ARNOLD ARBORETUM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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Laurels. Rarely if ever before have the Arboretum Laurels (*Kalmia latifolia*) been as full of flower-buds as they are now, and by the time this bulletin reaches its Massachusetts readers many of the plants will be covered with flowers. The flowering of the Laurels is the last of the great Arboretum flower shows of the year, and none of those which precede it are more beautiful, for the Mountain Laurel, or the Calico Bush as it is often called, is in the judgment of many flower-lovers the most beautiful of all North American shrubs or small trees. Many Rhododendrons have larger leaves and larger and more brilliantly colored flowers, but of all the broad-leaved evergreen plants which can be grown successfully in this climate the Laurel is the handsomest and most satisfactory. It is not perhaps strange that so little attention has been paid to it by American gardeners for the American gardeners, of earlier generations at least, derived their inspiration almost entirely from England and usually despised American plants as too common for their attention. For some reason which it is not easy to explain *Kalmia latifolia* has never been a popular plant in England where it is still not often seen and where it certainly grows less freely than many species and hybrids of the Rhododendrons. For this reason, perhaps, no distinct forms of the Laurel and no hybrids have been developed by cultivators, and the few recognized variations in the flowers and leaves have all been found on wild plants. Of these there are forms with pure white flowers (var. *alba*) and there is a form with deep pink, nearly red, flowers and rather dark leaves (var. *rubra*). Between these extremes there are others with flowers of all shades of pink, and there is one with flowers conspicuously marked by a chocolate band (var. *fuscata*). There is a dwarf form (var. *myrtifolia*)

with small leaves and small clusters of minute flowers; and there is one in which the corolla is deeply divided into narrow lobes (var. *poly-petala*). This plant, which is not at all ornamental, was found near Deerfield, Massachusetts, and has been propagated and distributed from the Arboretum. A form with broad, handsome, *Rhododendron*-like leaves (var. *obtusata*) which rarely flowers was found a few years ago near Pomfret, Connecticut. These forms, with the exception of var. *fuscata*, are all established in the general *Kalmia* collection which is planted on both sides of Hemlock Hill Road at the northern base of Hemlock Hill. This part of the Arboretum where there are other interesting plants, including the collection of *Rhododendrons*, is easily and quickly reached from the South Street entrance of the Arboretum.

***Syringa yunnanensis*.** This Liliac from southwestern China is now in flower. It has long-pointed, glabrous leaves dull green above and pale below, and large, rather open clusters of small creamy white flowers faintly tinged with rose color, with an unusual and delicate perfume which greatly adds to the attraction of the plant. *S. yunnanensis* is one of the plants introduced by George Forrest through the Bee Company of Liverpool and has now been growing in the Arboretum for several years. Although it first flowered here in 1913, it has not shown its real character as a flowering plant until this season. *S. yunnanensis* can be seen on the lower side of the path which follows the top of the bank occupied by the Lilac Collection.

***Syringa Julianae*.** This Chinese Lilac has flowered in the Arboretum every year since 1909 but never so abundantly as this year. In the shape of the leaves and in the long slender corolla-tube it has something in common with *S. pubescens*. This, however, is a native of the northern part of the empire; it blooms fully three weeks earlier here, and the flower-buds are rose color, not purple. The flowers, too, of *S. Julianae* are without the strong perfume of *S. pubescens* which, especially in the evening, is stronger than that of the flowers of any other Lilac. *S. Julianae* is one of the most distinct of the numerous Lilacs discovered by Wilson in western China and promises to be a useful garden plant here, if for no other reason, on account of the lateness of the flowers. It can be seen with all the other Chinese Lilacs discovered by Wilson nearly opposite the plant of *S. yunnanensis* on the path at the top of the Lilac bank.

***Caragana Maximowicziana*.** This is a good addition to the so-called Siberian Pea-trees which can be successfully grown in northern gardens. It is a shrub with slender, wide-spreading and arching, spiny stems, small pinnate leaves and narrow, canary yellow flowers which are produced in great numbers and appear later than those of the other *Caraganas* in the collection. It is a native of northern China and first flowered in the Arboretum two years ago when not more than two feet high. Plants in flower can be seen in the Shrub Collection and among the Chinese plants on the southern slope of Bussey Hill.

***Photinia villosa*.** This is a small tree or arborescent shrub of a genus of the Rose Family closely related to *Crataegus* and *Cotoneaster* and is widely distributed in eastern Asia. It has thick, dark green leaves and white flowers produced in great profusion in compact, many-

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