In the fourth week of July lush growth rather than blossom is the feature of the Arboretum. The splendid rains we have enjoyed during the month have done untold good to the collections in general, indeed, a more favorable season for the Arboretum is scarcely on record. It is a pleasure to walk about the grounds and note the splendid growth that tree, shrub and vine have made, and granted favorable weather the autumn coloring should be unusually good. On the right of Meadow Road handsome Koelreuteria paniculata with erect, broad, terminal panicles of clear yellow blossoms is conspicuous from afar. Under the lee of the wood behind the Buckeye group the late flowering Aesculus parviflora is covered with a myriad upthrust candles; in the Shrub Garden the different species of Hypericum are in bloom and so, too, are one or two sorts of late flowering Barberries. Different species of summer blooming Spiraeas are in blossom and also Hydrangeas in variety. On the trellis and on the boundary walls the vines have put on a growth almost tropical in vigor and luxuriance. Heather is in blossom in many places, and among the Kalmias at the foot of Hemlock Hill, the Sorrel-tree (Oxydendrum arboreum) is laden with terminal panicles of white, urn-shaped flowers. On Bussey Hill the pink-stamened Albizia julibrissin rosea is flowering more freely than before. Last season we called particular attention to this unusual plant; this year it is even more beautiful and at the moment is worth coming a long distance to see. Its fine fern-like leaves are perhaps more lovely than those of any other shrub or tree that can be grown out-of-doors in this climate. The discovery and introduction of this hardy type of Silk-tree was indeed fortunate. Among the group of Kaempfer’s Azalea on Bussey Hill the American Stewartia pentagyna and its purple-stamened variety grandiflora are in bloom; also the Japanese S. pseudo camellia and the Korean S. koreana, the latter being the finest of the group.

The genus Vitis, to which all the true Grapevines belong, is widespread in both hemispheres, being well represented in the United
On the trellis in the Shrub Garden all the species that are hardy in this climate are growing and at the moment are remarkable for their vigorous, rampant growth and abundant foliage. Many species are noteworthy ornamental plants which not only in their luxuriance of growth give a tropical aspect to wall, fence and pergola wherever they are planted, but late in the year a wealth of vivid autumn coloring. The handsomest of all is the Japanese Vitis Kaempferi, more widely known as V. Coignetiae. This has broad, roundish cordate, netted leaves, dark green on the upper and clothed with a russet-gray tomentum on the lower surface. In its native habitat it scales to the tops of the tallest trees, forming dense mantles of green in summer and vivid splashes of red to crimson in the autumn. The fruit is perfectly round, jet black, of good size but very harsh in flavor, nevertheless, on account of its hardiness one would suppose that this species has value to the grapevine breeder.

**Ampelopsis aconitifolia** and **A. brevipedunculata** are two graceful vines remarkable for the elegance of their finely divided foliage and for the lovely color of their fruits; both are natives of northeastern Asia and perfectly hardy even in the coldest parts of Massachusetts. They are well suited for draping trellis or pergola where from late spring until the fall they are most attractive subjects. In **A. aconitifolia** the fruit at maturity is orange-yellow but before attaining this stage it passes through shades of blue. In **A. brevipedunculata**, better known as **A. heterophylla**, the leaves vary from ovate-cordate and three-lobed to deeply laciniate but are not so finely divided as those of **A. aconitifolia**. The fruit of **A. brevipedunculata** at maturity is porcelain-blue and as it ripens changes from green to white and pale lavender. Another related species native of northern China is **A. humulifolia** which has reddish stems, leaves dull green on the upper and glaucous on the lower surface, and pale yellow or pale blue fruits. These plants may be seen on the trellis in the Shrub Garden.

**Actinidia arguta** is an old-fashioned climber of great value in gardens where it may be used for all the purposes that a strong growing vine is useful; also it may be clipped to form dense goodlooking hedges. Such hedges are a feature of many an estate at Bar Harbor, Maine, and one wonders why its use for this purpose is not more general. It is a strong growing plant with scaling bark and prominently lenticellate branches; the leaves on long, reddish petioles, are more or less ovate, long pointed and sharply serrate, each from 2 to 5 inches long and 1½ to 3 inches broad, dark shining green on the upper and paler on the under surface. The flowers, white or nearly so, have a prominent mass of stamens in the center. As in all species of Actinidia they are of two kinds, one purely male and the other perfect. The latter produces fruit in great quantity; the fruit, each about an inch long, is ellipsoid, greenish yellow or tinged with purple when perfectly ripe and palatable to the taste. For the making of jellies it is to be recommended. This Actinidia is found wild in many parts of Japan and Korea and the genus itself is purely east Asiatic.
Polygonum Aubertii, the Fleece Vine, is opening its panicled 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 suffrutescent 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.

E. H. W.