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The Laurels (*Kalmia latifolia*) will be in full bloom at the end of the week. They are planted along the base of Hemlock Hill, and here the plants remain in flower for a long time, for they are protected from the full effects of the sun by the hill behind them and the soil is moist and cool. The beauty of the flowers, too, is heightened by the dark background of Hemlocks, and none of the flower displays in the Arboretum surpass the flowering of the Laurels which this year promise greater beauty than ever as the plants never before have been so covered with flowers-buds.

Kalmia is a genus which is found only in North America and, with the exception of one small species, is confined to the eastern part of the country. *Kalmia latifolia* is the largest and most important species of the genus and in favorable situations on the southern Appalachian Mountains sometimes grows to the size of a small tree. It is one of the most beautiful of hardy flowering shrubs and for the northern states the most valuable of the broad-leaved evergreens which can be successfully grown here in the open ground. It would be astonishing that it has been so neglected in this country as a garden plant were it not for the fact that it has never been greatly appreciated or largely planted in England, and until recent years England has set the fashion in plants for us; and so because Rhododendrons flourish in many parts of England we have tried to grow them in a climate not really suited to them and have neglected our native Laurel which, less showy perhaps than some of the Rhododendrons, has beauties of its own which no Rhododendron can surpass. No hybrids or varieties of *Kalmia latifolia* have been developed in cultivation probably because little attention has thus far been paid to the cultivation of these plants, and the few varieties which are known have appeared naturally in the woods. There is a form with pure white flowers (var. *alba*), and there is another with deep pink, nearly red flowers and darker green leaves (var. *rubra*). These extreme forms are connected by others with flowers of all shades of pink. There is a distinct form with small leaves and small heads of small flowers (var. *myrtifolia*). This form is a low compact bush and flowers only sparingly. A form with broad obtuse leaves like those of a Rhododendron (var. *obtusata*) was discovered near Pomfret, Connecticut, a few years ago; this is also a shy bloomer. In another form (var. *polypetala*), first found near South Deerfield, Massachusetts, the corolla is deeply divided into narrow lobes. These varieties are all well established in the Arboretum. The Laurels can be easily and quickly reached from the South Street and Walter Street entrances.

The Sheepkill, *Kalmia angustifolia*, is a handsome dwarf shrub with small dark red flowers and, although rarely seen in gardens, well deserves cultivation. Another dwarf species recently discovered on the southern Appalachian Mountains, *K. caroliniana*, promises to be hardy in the Arboretum, but is still growing in the nursery where seeds of it were planted in 1906. Of the other dwarf species those from the north are difficult to cultivate and require special treatment, and the others are not hardy here.

The blooming of the Syringas (*Philadelphus*) is also an interesting event in the Arboretum where a large collection of these beautiful plants has been assembled. They can be seen in the Shrub Collection and in a large supplementary group on the right-hand side of the Bussey Hill Road,

opposite the Lilac Group. The first of these plants to flower is a new addition to the collection, *P. Schrenkii*, var. *Jackii*, a rather dwarf plant with slender stems and medium-sized flowers discovered in Corea a few years ago by Mr. Jack who brought seeds to the Arboretum. The flowers have already nearly all fallen. The next to open are the flowers of the southern Appalachian *P. hirsutus*. *P. coronarius* is also one of the early-flowering species; this is a native of southeastern Europe and the Caucasus, with extremely fragrant creamy white flowers. It is the Mock Orange of all old-fashioned gardens and the only European species of this genus. There are several varieties of this plant in the collection but none of them are as valuable as the common form, which is still one of the best garden plants in the genus, and are of little interest except as curiosities. Many other species will soon open their flower-buds; among some of the most interesting are *P. inodorus*, with large, solitary, pure white flowers, and one of the most distinct and beautiful plants in the genus although it is little known in gardens; *P. Falconerii*, of unknown origin but probably a native of Japan or China, and *P. maximus*, a probable hybrid between two American species, and the largest of all the Mock Oranges.

