

**Polygonum Aubertii**, the Fleece Vine, is opening its paniced masses of white blossoms on the fence near Walter Street Gate. A comparative newcomer having been introduced into cultivation in 1899, its beauty has quickly brought it into popularity. Flowering in late July and through August when there is little in blossom it is doubly welcome and being perfectly hardy and easily grown is destined to become one of the most widely planted vines. A slender stemmed plant which grows from 5 to 8 feet a year, it produces foot long masses of blossoms at the end of every shoot. Each flower is triangular in shape, white with a greenish center, changing to pink as the fruit commences to ripen. A native of extreme western China, it is by no means a common plant in a wild state. A near relative (*P. baldschuanicum*), native of central Asia has been known in cultivation since 1883, but for some unknown reason does not flourish so well in eastern North America as does *P. Aubertii*. The Polygonum family is widespread throughout the world but nearly all are herbs, many rank of growth and others mere weeds. These two climbing suffruticose species, however, are among the choicest and most graceful vines growing in the Arboretum.

**Hydrangea quercifolia** is a native of eastern North America, being found wild from Georgia to Florida west to Mississippi. It has been known in gardens for more than a century, but for some unknown reason has not attained the popularity it merits. A shrub of spreading habit, growing from 5 to 8 feet tall and broad, it is from late spring to autumn densely clothed with long stalked leaves, each from 6 inches to 1 foot long by 5 to 10 inches broad, netted, dark green on the upper and gray on the lower surface. The margins are coarsely toothed and incised like those of a Red Oak leaf, hence its specific name. The flowers are borne in large panicles at the end of the current season's growth, each inflorescence being from 6 to 15 inches long and well sprinkled with four-partite, showy, neuter flowers. However, did it not bear blossoms, this *Hydrangea* would be worth growing for its handsome foliage. Other native species of *Hydrangea* now in blossom are *H. cinerea*, *H. radiata*, and *H. arborescens* and its many forms, all of which may be seen in the Shrub Garden.

**Lonicera tatarica lutea** in the Shrub Garden and in the collection near the Philadelphus is now weighed down with its translucent orange-colored berries. Like its relatives, this is a large growing bush sometimes 10 to 12 feet tall and more in diameter with ascending-spreading branches bearing in the axils of every leaf a stalked cluster of brightly colored fruits. All the forms of this old-fashioned bush Honeysuckle are worth growing for their fruit alone, but none is more conspicuous at the particular moment than the variety *lutea*. Two other noteworthy varieties, each with deep, shining red fruits, are *angustifolia* with lance-shaped leaves and *sibirica* with elliptic-ovate leaves. The bush Honeysuckles are fruiting abundantly this year, but, unfortunately, starlings, whose gluttony is surely unmatched in the whole bird family, are fast devouring the berries; not content with what they can eat they squander all they possibly can on the ground beneath.

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