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Bussey Hill. The Arboretum is rich in pleasant and alluring scenes, but at the moment Bussey Hill has pride of place. Masses of vivid blossomed Azaleas compel attention, indeed, the dazzling blaze of Kaempfer's Azalea (*Rhododendron obtusum Kaempferi*) almost hurts the eyes. Broad belts of Pinxter Flower (*R. nudiflorum*) and its fragrant, deeper colored relative, *R. roseum*, draw the visitor; beyond are sheets of yellow Pontic Azalea (*R. luteum*), and orange to fiery red *R. japonicum*. The Enkianthus are a wealth of nodding bells, white, salmon and reddish crimson. Cotoneasters, prostrate or broad bushes, 10 feet tall and more in diameter, are just opening their blossoms and very pleasing are *C. apiculata*, *C. nitens*, *C. divaricata* and others, their branches peppered with globular flowers which have rose-pink infolded petals. Other species, like *C. hupehensis* and *C. multiflora*, have conspicuous white blossoms in small flattened clusters. Many Barberries there are strung with yellow blossoms; some in hanging tassels, some in erect spike-like racemes, others with relatively large blooms, solitary or in few-flowered clusters. Prominent is *B. Vernae*, with rich yellow, grape-like panicles of small blossoms. Facing the Cotoneasters is a dense, rounded bush of gray-leaved *Lonicera syringantha*, whose lilac-purple clustered flowers emit the fragrance of Heliotrope. Other Honeysuckles and scores of other plants are coming into bloom in the Chinese Border, which rings the top of Bussey Hill, and the air is saturated with fragrant odors in which that of the Common Lilac plays an important part.

Brooms. Not least of the attractions on Bussey Hill is the collection of Brooms with pea-shaped blossoms of varying shades of yellow. The Brooms belong mostly to the genera *Cytisus* and *Genista*, and are a very useful class of free-flowering plants little known in American gardens. When rock gardens come into their own these plants will be in great request. The group is essentially European although a few members creep westward into Asia Minor and southward into North Africa. The species, widespread in Europe, are most abundant in the southern and southwestern parts. The family resemblance in habit of growth and in general appearance is very strong. They are twiggy

plants with a multitude of slender branches bearing in profusion yellow, white, pink or red-purple, but mostly yellow, blossoms. These are shaped like those of the Sweet Pea with a more boat-shaped keel, gay wings and flaunting standard. The leafage is small, often scant or quite wanting when the green shoots function in its stead.

Their Propagation. Several are prostrate in habit forming neat, hummock-like masses sprawling over the ground. These are ideal for planting on boulders or in the rockery. Others are compact bushes from 2 to 4 feet high, neat in appearance throughout the year. They are in abundant bloom from May until August, and most of them set seed freely. Seed is an excellent means of increasing these plants, but some are very susceptible to foreign pollen and several of the finest varieties have originated as chance hybrids. The hybrids must be propagated from cuttings, and this is a good method to practice with all of them. Firm, nearly ripe wood inserted in early August is best. Brooms do not transplant readily so this should be done when the plants are small. Nurserymen should maintain a stock of these in pots for such can then be planted with success at any season when the ground is not frozen.

Soil and Situation. Brooms and their kindred are sun-loving plants and perfect air and root drainage are essential to their well-being. A sandy loam from which the water can seep freely away is ideal. They do not object to the best of loam provided the subsoil is gravelly but are happy in quite poor garden soil. Their roots are furnished with nodules rich in nitrifying Bacteria and so they do not exhaust but, on the contrary, tend to enrich the soil in which they grow. They are excellent groundcovers, but are impatient of overhead shade except of a light character. Drought they really enjoy but a water-logged condition spells death. On account of their floriferous character many of them are short-lived. The taller sorts are apt to become straggly and untidy in appearance if not severely pruned. They bear the knife well and as soon as flowering is over can be cut back to maintain the desired shape and size. Provided they are given full exposure to sun and wind and good root drainage all of them can be grown somewhere on the Atlantic seaboard from Massachusetts to Georgia.

Dwarfs. For planting on sunny banks or on top of exposed rocks *Cytisus purgans*, *C. Ardoinii*, *C. Beanii* and *C. decumbens* are admirably suited. All four are prostrate with very numerous, slender radiating branches which form yard- to fathom-wide masses hugging the ground. The best is *C. Beanii*, a chance hybrid between *C. Ardoinii* and *C. purgans*, with large deep golden yellow flowers, borne single or in pairs from each joint of the previous year's growth. So freely does this plant blossom that scarcely anything but flowers is visible. It is quite hardy in the Arboretum but not so its part parent (*C. Ardoinii*), which has similar flowers. *C. decumbens* has bright yellow flowers clustered in sprays along the shoots. It is perhaps the most thoroughly prostrate of all the Brooms and in June is gay with blossom. *Genista pilosa* is splendid for bank and rockery. It grows only a few inches high and forms dense tufts several feet through.



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