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One of the most interesting trees now in flower in the Arboretum is *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*. This is a native of Japan and of western China. In the forests of the northern island of Japan it grows to a larger size than any of the other deciduous-leaved trees of the Empire, often attaining a height of one hundred feet with a cluster of stems eight or ten feet in diameter. In very early spring the nearly round cordate leaves are a deep bronze color and before they fall in the autumn they turn to clear bright yellow. The flowers are inconspicuous, and the male and female flowers are produced on different individuals. They are furnished with a small calyx but are without petals and are nearly hidden by the half-grown leaves. The male flowers are composed of numerous stamens with long slender filaments and in the female flowers from four to six small carpels are found which later develop into dry pod-like fruits. *Cercidiphyllum* has proved a very hardy and generally satisfactory tree in eastern Massachusetts where it was introduced by the Arboretum about thirty years ago. A number of plants can be seen on the Meadow Road not far beyond the Administration Building. In the group on the right-hand side of the road there is a male tree now in flower.

Another Japanese plant of the same family, *Euptelea polyandra*, is flowering in the Arboretum for the first time. This is a much smaller, less desirable and less hardy tree than *Cercidiphyllum*, although it is interesting as another representative of a small natural family of trees found only in eastern Asia. A number of individuals of *Euptelea* are growing on the right-hand side of Azalea Path.

On the other side of this path are several individuals of another plant of the same family, *Eucommia ulmoides*. This is a hardy tree from central China to which a good deal of space has recently been given in the daily papers as the "Hardy Rubber-tree," and a possible source of rubber in countries with cold climates. *Eucommia* has not yet flowered in the Arboretum and the leaves are only just unfolding.

Some of the Plum-trees are now at their best and will soon be in full bloom. The first of the American species to flower, *Prunus nigra*, is a native of British America and through cultivation has become sparingly naturalized along the borders of the northeastern United States. This is a desirable ornamental tree as it produces in profusion every year its large flowers which in fading turn pink. The flowers of other American tree Plums will soon open. Among them are *Prunus americana* from the eastern United States, and *Prunus hortulana* and *Prunus Munsoniana* (the Wild Goose Plum) from the Mississippi valley. From these three species and from *Prunus nigra* most of the cultivated American Plums have been derived. Other American Plums now beginning to

show their flowers are *Prunus alleghaniensis*, a small tree from the mountains of Pennsylvania, and two shrubs from Kansas and Oklahoma, *Prunus Watsonii* and *Prunus orthosepala*. These are attractive when in flower, very hardy, and produce handsome fruits.

Among foreign Plums now in bloom the most interesting, perhaps, is *Prunus triflora*. This is a Chinese species not often seen in American gardens from which the so-called Japanese Plums largely grown by pomologists have been in part, at least, derived. The Plum collection will be found near the junction of the Forest Hills and Meadow Roads.

The group of Wild Pears (*Pyrus*) near the Forest Hills entrance and on the left-hand side of the Forest Hills Road is now interesting, for in this group are some of the handsomest of the early spring flowering trees. The Pears, of which there are a number of species, are natives of southern and western Europe, the Himalayas, of China and eastern Siberia. The genus has no American representative. The beauty of the flowers of several of the species from southwestern Europe is heightened by the silver color of the young leaves which generally unfold as the flowers open.

The first of the species in the Arboretum to flower is *Pyrus Simonii* from China. It has large and abundant flowers which now cover the leafless branches. The leaves of this tree, like those of several of the Chinese species, are large, thick and lustrous, and unlike those of any other Pear in the collection, turn in the autumn brilliant scarlet, a character which adds to the value of this species as a garden plant. Other plants just coming into flower are *Pyrus elaeagnifolia* and *Pyrus salicifolia* from the Caucasus, and these will soon be followed by a number of European species and by others from China. Among the latter the different forms of *Pyrus sinensis* are perhaps the most desirable in the whole group as they are very hardy and of rapid growth, and their flowers and leaves are large and abundant. The fruit, too, of some of these Chinese forms is juicy and edible. Another of the Chinese Pears, *Pyrus betulaeifolia*, has smaller flowers than the others but they are very abundant, but the small round fruits are not much larger than peas.

The Redbuds (*Cercis*) are just opening their flowers. The species of the eastern United States, *Cercis canadensis*, has been generally planted in the Arboretum and large plants can be seen from many of the roads. On the Meadow Road, nearly opposite the Plum group, is a tree of this species which produces white flowers. This variety was found a few years ago in the woods of southwestern Missouri and is still a rare plant in cultivation. *Cercis chinensis* has more beautiful flowers than the American species. Plants of this small eastern Asiatic shrub are now in flower on the left-hand side of Azalea Path.

Of several species of *Ribes* (Currants) now in flower in the Shrub collection the most interesting are two species from western North America. One of these, *Ribes cereum*, which is now covered with small white flowers, to be followed by sweet, edible, red fruits, is a native of the southern Rocky Mountain region where it is widely distributed. Unlike

many of the plants of that dry region, *Ribes cereum* has adapted itself to the climate of eastern New England. The other currant now of special interest is the yellow-flowered *Ribes aureum* from the northwestern part of the country. This is a tall shrub with slender, graceful stems and tubular bright yellow flowers and, although long cultivated in Europe, is still a rare plant in American gardens. It must not be confounded with another yellow-flowered species, *Ribes odoratum*, the so-called Missouri Currant, which is a native of the region about the headwaters of the Missouri River and a larger plant common in all old-fashioned American gardens.

The Shad Bushes (*Amelanchier*) mentioned in the last Bulletin are now in full flower and are remarkably fine this year.