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Although seldom cultivated and little known in this country, several of the wild Pear-trees are plants of ornamental value as their large white flowers, which open before or with the leaves, and the silvery foliage of several of the species are handsome in the spring. The genus *Pyrus* (the Pears), is now considered distinct from *Malus* (the Apples), and *Cydonia* (the Quinces); it is distributed with a dozen or fifteen species from southern Europe to the Caucasus, through Persia to the Himalayas, and northward to northern China, the largest number of species being found in southeastern Europe and the Caucasus. The genus is widely distributed and much cultivated in China where more species certainly occur than are now recognized by botanists. There is no native Pear-tree in northern Asia or in Japan, and the genus has no New World representative. This comparatively restricted range of the Pears is remarkable, for wild Apples occur in nearly all the countries of the north temperate zone. The Pears do not show such a tendency to hybridize as the Apples, although some of the wild European forms are sometimes considered on slight evidence natural hybrids; and in the United States undoubted hybrids between some of the cultivated varieties of the common Pear (*P. communis*), and cultivated plants of one of the Chinese species have appeared, and these hybrids have been largely planted for their fruit in different parts of the United States. The best known of these are the Keifer and the Leconte.

The Arboretum collection of wild Pear-trees is planted on the left-hand side of the road entering from the Forest Hill Gate, above the collection of Apples. Some of the species will be in flower during the week and others will be interesting from the beauty of their unfolding leaves. The earliest Pear to flower is from northern China and is now called *P. Simomonii*. It is one of the green-leaved species and, unlike those of all other Pear-trees, the leaves turn bright scarlet in the autumn. The fruit is small, light yellow, juicy, of good flavor, broadest at the base and gradually narrowed toward the apex. The handsome flowers and the brilliancy of the autumn leaves make this a valuable ornamental tree. A number of species with more or less silvery white leaves from southern Europe and the Caucasus will soon be in flower. Among them are *P. malifolia*, *P. amygdaliformis*, *P. elaeagnifolia*, *P. Michauxii*, *P. salicifolia*, *P. parvifolia*, etc. One of the handsomest plants in the collection is *P. betulifolia* from northern China, with crowded clusters of rather small flowers which are followed by globose fruits not much larger than peas. This is a very hardy, vigorous, tall, fast-growing tree. Among the plants grown in the Arboretum as *P. sinensis* are two very distinct forms raised from seeds sent here from Peking thirty years ago. They are both tall, shapely trees with large flowers and large, thick, lustrous leaves. One of these Pear-trees produces globose, yellow, juicy fruit, and is perhaps the wild type or one of the forms of the excellent yellow Pear which is brought in different sizes and great quantities to the Peking markets in September and October. The other form produces brown, hard fruits not more than half an inch in diameter; and on some trees the fruit is globose and on others pear-shaped. The Japanese Sand Pear, with its hard, brown, round fruits may perhaps have been derived from this Chinese plant.
The White Willow (*Salix alba*) is now covered with its bright yellow catkins and makes a charming picture in the landscape. This is the largest and the most common Willow tree of New England where it has often grown to a noble size and assumed a picturesque habit. It is a European tree, and it is of interest that it is the only exotic tree that has really become widely naturalized in New England. There are many forms of this Willow and the one which has most often established itself here is the variety *coerulea*. There is no record of the introduction of this tree into America, but it was probably soon after the settlement of the country, for very old trees can be found here, and it must have taken a long time for it to have spread as generally as it has done. Occasionally plants of the Brittle Willow (*S. fragilis*) may be seen in this part of the country, but in some of the middle states it is now completely naturalized, having been brought there many years ago to provide charcoal for the powder works in Delaware.

