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The drought, which threatened to become serious, was broken by a heavy thunderstorm on the morning of Saturday, June 22, but more rain is needed. On the whole, this has been a rather erratic season; flowers have opened out of order and have not lasted so long as usual. The Mountain Laurel is passing, the Catalpas are in full bloom and so, too, are *Viburnum pubescens* and the Canadian Elder (*Sambucus canadensis*), sure signs that high summer is here. The fruit is ripe on the Tatarian and other early Honeysuckles, on the Mulberries, and on the Shadblows, and the bushes are alive with starlings and other fruit-eating birds, gorging themselves on luscious berries. In the Shrub Garden a variety of shrubs are in bloom, noticeable among them being different members of the Pea family, such as Indigofera, Colutea, Amorpha, and Cytisus, many Rose species and a number of Rugosa Hybrids, together with Hydrangeas, Philadelphus, Spiraeas and Privets. The border planting of *Rosa virginiana* alongside Meadow Road is a pleasing spectacle, especially in the early morning and evening when thousands of large rose-pink blossoms are expanded. This common Rose of New England, abundant in pastures, rocky places and along the seashore, is really one of the most delightful of native plants and for border planting one of the finest we possess. It gives but little trouble, the only pruning necessary being the cutting away of the oldest canes each spring. The foliage is good, the flowers large, the fruit bright scarlet, and in the winter the crimson stems give welcome color to gray landscapes. The Rose spreads itself readily by underground stems and is, all in all, most accommodating and useful.

In a border on Bussey Hill the Cytisus and their relatives have made a gay display since about the middle of May and in the last week of June a number are still in blossom, while some of the later sorts have yet to expand their flowers. At the moment *Dorycnium hirsutum* is crowded with umbellate heads of blooms, the white corolla being neatly set off by a purple-brown calyx. This is a suffruticose plant with hairy stems and gray foliage, which forms a low mound from 8

to 12 inches high and a yard in diameter. Similar in habit and with clustered heads of creamy white flowers is *Cytisus albus*, while *C. supinus* is taller growing with terminal clusters of rich yellow blossoms. All three are native of southern and southeastern Europe and are well adapted for rockeries and for growing in sandy, gravelly places. The handsomest of its tribe just now is *C. nigricans* with erect, foot-tall spires of clear yellow blossoms. This is a plant of shapely habit, forming rounded masses a yard high and twice that in diameter, with dull green foliage and twiggy stems, every one of which terminates in a long raceme of flowers. It is one of the hardiest and has been cultivated since 1906 in the Arboretum, where it has never failed each summer season to put forth a wealth of blossoms. The Woadwax (*Genista tinctoria*) is a naturalized roadside weed in many parts of Massachusetts and one held in abhorrence by dairymen since much good pasturage has been partially ruined by its presence. On this account one would hesitate to plant it in gardens but there is a low growing double-flowered form (*plena*) which certainly ought to be recognized as a useful rock plant. The racemes are more compact than in the type, a richer yellow, if anything, and the habit is spreading with ascending stems. Since its flowers are double the plant produces no seeds, so there is no danger of it spreading and becoming a nuisance. Another charming low-growing plant is *G. sagittalis*, with terminal compact racemose heads of deep yellow blossoms. The stems are jointed and flattened and carry out the common functions of leaves but often from the joint a gray-green ovate-lanceolate leaf appears.

Not least of the blessings which garden lovers owe to that great French family of hybridists, the Lemoines, are the hybrid *Philadelphus* of which they have created scores of remarkable fine plants. In one group, of which the well-known *P. Lemoinei* is typical, the branches are twiggy and arching and form when in blossom a dense fountain of fragrant white. In another, of which *Virginal* is an example, the habit is more upright, the stems stout and the flowers very large and somewhat double. In yet another type, exemplified by *Belle Etoile*, the base of the flower is flushed with rose-purple. Part-parent of this group is *P. Coulteri*, native of northern Mexico, a tender plant, an unfortunate weakness which it has conveyed to its progeny. Any and all of the Lemoine *Philadelphus* are worthy of a place in gardens. They are not particular as to soil, but thrive best in good loam and a well-drained situation where they can enjoy plenty of sunshine. So soon as they have blossomed the older stems should be cut away so that air and light may penetrate into the center of the bushes and induce a vigorous growth for the next season's blossoms.

Itea virginiana is an old-fashioned summer-flowering shrub not so well-known in gardens as it deserves to be. It is native of the eastern United States, being found from New Jersey to Florida and blooms at the end of June when the majority of shrubs are past. It forms a bush from 5 to 8 feet tall with slender, erect stems, oblong-lanceolate, pointed leaves, each about 3 to 5 inches long and 1 inch in diameter,



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