In no other genus of woody plants have more astonishing and unexpected results been obtained by the hybridizer. A few years ago the Rocky Mountain *Philadelphus microphyllus* was sent by the Arboretum to Lemoine, the famous French hybridizer; this is a small-growing species, with small leaves, and small, very fragrant flowers. Lemoine crossed it with *P. coronarius* and produced a new race of plants to which the general name of *Philadelphus Lemoinei* has been given. These hybrids are dwarf and compact shrubs with pure white fragrant flowers, usually not as large as those of *P. coronarius*, and small foliage. There are now many named varieties of this race in the Arboretum and some of the most distinct and beautiful of them are Avalanche, Boule d'Argent, Bouquet Blanc, Candélabre, Conquête, Fantasia, Gerbe de Neige, Manteau d'Hermine, Mont Blanc, Nuée Blanche, Pavillon Blanc, etc. These and several others are beginning to open their flowers, and no more charming group of dwarf hardy shrubs can be seen. *Philadelphus microphyllus* itself blooms later; none of the other species surpasses it in the fragrance of its flowers. With the exception of *P. coronarius*, all the species are found in the southeastern United States, the southern Rocky Mountain region, the northeastern United States, and in eastern Asia. The largest plants are found among the American species which generally produce larger and handsomer flowers, and are better garden plants than the Asiatic species which usually have smaller and less fragrant flowers.

Some of the Cornels or Dogwoods are now conspicuous. The principal group of these plants is at the junction of the Meadow and Bussey Hill Roads, and several species have been freely planted in border shrubberies in different parts of the Arboretum. The most interesting species now in flower are *Cornus rugosa* or *circinata* and *C. sanguinea*. The first, which is a common native shrub, is one of the handsomest of the genus; it has green branchlets, broad, rounded pale green leaves paler and hairy on their lower surface, and conspicuous clusters of creamy white flowers which are followed by beautiful light blue fruits. Like a few other Dogwoods, it is difficult to transplant but once established soon spreads into large masses. There are several individuals in the Cornel collection, and large shapely plants can be seen on the bank just above the group of Sassafras trees on the right-hand side of the Bussey Hill Road, and

below the Benzoin Group. Among the Hickories on the right-hand side of the Valley Road there are also large groups of this plant. *Cornus sanguinea* is a native of southern Europe and southeastern Asia, and is a large shrub with dark red branches, small flat flower clusters and black fruit; it has wide-spreading lower branches clinging close to the ground, and is well suited to grow as a single specimen or to plant on the margins of woods or of a large shrubbery. The habit of this plant can be seen in the large specimen in the Cornel group.

Magnolia glauca, the Sweet Bay of the Atlantic coast swamps, planted on the right-hand side of the Jamaica Plain entrance, is beginning to fill the air with the aromatic fragrance of its creamy white flowers. This is a shrub or small tree, with handsome leaves bright green and very lustrous above but silvery white below, which remain on the branches until the beginning of winter, and small cup-shaped flowers; it is the last of the Magnolias to flower, and the flowers open during several weeks. *Magnolia glauca* is perfectly hardy; it is easily cultivated and it is one of the most beautiful of the small trees which can be successfully grown in this part of the United States. It is astonishing therefore that it is so little known by the present generation and that good plants in quantity cannot be found in any American nursery.

Two plants of a rare Apple-tree (*Malus florentina* or *crataegifolia*) of the northern Apennines are just passing out of flower in the Apple Group at the eastern base of Peter's Hill where they have flowered more profusely this year than they have before in the Arboretum. It is a small tree with much-lobed leaves like those of the European Hawthorn, small white flowers, and small bright red fruits. Of all the Apples planted in the Arboretum it is the last to flower.

The different forms of the climbing *Evonymus radicans* are flowering very freely this year and can be seen in the Evonymus Group on the right-hand side of the Meadow Road. The hardiest, handsomest and most desirable of all the forms of this useful plant which have been tried in the Arboretum is the broad-leaved variety from northern Japan (var. *vegetus*) which, although it has been cultivated in the Arboretum for the last twenty-five years, is still little known and difficult to find in nurseries.

Opposite the Evonymus Group the Smoke-tree (*Cotinus*) of old-fashioned gardens is in bloom. The flowers are not conspicuous, and it is the clusters of the lengthening hairy colored stems of the flowers which make the "smoke" and the conspicuous feature of this plant which is a native of southern and southeastern Europe, the Himalayas, and western China. Near it is a large plant of the American *Cotinus* which is also in flower. The clusters of hairy flower-stems are less conspicuous than those of its Old World relative, but the foliage is larger, lighter-colored, and in autumn turns brilliantly to orange and scarlet shades. The American Smoke-tree, although it is a native of northern Alabama and southwestern Missouri, is perfectly hardy in New England in the most exposed positions, and is as much at home in western Europe as it is in New England, although usually the trees and shrubs of the southeastern United States do not flourish in Great Britain where they miss the summer and autumn heat necessary to properly ripen their wood.

The Arboretum will be grateful for any publicity given these Bulletins.



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