Next week the Arboretum should be visited by lovers of the flowers of early spring for it will then be gay with the white blossoms of the Shad Bushes (Amelanchier) which have been largely planted in the shrubberies and mixed plantations, making the last days of April here one of the most delightful weeks of the early spring. Amelanchier is largely North American, although there is one small shrubby species on the mountains of central Europe and another species is widely distributed in eastern Asia. In the United States the genus is found with many species in both the eastern and western parts of the country. Two species grow naturally in the Arboretum, *A. laevis* and *A. oblongifolia*. The former, which has been erroneously called *A. canadensis*, is a small tree easily distinguished in spring by the red color of the unfolding leaves which make a handsome contrast with the white flowers. This tree grows on uplands and there are several good-sized specimens at the base of the wooded slope on the south side of the Forest Hills Road in the rear of the lower end of the Apple Group. *A. oblongifolia* grows naturally on the borders of swamps and, although it often grows to a large size, is always shrubby in habit. There is a large wild plant of this species on the border of the north meadow, and it is this species which has been most generally planted in the Arboretum. The other tree Amelanchier, the true *A. canadensis*, is a larger plant than *A. laevis*, and it can easily be distinguished by the coat of fine down which covers the lower surface of the leaves which are silvery white, becoming green but never red when they first unfold. This tree is rare in New England, but it is common in western New York where it grows to a very large size, and in the southern states where it is the common species except on the Appalachian Mountains where at high elevations *A. laevis* occurs. There are a number of small shrubby species in the eastern states which are all beautiful and desirable garden plants, but who ever plants them and in what nursery can they be found? Unfortunately, their decorative value as garden plants, like that of so many other native shrubs, has not spread very far beyond the limits of the Arboretum. A complete collection of the species of eastern North America has now been arranged in the border along the grass path which, starting from a point opposite the Administration Building, turns to the right and follows the direction of the Meadow Road.

The Japanese *Prunus Sargentii* is in flower again. As was stated last year in Bulletin No. 20, this hardy tree is considered by many persons the most beautiful of all flowering Cherries. It is a large and perfectly hardy tree; the pink or rose-colored flowers are large and produced in great abundance, the ample dark green leaves turn orange and red in the autumn and the bark is smooth, red-brown and very lustrous. The trees in the Arboretum produce fruit every year in June and seeds will be distributed in the order of application to persons who wish to experiment with this valuable tree. The seeds should be sown as soon as received. There are six specimens of *Prunus Sargentii* on the Forest Hills Road near its junction with the Meadow Road.
Prunus triloba is in flower just below the entrance to the Shrub Collection at the Forest Hills Gate. This is a shrub with bright clear pink flowers about an inch in diameter which appear before the leaves. The double-flowered form of this shrub (var. multiplex) is a favorite in China, whence forty or fifty years ago it was introduced into Europe and the United States where it is often cultivated. The much more beautiful single-flowered form grows on the mountains near Peking and appears to have been cultivated for the first time in the Arboretum, to which seeds were sent from China in 1882. Although perfectly hardy, P. triloba is not a particularly vigorous plant. It well deserves a place, however, in every garden for the charming color of the flowers.

The Plum trees in the group next to the Cherries and at the principal entrance to the Shrub Collection from the Meadow Road are beginning to open their flower-buds. This year the Chinese Prunus triloba is the first to flower. It is a common fruit tree in China and Japan, and from it or from some of its varieties the so-called Japanese Plums, now so popular in the United States, have been derived. The flowers of this Asiatic tree will soon be followed by those of the Canada Plum (Prunus nigra) which is the most northern of the American Plum trees, being distributed from Newfoundland to the shores of the Strait of Mackinaw and southward along the northern borders of the United States. It is a small tree with dark, rough bark, and flowers slightly tinged with pink and becoming rose-color in fading. This, perhaps, is not one of the handsomest of the American Plum trees, but it is valuable on account of its hardiness, the early appearance of the flowers, and the early ripening of the fruit. The Plum Collection is near the principal entrance to the Shrub Collection from the Meadow Road and next to the Cherries.

