

# ARNOLD ARBORETUM

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The virtual absence of rain for a month and the heat of the past ten days has caused the flowers on bush and vine to pass rapidly; indeed, on many they have been browned on the bushes. The Mountain Laurel at the base of Hemlock Hill still makes a good display and the Silky Cornel (*Cornus Amomum*) with its relative *C. racemosa*, better known as *C. paniculata*, are in full bloom. Here and there along the driveways spears of yellow Woadwax (*Genista tinctoria*) obtrude themselves; a few early blossoms are opening on crimson-stamened *Rhododendron arborescens* and bright splashes of color are afforded by late-flowering bushes of the Flame Azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*), particularly the brilliant orange-scarlet blossomed variety *aurantiacum*. The Seashore Rose (*Rosa virginiana*) is gay with pink blossoms, nowhere more so than in the border near the junction of Meadow and Forest Hills roads. The Washington Thorn (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*, better known as *C. cordata*) is in flower, and on Bussey Hill varied-colored Sun Roses are still abloom and several mats of Thyme are aglow with purple blossoms. Certain Chinese Hydrangeas and Spiraeas are in flower and *Indigofera amblyantha* bears a thousand rosy-purple spires. The flowers on the last of the bush Lilacs are fading, whereas those of the tree Lilacs (*Syringa japonica* and *S. pekinensis*) are at the height of their beauty. The summer-flowering Philadelphus are bouquets of fragrant white and in the Shrub Garden a miscellany of shrubs are in bloom. So far the drought has not seriously affected the Arboretum but refreshing rains are badly needed.

*Ilex glabra*, the Ink-berry, is one of the few broad-leaved evergreens perfectly hardy in the Arboretum. It is native of eastern North America, being found from Nova Scotia to Florida, where it grows in sandy soil mostly near the coast. The Ink-berry is a broad dense-habited shrub with twiggy branches and lustrous short-stalked oblanceolate leaves, each about 1½ to 2 inches long and ½ inch broad, slightly toothed toward the apex. The leaves are leathery, lustrous green on the upper surface and pale on the lower. The plants are of



two sexes; in the male the flowers are clustered in the leaf axil, whereas in the female they are usually solitary. The ripe fruit is jet black. This shrub makes a broad billowy mass 6 to 8 feet tall and by clipping and training could be used for hedges. A clump of the Ink-berry may be seen facing the Mountain Laurel on Hemlock Hill Road.

**Kalmia angustifolia**, the Sheep Laurel, is a poor and maligned sister of the handsome Mountain Laurel (*K. latifolia*), found widely distributed from Newfoundland and Hudson Bay south to Georgia. It is an inhabitant of swamps and pastures and is said to be fatal to sheep if they eat the leaves. The legend is deep seated but actual proof never has been forthcoming. The Sheep Laurel is a twiggy shrub 2 to 5 feet tall and broad with oblong grayish green foliage. The leaves are arranged in threes and from the axils of each stalked fascicles of rose-purple, saucer-shaped flowers arise. The arrangement is such that the whole of the previous season's growth forms an elongated paniced mass of flowers surmounted by the young growth of the current season. Though not showy it is a useful shrub especially for the wild garden or for rough places and being evergreen it has winter value. The individual flowers though much smaller than those of the Mountain Laurel are of exactly the same form and in each crimson anthers are prominent. If the Sheep Laurel was an exotic it would be much more appreciated than it now is.

**Berberis polyantha** is a first-class Barberry and a shapely shrub of dome-shaped habit from 6 to 9 feet high with ascending spreading branches. The pale green leaves are obovate, each about 1 inch long, toothed on the margin and glaucous on the underside. The flowers are clear yellow and are borne in erect-spreading or nodding panicles each from 3 to 6 inches long; the fruit is oblong-ovoid and salmon-red. This Barberry is very floriferous, and with its clear yellow flowers and the manner in which they are borne, highly ornamental as a specimen on Bussey Hill proves. It is native of the Chino-Thibetan borderland and was introduced into cultivation by seeds sent to the Arboretum in 1908 by E. H. Wilson.

**Cotoneaster salicifolia floccosa** is the only tall-growing evergreen Cotoneaster hardy in the Arboretum. It is a singularly attractive species with ascending-spreading, arching whip-like branches clothed with purple-brown bark. The leaves are very short-stalked, narrow-oblong-lanceolate, each from 2 to 2½ inches long and 1/3 of an inch wide; they are wrinkled and lustrous green on the upper surface and clothed with a gray felt of floccose hairs on the lower. Each lateral shoot terminates in a 2- to 3-inch-broad, flattened cluster of Hawthorn-like flowers in which rose-purple anthers are prominent; the fruit is small, scarlet, and produced in quantity. Where growing freely the habit of the shrub is fountain-like and in foliage, flower, and fruit it is highly ornamental. A nice plant now in blossom may be seen in the Cotoneaster collection on Bussey Hill.



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