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*),

and the form with flowers tinged with pink (var. *rosea*). The Maackias and Sophoras are growing on the slope on the right hand side of Bussey Hill Road above the path which connects that road with the Meadow Road.

The Aralia Family supplies northern plantations with three handsome trees which flower in August. The most interesting of these three trees, possibly because it is still the least known in this country, is *Acanthopanax ricinifolium*, an inhabitant of the forests of Japan and Korea where it sometimes grows to the height of seventy or eighty feet and forms a massive trunk and great wide-spreading branches armed, like the stems of young trees, with numerous stout prickles. To the shape of the leaves, which somewhat resemble those of the plant which produces the fruit from which castor oil is obtained, this *Acanthopanax* owes its specific name. The leaves, which are nearly circular and more or less deeply five- or seven-lobed, and fifteen or sixteen inches in diameter, hang on long slender stalks. The small white flowers are arranged in compact, long-stemmed clusters which form a compound flat terminal panicle which varies from twelve to eighteen inches in diameter and is well raised above the leaves. In the early autumn the flowers are followed by small black and shining fruits. Of the trees growing in the Arboretum this *Acanthopanax* most departs in appearance from the trees of New England; and no other tree here is regarded with more curiosity. The largest specimen is growing by the side of the pond on the right hand side of the Meadow Road near its junction with the Bussey Hill Road; there is another large specimen in the mixed border plantation in the rear of the group of Viburnums near the junction of the Bussey Hill and Valley Roads. These trees have not before been more thickly covered with clusters of flower-buds.

Aralia spinosa is a common tree, growing usually in the neighborhood of streams in the region from western Pennsylvania to Missouri, and southward to northern Florida, Louisiana and eastern Texas. It is a slender tree thirty or thirty-five feet high with a stem rarely more than eight inches in diameter and wide-spreading branches furnished, like the young trunk, with stout scattered prickles. The leaves, which are clustered near the end of the branches, are from three to four feet long and about two and a half feet wide, on stems from eighteen to twenty inches in length which clasp the branches with their enlarged base, and are usually armed with slender prickles. The small, greenish white flowers appear in August in many-flowered umbels arranged in broad compound panicles three or four feet long which rise above the leaves singly or two or three together from the end of the branches. The small black fruit ripens in early autumn. This *Aralia* is now thoroughly established at the northern base of Hemlock Hill in the rear of the plantation of Laurels (*Kalmia*) and is spreading to a considerable distance from the original plant by means of underground stems from which new plants rise.

Aralia chinensis, so closely related to the American *Aralia* that it has sometimes been considered a geographical variety of that tree, appears in the Arboretum collection in several varieties. The best known of these varieties, a native of Manchuria and eastern Siberia (var. *mandschurica*), is a hardier plant at the north than the American spe-

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