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Summer-flowering Trees. Several trees flower in summer here and add to the interest of the Arboretum at a season of the year when there are comparatively few flowers or ripe fruits to be seen. The most important of these trees are the Lindens, a genus of many species, the earliest of which begins to bloom about the middle of June and the last five or six weeks later. In the Bulletins published on June 10, 1910, and on July 6th of last year a detailed account of these trees appeared to which persons interested in them are referred; and it is only necessary, perhaps, to say now that Lindens grow best in damp, moist, well-drained soil, and that the European species take more kindly to cultivation in this part of the country than the American or Asiatic species, the handsomest Linden trees planted in the neighborhood of Boston being forms of the natural European hybrid to which the name *Tilia vulgaris* belongs. There is a large collection of Lindens in the Arboretum arranged in the meadow on the right-hand side of the Meadow Road in which can now be seen specimens of most of the species and of several forms and varieties, many of the trees being now large enough to flower. The fact that, with the exception of *Tilia japonica* which is the first Linden here to unfold its leaves, none of the Asiatic Lindens now promise to be large or useful trees in this climate is surprising for the trees of eastern Asia usually flourish here, and as a rule are better able to adapt themselves to New England conditions than allied European trees. It is always possible, however, that by crossing some of the Asiatic species with the European species new and valuable forms may be obtained, for hybrids between American and European Lindens, like *Tilia spectabi-*

lis and its variety *Moltkei*, are trees of great beauty and remarkable rapidity of growth.

Catalpas. Of trees which flower here in summer the Catalpas have the showiest flowers. All the species and one or two hybrids with the exception of the West Indian *C. longissima* are in the collection, although they are not large enough yet to flower here. The first Catalpa to attract attention, *C. bignonioides*, was cultivated early in the eighteenth century in England where it had been sent from South Carolina. About forty years ago it became known that a second species of Catalpa was growing naturally in the lower Ohio valley and southward along the Mississippi River as far as western Tennessee and northeastern Arkansas. It was found that this second Catalpa had larger flowers in fewer-flowered clusters than the more southern tree, that the inner surface of the corolla of the flowers had fewer and smaller spots than that of the other tree; that the pods containing the seeds were stouter and had thicker walls, and that the leaves were much longer-pointed at the apex. The name of *C. speciosa* was given to this tree, and as Catalpa wood is extremely durable when placed in the ground it has been largely planted, especially in some of the prairie states, to produce fence-posts for which it is admirably suited, and for railway ties for which it is too soft. *Catalpa speciosa* is a fast-growing and rather pyramidal tree which on the rich river bottom lands of the Mississippi sometimes rises to the height of one hundred and twenty feet and forms a tall trunk occasionally four and a half feet in diameter. In New England it is a fast-growing, more shapely and much hardier tree than *C. bignonioides* which blooms two or three weeks later. In the northern states, and probably in all parts of the country, the early-flowering *C. speciosa* is the Catalpa which is now commonly planted. There is a dwarf form, var. *nana*, of *C. bignonioides* which is usually known as *C. Bungei* in American nurseries where it is grafted as a standard on the stems of one of the tree Catalpas, and is popular at present for the supposed decoration of gardens which are more or less formal in character and pass in this country for "Italian gardens." It is not known at the Arboretum where this dwarf variety originated or that it has ever flowered. The name *Catalpa Bungei* properly belongs to the tree of northern China with narrow, dark green, long-pointed leaves, small yellowish white flowers and slender pods. This is not so handsome a tree as the American Catalpas but it is geographically interesting, and is perfectly hardy in the Arboretum where it is growing well. It has not yet flowered. Another Chinese species, *C. ovata*, sometimes called *C. Kaempferi*, is much cultivated in Japan whence it was sent to this country many years ago. It is a perfectly hardy little tree with comparatively small dark green leaves, many-flowered clusters of small yellowish spotted flowers and long slender pods. This Catalpa, which will thrive in regions too cold for the American species, has been somewhat planted in the United States, although as an ornamental tree it does not deserve much attention from the lovers of handsome trees. A hybrid (*C. hybrida*) between *C. bignonioides* and *C. ovata* appeared several years ago in the nursery of J. C. Teas at Baysville, Indiana. This is a fast-growing and hardy tree with flowers like those of its American par-

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