The most interesting plants now in flower in the Shrub Collection will be found among the Currants and Gooseberries (*Ribes*). The two yellow-flowered American Currants are already in bloom. The better known of these, the so-called Missouri Currant (*Ribes odoratum*) was for many years a favorite garden plant in the United States and is still found in many old gardens. It is a large, broad, very hardy, fast-growing shrub with drooping clusters of bright yellow fragrant flowers and lustrous black fruits. It owes its popular name to the fact that it was first found on the upper Missouri River, and it is now known to occur on the great plains from South Dakota to Texas. In many books this plant appears as *R. aureum*, but this name properly belongs to a smaller plant from the northwest and the northern Rocky Mountains with more slender branches, smaller flowers, and black or orange-colored fruits. This species appears to be extremely rare in cultivation. The two plants are growing together in the Shrub Collection and the differences in their general appearance and in the structure of the flowers can be readily seen. Among the Gooseberries already in flower the most interesting perhaps are *R. pinetorum* from the mountains of New Mexico and Arizona, with bright, orange-red flowers; *R. niveum* from northwestern North America with pure white flowers; *R. cynosbati* from eastern North America, and its spineless variety, *R. curvatum* from Stone Mountain, Georgia, with white flowers gracefully drooping on long stalks; *R. stenocarpum* from western China with white flowers, and *R. robustum*, a vigorous white-flowered plant of unknown origin but supposed to be a hybrid between *R. niveum* and *R. oxyacanthoides*.

The first of the Honeysuckles to bloom this year is *Lonicera coerulea*, a plant with small yellow-white flowers and early ripening bright blue fruit. It is one of the most widely distributed of the shrubs of the northern hemisphere, being found in numerous forms and varieties in the northern part of North America, Europe and Asia. There are several distinct forms of this plant now flowering in the Shrub Collection. The pink flowered *Lonicera gracilipes* from Japan and the Fly Honeysuckle of northeastern North America, (*L. canadensis*) are also in flower in the collection where Honeysuckles will continue to blossom for several weeks.

The earliest Barberry in the Arboretum to flower this year is *Berberis dictyophylla* which, although it comes from the warm province of Yunan in China, has proved perfectly hardy here. The flowers are solitary or
occasionally in pairs in the axils of the leaves, rather less than half an inch in diameter and pale primrose yellow in color. They are produced this year in profusion, but the greatest beauty of this plant is in the leaves which, although not large, are silvery white on the lower surface and in the autumn turn brilliant scarlet on the upper surface while the lower surface retains its spring and summer color. This Barberry was sent to Europe a dozen years ago and soon reached the Arboretum where it is one of the handsomest shrubs of comparatively recent introduction. It can be seen in the Shrub Collection and among the Barberries on Hickory Path near Centre Street.

The Hobble Bush or Moosewood (Viburnum alnifolium or lantanoides) is the first of the genus to flower here and one of the handsomest shrubs of northeastern North America where it grows in cold moist woods. In cultivation it is occasionally seen in good condition, growing to a large size, flowering freely, and spreading by the rooting of its inclining branches, but it has never done well in the Arboretum where the right place for it has probably not yet been found. The Hobble Bush is one of the species with broad flat flower-clusters surrounded by greatly enlarged neutral white flowers, the flowers opening with the unfolding of the leaves. A plant just coming into flower can be seen among the dwarf Birches on the left-hand side of the Bussey Hill Road and just below the point where it turns abruptly to the left in ascending the hill.

In Prunsepia sinensis, a member of the Rose Family and a native of northern China, the Arboretum has an interesting addition of recent introduction to its list of hardy shrubs. Prunsepia sinensis has small, axillary, bright yellow flowers, which are produced in profusion, and it is one of the earliest shrubs in the Arboretum to expand its bright green leaves which are nearly fully grown when the flower-buds open. It is now in bloom on the right-hand side of Hickory Path, going from the Valley Road, close to Centre Street.

The hybrid Spiraea arguta (multiflora x Thunbergii), which is one of the handsomest of the early flowering Spiraees, is a more desirable plant here than S. Thunbergii which flowers at the same time, but is never vigorous and is often injured by cold. This hybrid is in the Shrub Collection and large plants in flower can be seen in the supplementary Spiraea Collection on the short path between the two branches of Hickory Path near the middle of the Hickory Group.

The Hickories are rapidly expanding their leaf-buds and these as they open are beautiful and interesting because the inner bud-scales rapidly enlarge before falling, and on some trees are bright red and on others yellow or green, appearing like the petals of some great flower. The beauty of these scales lasts for only a few days, but as the buds of the different species open during a period of at least two weeks, an observer who is able to visit the Arboretum several times at this season can see all of the Hickories which are hardy here at an interesting period of their development.

The Arboretum will be grateful for any publicity given these Bulletins.