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ARNOLD ARBORETUM,

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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BULLETIN

OF

POPULAR INFORMATION



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BULLETIN NO. 1.

Persons interested in plants often complain that they do not know when the trees and shrubs in the Arboretum bloom and therefore miss flowers which they want to see. To meet this difficulty it is proposed to issue from time to time from the Arboretum bulletins of popular information in which attention will be called to the flowering of important plants and other matters connected with them. During the spring and autumn these bulletins will probably be issued every Saturday and from time to time during the remainder of the year when the necessity for them exists; and in them notice will be given of what will be best worth seeing during the following week.

Copies of the Bulletin will be mailed without charge to any one interested in trees and shrubs and their cultivation who desire to receive them.

An illustrated guide to the Arboretum containing a map showing the position of the different groups of plants has recently been published. It will be found useful to persons unfamiliar with the position of the different groups of plants. Copies of this guide can be obtained at the Administration Building in the Arboretum, from the Secretary of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society on Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, from The Houghton, Mifflin Company, 4 Park Street, Boston, and at the Old Corner Bookstore, Bromfield Street, Boston.

C. S. SARGENT,
Director.

The hot days of last week have brought out suddenly the flowers of several plants belated by the exceptional cold of the early part of April.

Many of the Magnolias of eastern Asia, which produce their flowers before the leaves appear, are now in bloom. The flowers of the earliest of these, *Magnolia stellata*, are already passing. The delicate pink flowers of one form of this handsome and hardy Japanese shrub deserve special notice. The white-flowered *Magnolia conspicua* from China, the two forms of *Magnolia Kobus* from Japan, and the hybrid *Magnolia Soulangeana* with pink flowers are particularly noticeable. They are in the immediate neighborhood of the Administration Building and near the Jamaica Plain Gate.

Several of the Asiatic Cherries are in bloom. The most attractive of these are *Prunus pendula* and a variety of this Japanese tree with erect branches, *Prunus pendula ascendens*, often called *Prunus subhirtella*. This is one of the most beautiful of the early spring flowering trees. Attention is called, too, to *Prunus Sargentii*. This is a large Cherry-tree from the forests of northern Japan with single flowers, pink on some plants and rose-colored on others. *Prunus Sargentii* is a valuable timber tree in its native country and one of the most desirable of the hardy trees of recent introduction. These Cherry-trees and many others are on the right-hand side of the Forest Hills Road.

In the Shrub Collection, near the Forest Hills Gate, a number of species of Ribes (Currants and Gooseberries) are already in flower and here the different forms of Forsythia may be seen. The handsomest of them at this time is *Forsythia intermedia*, a hybrid between *F. suspensa* and *F. viridissima*, and a more desirable decorative plant than either of its parents. Less beautiful but of particular interest to students of plant geography is *Forsythia europæa*, discovered a few years ago in Albania and the only species found beyond the limits of the Chinese Empire.

On Azalea Path a number of plants of *Rhododendron mucronulatum* are now in good condition. This is a native of the mountains of northern China, and is now covered with bright rose-colored flowers which are produced before the leaves. It is the earliest of the Rhododendrons and Azaleas to bloom in the Arboretum.

The Service Berry, or Shad Bush tree, will soon be in flower. Two species, *Amelanchier canadensis* and *A. obovalis*, grow naturally in the Arboretum, and the latter has been planted in large numbers through the border shrubberies. Large plants of *A. canadensis*, easily distinguished by the deep red color of the unfolding leaves, are growing at the foot of the wooded slope near the junction of the Forest Hills and Meadow Roads.

The Plum-trees near the Shrub Collection will soon be covered with sheets of white flowers. Some of the Apricots here are already in bloom, and the pink petals of *Prunus Davidiana* are already dropping. This is the Wild Peach of northern China, by some botanists believed to be the plant from which the cultivated Peach has been derived.