The Arboretum collection of Willows is planted on both sides of the path which, starting from a point opposite the Administration Building, leads to the Shrub Collection and to the Forest Hills Gate. The collection, which contains a large number of species and hybrids, suffers for want of sufficient space for the proper development of individuals, especially of the species which become large trees, and on the whole is less satisfactory than some of the other groups in the Arboretum. Some of the dwarf shrubby species are now in flower and should be examined by persons in search of beautiful hardy shrubs suited for many decorative purposes. One of the most beautiful of these little Willows is Salix tristis, a spreading shrub not more than two feet high with slender stems and small gray-green leaves. The anthers of the male plant are bright red when they first appear and much more showy than the gray inflorescence of the female plant. This little willow grows naturally on dry barren soil from New England to Minnesota and southward. It takes kindly to cultivation and grows equally well on dry ground and in moist peaty soil, and soon spreads into large masses. It is an excellent plant for covering dry barren slopes. Salix humulis is another native shrub with gray-green leaves but yellow anthers. This species sometimes grows to the height of from six to nine feet, and the slender red stems make a handsome contrast with the silvery gray flower-clusters. This is also a plant of the northern United States and is as easily cultivated as S. tristis in all sorts of soil. In the same group are also flowering two dwarf exotic species, Salix repens var.
argentea from northern Europe and Siberia, and S. gracilistyla, a shrub three to four feet high from Japan. These plants can be seen on the left hand side of the walk not far from its entrance to the Meadow Road.

One of the first plants in the Arboretum to unfold its leaves in the spring is a shrub of the Rose Family, Prinsepia sinensis. The small but numerous, clear yellow, axillary flowers appear soon after the leaves and can now be seen on a well established plant on the upper side of Hickory Path near the Centre Street wall. This north China shrub is still rare in cultivation, but is well worth a place in any collection for its beauty and for its botanical interest.

The Arboretum is often asked about the best shrubs for ground cover, that is to cover the ground under trees or among larger shrubs. The two deciduous-leaved shrubs which have proved the most successful in the Arboretum for this purpose are both natives of the United States. They are the Fragrant Sumach (Rhus canadensis or aromatica) and the Yellow Root (Zanthorhiza apiifolia). The former is rather a straggling plant with slender stems sometimes three or four feet high, although in one of its forms this plant grows much more compactly. The flowers are bright yellow, on short axillary branches appearing before the three-lobed leaves, and followed by red fruits which ripen in June. This has been found a useful plant in the Arboretum, although as a ground cover it has not proved as successful as the Yellow Root. This does not grow so tall, and, spreading rapidly by underground shoots, soon covers the ground with its erect stems. The small purple flowers are produced in terminal erect racemes and open before or with the leaves which are clear bright yellow in the autumn. Unfortunately this plant, which is a native of the Appalachian Mountain region, will not thrive in limestone soil. These two shrubs have been largely planted in the Arboretum and are now in flower.

Some of the forms of Lonicera coerulea are in flower in the Shrub Collection. This is a bush Honeysuckle which encircles the northern hemisphere and is attractive in habit with its creamy white flowers and bright blue fruits.

One of the broad-leaved evergreens, Pieris (Andromeda) japonica, is in bloom among the Rhododendrons at the base of Hemlock Hill. This is a hardy plant with handsome foliage and clusters of large white flowers which, however, are usually spoiled here by spring frosts. A better plant for this climate is Pieris (Andromeda) floribunda, a native of the southern Appalachian Mountains and one of the best broad-leaved shrubs which can be grown here. It forms in cultivation a broad, low, rounded head; the leaves, although small, are dark green, and the creamy white flowers are produced in profusion. The flower-buds are conspicuous through the winter and just now are beginning to open. There is a large specimen of this Andromeda in the bed on the north side of Hemlock Hill Road opposite the Laurels.

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