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JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

JULY 19, 1923

Summer Flowering Trees. After the flowers of the Linden trees have mostly passed those of a few other trees add to the interest of the Arboretum in the last weeks of July and in August.

Koelreuteria paniculata is the first of these summer-flowering trees to bloom. It is a round-topped tree from 30 to 40 feet high with long compound dark green leaves and great erect clusters of golden yellow flowers which are followed by bladder-like pale fruits. This tree, which is a native of northern China and an old inhabitant of American gardens, is quite hardy in eastern Massachusetts, but has been more often planted in the Middle States than in New England. In American trade catalogues it usually appears as "the Japanese Lacquer tree" although it is not a Japanese tree and does not yield lacquer or anything else but beauty. The trees in the Arboretum are on the right hand side of the Meadow Road. There is a handsome specimen near the north-west corner of the Public Garden in Boston.

Maackias are small summer flowering trees of the Pea-family with short erect spikes of small white flowers. The flowers of the best known of these trees, *M. amurensis*, from eastern Siberia have already faded but the variety *Buergeri* from northern Japan differing in the presence of a coat of soft down on the lower surface of the leaves, flowers a week or ten days later than the Siberian tree and is now in bloom. What promises to be a handsomer tree here than either of these is the still little known species from western China, *M. chinensis*, which first flowered in the Arboretum five years ago when it was called *M.*

hupehensis; this year it will be covered with flowers toward the end of the month. A *Maackia* from Korea, *M. Faurei*, is in the collection but has not flowered here.

Sophora japonica, which is growing near the *Maackias* on the right hand side of the Bussey Hill Road, is covered with flower-buds which will open in the course of the next few weeks. This is a Chinese tree in spite of its name which has been cultivated in Japan for more than a thousand years, but which as it first reached Europe from Japan was supposed to be a native of that country and so received a misleading name. The bark of the young branches and the leaves are dark green and the small white pea-shaped flowers which open here in August are produced in great numbers in narrow, erect terminal clusters. This *Sophora* has a trunk covered with rough pale bark and the old trees in the streets and squares of Peking where it has been much planted look from a distance like great Oak-trees. There are in the Arboretum collection in addition to the type the form with long pendant branches (var. *pendula*) a favorite, although it rarely if ever flowers, with those who fancy trees of abnormal growth. There are also in the collection young specimens of the tree with erect branches (var. *pyramidalis*) and of the form (var. *rosea*) on which the flowers are slightly tinged with rose color. There is a handsome tree of *Sophora japonica* near the northwest corner of the Boston Public Garden, and a much larger one in Roslyn, Long Island.

The Aralia Family furnishes the Arboretum with three summer flowering trees, *Acanthopanax ricinifolium*, *Aralia spinosa*, and *Aralia chinensis*. The *Acanthopanax* is a tree which is common in the forests of northern Japan and Korea where it is often seventy or eighty feet high with a massive trunk and great wide-spreading branches armed, like the stems of young trees, with many stout prickles. The leaves hang down on long stalks and are nearly circular, five- or seven-lobed and often fifteen or sixteen inches in diameter. The small white flowers are produced in compact, long-stalked clusters which form a flat compound terminal panicle from twelve to eighteen inches across and are followed late in autumn by shining black fruits which do not fall until after the beginning of winter. This tree is perfectly hardy in the Arboretum where it has been growing for thirty years and where it has flowered and ripened its seeds now for several seasons. It is one of the most interesting trees in the collection and, because it is so unlike other trees of the northern hemisphere, it is often said to resemble a tree of the tropics. *Aralia spinosa*, the so-called Hercules' Club of the southern states where it is a common inhabitant of the borders of woods and the banks of streams, is a tree often thirty feet high with a tall trunk and wide-spreading branches covered with stout orange-colored prickles. The leaves, which are borne at the ends of the branches, are long-stalked, twice pinnate, and from three to four feet long and two and one-half feet wide. The small white flowers are arranged in compound clusters which rise singly or two or three together above the leaves and are three or four feet long. The fruit is black, rather less than a quarter of an inch in diameter, and ripens in early autumn. It is now well established on the slope at the northern

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