

## Aunt Julia's True Stories



### COMMON SHRUBS

Shrubs are bigger plants than the herbs, a number of which you read about in the past issues of "The Young Citizen." Shrubs have hard bodies like trees but much smaller than trees. They are usually a meter or two in height. Shrubs that have many trunks are called bushes. Rosal, santan, sampaguita, dama de noche are bushes. San Francisco is a shrub.

The most widely known and the best beloved of all bush flowers is the sampaguita. Because its modest blossom and delicate fragrance typify the nature of the Filipino, the sampaguita has been designated our national flower. The sampaguita is worn as necklaces, coronets, and garlands. It is used profusely in churches, at weddings, and at processions. Can you name other uses of the sampaguita?

The rosal is taller than the sampaguita. Rosal shrubs dot many plazas or line the sidewalks of many Philippine towns. Why is the rosal so popular? Its white flower with a heart of gold is attractive and exceedingly fragrant. When in bloom, the entire crown of the shrub is covered with flowers. Like the sampaguita, the rosal is used in churches and at processions. Like the camia, the ilang-ilang and the champaca, the rosal is used as a cross at the end of a sampaguita rosary.

The sampaguita and the rosal are widely popular, but the dama de noche is the sovereign of the garden at night. Its tiny greenish white flowers that grow in clusters do not attract attention in the daytime.

But at night the blossoms on a small plant will fill a whole neighborhood with a sweet perfume.

Santan is about as big as the rosal. Its little flowers grow in big attractive clusters. There are white, pink, red, and cream santan. This bush is used as an ornamental plant like the rosal. The pink kind is delicately fragrant but the others are almost odorless.

Shrubs are cultivated as ornamental plants not only because of their attractive or fragrant flowers, but also for their attractively bright foliage. You are familiar with the San Francisco. Its leaves are of different shapes and colors. What other shrubs have brightly colored leaves? Look about the school ground, the town plaza, the municipal or provincial buildings. Ask for the names of shrubs that owe their value to their yellow, red, and purple leaves.

typify	coronets	odorless
designated	sovereign	foliage
profusely	ornamental	clusters

## Youth in Bloom



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