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In the fourth week of July lush growth rather than blossom is the feature of the Arboretum. The splendid rains we have enjoyed during the month have done untold good to the collections in general, indeed, a more favorable season for the Arboretum is scarcely on record. It is a pleasure to walk about the grounds and note the splendid growth that tree, shrub and vine have made, and granted favorable weather the autumn coloring should be unusually good. On the right of Meadow Road handsome *Koelreuteria paniculata* with erect, broad, terminal panicles of clear yellow blossoms is conspicuous from afar. Under the lee of the wood behind the Buckeye group the late flowering *Aesculus parviflora* is covered with a myriad upthrust candles; in the Shrub Garden the different species of *Hypericum* are in bloom and so, too, are one or two sorts of late flowering Barberries. Different species of summer blooming *Spiraeas* are in blossom and also *Hydrangeas* in variety. On the trellis and on the boundary walls the vines have put on a growth almost tropical in vigor and luxuriance. Heather is in blossom in many places, and among the *Kalmias* at the foot of Hemlock Hill, the Sorrel-tree (*Oxydendrum arboreum*) is laden with terminal panicles of white, urn-shaped flowers. On Bussey Hill the pink-stamened *Albizia julibrissin rosea* is flowering more freely than before. Last season we called particular attention to this unusual plant; this year it is even more beautiful and at the moment is worth coming a long distance to see. Its fine fern-like leaves are perhaps more lovely than those of any other shrub or tree that can be grown out-of-doors in this climate. The discovery and introduction of this hardy type of Silk-tree was indeed fortunate. Among the group of Kaempfer's Azalea on Bussey Hill the American *Stewartia pentagyna* and its purple-stamened variety *grandiflora* are in bloom; also the Japanese *S. pseudo camellia* and the Korean *S. koreana*, the latter being the finest of the group.

The genus *Vitis*, to which all the true Grapevines belong, is widespread in both hemispheres, being well represented in the United

States. On the trellis in the Shrub Garden all the species that are hardy in this climate are growing and at the moment are remarkable for their vigorous, rampant growth and abundant foliage. Many species are noteworthy ornamental plants which not only in their luxuriance of growth give a tropical aspect to wall, fence and pergola wherever they are planted, but late in the year a wealth of vivid autumn coloring. The handsomest of all is the Japanese *Vitis Kaempferi*, more widely known as *V. Coignetiae*. This has broad, roundish cordate, netted leaves, dark green on the upper and clothed with a russet-gray tomentum on the lower surface. In its native habitat it scales to the tops of the tallest trees, forming dense mantles of green in summer and vivid splashes of red to crimson in the autumn. The fruit is perfectly round, jet black, of good size but very harsh in flavor, nevertheless, on account of its hardness one would suppose that this species has value to the grapevine breeder.

Ampelopsis aconitifolia and *A. brevipedunculata* are two graceful vines remarkable for the elegance of their finely divided foliage and for the lovely color of their fruits; both are natives of northeastern Asia and perfectly hardy even in the coldest parts of Massachusetts. They are well suited for draping trellis or pergola where from late spring until the fall they are most attractive subjects. In *A. aconitifolia* the fruit at maturity is orange-yellow but before attaining this stage it passes through shades of blue. In *A. brevipedunculata*, better known as *A. heterophylla*, the leaves vary from ovate-cordate and three-lobed to deeply lacinate but are not so finely divided as those of *A. aconitifolia*. The fruit of *A. brevipedunculata* at maturity is porcelain-blue and as it ripens changes from green to white and pale lavender. Another related species native of northern China is *A. humulifolia* which has reddish stems, leaves dull green on the upper and glaucous on the lower surface, and pale yellow or pale blue fruits. These plants may be seen on the trellis in the Shrub Garden.

Actinidia arguta is an old-fashioned climber of great value in gardens where it may be used for all the purposes that a strong growing vine is useful; also it may be clipped to form dense goodlooking hedges. Such hedges are a feature of many an estate at Bar Harbor, Maine, and one wonders why its use for this purpose is not more general. It is a strong growing plant with scaling bark and prominently lenticellate branches; the leaves on long, reddish petioles, are more or less ovate, long pointed and sharply serrate, each from 2 to 5 inches long and 1½ to 3 inches broad, dark shining green on the upper and paler on the under surface. The flowers, white or nearly so, have a prominent mass of stamens in the center. As in all species of *Actinidia* they are of two kinds, one purely male and the other perfect. The latter produces fruit in great quantity; the fruit, each about an inch long, is ellipsoid, greenish yellow or tinged with purple when perfectly ripe and palatable to the taste. For the making of jellies it is to be recommended. This *Actinidia* is found wild in many parts of Japan and Korea and the genus itself is purely east Asiatic.



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