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Summer Flowering Trees. Here in the north not many trees except Lindens can be grown which flower in summer. These are all valuable, however, for they add interest and variety to parks and gardens at the season when the flowers of trees and shrubs are not abundant. All the summer flowering trees here are interesting, and the flowers of some of them are conspicuous. After the Lindens the first of these trees to open its flowers is the Sorrel-tree (*Oxydendrum arboreum*). This tree is the only representative of a genus of the Heath Family and one of the few genera of eastern America trees which is not represented in eastern Asia. The Sorrel-tree is a common tree of the forests of the Appalachian Mountains from southwestern Pennsylvania southward; it grows also but less abundantly from southern Ohio and Indiana to northern Florida, southern Alabama and Mississippi and in eastern Louisiana. Growing under the most favorable conditions the *Oxydendrum* is a tree from fifty to sixty feet high, with a tall straight trunk sometimes twenty inches in diameter. The leaves are dark green, very lustrous and seven or eight inches long, and the bright scarlet of their autumn color is not surpassed by that of any other American tree. The leaves are pleasantly acidulous, a character to which the tree owes its vernacular name. The white flowers, which are shaped like those of an Andromeda, are erect on the branches of spreading or drooping clusters, and these are followed by pale capsular fruits which are conspicuous in contrast with the brilliant colors of the autumn foliage. Here in the north the Sorrel-tree begins to flower when only five or six feet high, and it is not probable that it will ever grow here to the size this tree attains in the rich "coves" found on the lower slopes of the high southern mountains in which several of

the trees of eastern North America grow to their greatest size. The Arboretum Sorrel-trees are planted among the Laurels (*Kalmia*) at the northern base of Hemlock Hill, and during the last two weeks have been covered with flowers.

Koelreuteria paniculata. This Chinese tree, which has been in bloom during the last ten days, is when in flower the most conspicuous of all the summer flowering trees which are hardy in this climate. It is a round-headed tree rarely more than thirty feet high, with large, compound, dark green leaves and large erect clusters of golden yellow flowers which are followed by great clusters of bladder-like pale fruits. This tree, which is hardy in Massachusetts, has been a good deal planted in this country, especially in the gardens of the Middle States. The *Koelreuteria* often appears in American nursery catalogues under the name of "Japanese Lacquer-tree," although it is not a native of Japan and has not lacquer-producing sap.

Maackia. Two species of this genus of the Pea Family were in flower during the last days of July. The better known of these trees, *M. amurensis*, is a native of eastern Siberia. It is a small tree with a slender trunk with smooth, lustrous, red-brown bark, small erect and spreading branches which form a rather flat-topped obconic head, and long, erect, narrow, terminal spikes of small white flowers. Botanically and geographically interesting, the chief value of this *Maackia* from the garden point of view is found in the fact that its flowers open at a time when flowers can only be seen here on a few trees. A second species, *Maackia hupehensis*, discovered by Wilson in central China, has been covered with flowers which are pale yellow and borne in rather shorter spikes. In early spring the silver gray hairs which thickly cover the unfolding leaves make this little tree conspicuous and interesting. The bark of *M. hupehensis* is dull grayish green and less beautiful than the bark of the Siberian tree.

Another eastern Asiatic tree of the Pea Family will bloom during the present month. This is the *Sophora* which, first sent to Europe from Japan where it had been cultivated perhaps for a thousand years, is called *japonica*, although it is not a Japanese tree but a native of northern China and Korea. Growing in Peking where this *Sophora* has been much planted, it is a large tree with a massive trunk often three feet in diameter covered with gray, deeply furrowed bark, and a round-topped head of large spreading branches, which seen from a little distance looks like that of a great Oak. Such trees have not grown in Europe where the *Sophora* was brought from Japan some hundred and fifty years ago, or in the United States where it has never been much planted and where no remarkable specimens exist. The leaves and young branches are green, and the small, pea-shaped, creamy white flowers are produced in great numbers in narrow terminal clusters erect on the branches, and are followed by nearly round pods much constricted between the seeds, as are the fruits of the other species of the genus *Sophora*. What is probably the largest and handsomest specimen of this tree in eastern Massachusetts is growing in the Public Garden of Boston. The Arboretum collection contains a specimen of the form of this tree with long drooping branches (var. *pendula*) which rarely if ever flowers, the form with erect branches (var. *pyramidalis*),

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