

Indigoferas. Five species of this genus of the Pea Family are now flowering in the Arboretum. They are small plants with handsome flowers in terminal racemes, well suited to decorate a garden border. The species with pink flowers, *I. Kirilowii*, a native of northern China, Manchuria and Korea, *I. Potaninii* and *I. amblyantha* are perfectly hardy, and the last will continue to open its small flowers on the lengthening racemes until October. The other species, *I. Gerardiana* and *I. decora*, are killed to the ground here every winter, but like herbaceous plants produce new stems in the spring which never fail to flower during the summer. *I. decora* is a native of southern China, and in the Arboretum the flowers are pure white and very beautiful. *I. Gerardiana* is a native of the northwestern Himalayas and has gray-green foliage and rose-purple flowers. This is the least beautiful of the five species now growing in the Arboretum.

The Japanese Clethra (*C. barbinervis*) flowers about two weeks earlier than the native *C. alnifolia*. The Japanese species is the larger plant of the two and in Massachusetts has grown ten or fifteen feet high and is nearly as much through. The foliage is of a lighter green than that of the American plant; the flowers are less crowded in the racemes, and lack the perfume which makes *C. alnifolia* one of the most delightful of summer-flowering shrubs. In the Arboretum the Japanese Clethra has escaped the attacks of the red spiders which often disfigure those of *C. alnifolia*.

Calluna. Few Americans appear to realize that the Calluna, or Scotch Heather as it is usually called, can be successfully grown in nearly all parts of the northern states and eastern Canada where the soil is not impregnated with lime. In one or two places in northern Massachusetts and in Nova Scotia it has become completely naturalized, and on one New England estate where it was planted only a few years ago it is spreading rapidly over large areas. Heather should be planted in well drained sandy soil in situations fully exposed to the sun, and the plants look better and flower better if the stems are cut down close to the ground in early spring. This prevents a straggling growth and insures a better bloom. There are a number of handsome and interesting varieties in the Arboretum collection. Some of the best of them are var. *alba* with white flowers, var. *alba minor*, a plant of dwarfer habit than the last, var. *rubra*, a dwarf compact variety with crimson flowers and the earliest to bloom, var. *tomentosa*, a compact plant with gray-green foliage and red flowers, the white-flowered varieties *alba tenella* and *alba rigida*, and var. *Alportii*, a tall-growing form with crimson flowers. These plants can be seen in the Shrub Collection and are not exceeded in interest by any of the summer-flowering shrubs in the Arboretum.

These Bulletins will now be discontinued until the autumn.



1925. "The Japanese Clethra." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 11(16), 64-64. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321636>.

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321636>

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