fibrous bark. It suckers somewhat and may be propagated by this means and also by root-cuttings.

Catalpa speciosa is now in blossom. This is a magnificent flowering tree native of the Mississippi Valley, where it is often more than 100 feet tall with a trunk 12 feet in girth. It has broad, heart-shaped, long-pointed leaves and terminal clusters of large blossoms. The Pentstemon-like corolla has fringed lobes and is more or less striped and dotted with brown-purple on the lower half and marked within the tube with yellow. For park and large garden this is an excellent tree but it has no place in the suburban lot and much less should it be used as a street tree, its disadvantages being that the leaves unfold late and fall early without any change of color, and for much of the year the tree is gaunt in appearance. This is the handsomest of a group of summer flowering trees, of which five species are growing in the Arboretum.

Magnolia virginiana, better known as *M. glauca*, the Sweetbay, is now in full bloom on the right just within the Jamaica Plain Gate. This is one of the most delightful of native trees with pure white, cupped blossoms, which emit a delightful odor and fill the air around with pleasant fragrance. It reaches its northern limits around the town of Magnolia in Massachusetts, where it is a deciduous shrub 10 to 12 feet tall. It extends near the coast southward to Florida and to Texas, where it is often a tree 60 and more feet tall and retains its leaves throughout the winter. It has been in cultivation for more than a



Wilson, Ernest Henry. 1928. "Ehretia thyrsoflora." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 2(14), 54-54.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321969>.

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