The earliest Lilacs are already in flower and next week most of the varieties of the common garden Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) will be in bloom. The promise of flowers is excellent, indeed it is several years since the plants have been so full of flower-buds as they are this spring. This year the earliest of the Lilacs is the white-flowering *Syringa affinis* from northern China and its variety with purple or mauve-colored flowers (var. *Giraldii*). These are tall plants of loose unattractive habit, but the leaves are broad and handsome and the flowers, which are produced in rather small clusters, are exceedingly fragrant. This fragrance and the fact that the flowers open so early and are not injured by late frosts make these Lilacs desirable garden plants in this part of the country. The white-flowered form is one of the few shrubs generally cultivated in the gardens of Peking. Another north China species, *Syringa oblata*, is opening its pale purple flowers. This is a plant of much better habit than *Syringa affinis*, and its broad thick leaves, which turn to a dark wine color in the autumn, are handsomer than those of any other Lilac. The flower-buds, however, are often injured by spring frosts and it is not often that the flowers are in good condition. In time this Lilac grows into a broad, round-topped shrub eight or ten feet high and is well worth growing for its foliage; in cultivation it does not produce seeds. A hybrid of *Syringa oblata* and *S. vulgaris* (*S. hyacinthiflora*) is now in bloom. This is an old inhabitant of gardens and is a large, vigorous and shapely plant with good foliage. The flowers are small, semi-double, bluish purple, very fragrant, and are produced in small clusters. As compared with some of the recent forms of the garden Lilac they are not remarkable, but this hybrid should find a place in every collection of Lilacs as its very early flowers prolong the Lilac season. This, thanks to the discoveries of recent years, now lasts here in ordinary seasons from the first of May to the first of July. Attention will be called in these bulletins to the different species, hybrids and varieties as they come into flower.

The flowers of the Crabapples are late this year and are only just showing in the buds the color of their petals. With a few warm days, however, some of these plants will be in full bloom; and it now seems probable that the Lilacs and many of the Crabapples will be in flower at the same time. The old collection of Crabapples is on the left-hand side of the Forest Hills Road, and there is a large collection at the base of Peter's Hill. The plants in this supplementary collection are smaller than those on Forest Hills Road, but it now contains more species and varieties, and the plants of many of them promise to flower this year more freely than those in the old collection. In the neighborhood of the Administration Building there are some large plants of forms or hybrids of the Chinese *Malus floribunda* which are now covered with flower-buds. Among them are plants that carry their fruit through the winter and are particularly valuable as sources of winter bird-food. The Crabapples in the Arboretum form one of its important collections of small trees with conspicuous flowers, and as these plants are suited for the decoration of New England gardens they well repay careful study.
The so-called Japanese Quince (Pyrus or Chaenomeles japonica) with its bright red flowers appearing before or with the leaves is found in most old-fashioned gardens. In recent years some attention has been paid in Europe to the improvement of this plant, and there are in cultivation forms with flowers of various shades of red and pink, and with white and red and white flowers. There are a large number of these forms in the Shrub Collection but the flower-buds, except those on the lower branches, have been much injured by the winter, and this year it is not possible to get an idea of the beauty of some of these plants. The flower-buds of another of the eastern Asiatic Quinces (Chaenomeles Maulei) have not suffered, however, and the plants, which are also in the Shrub Collection, are now in great beauty; they are low, rather wide-spreading, little shrubs and the flowers on different individuals vary from crimson to nearly white. Well suited for planting in the rock-garden, on the margins of shrubberies and on low banks, they appear to be still little known in this country. The Asiatic Quinces, like many related genera in the Rose Family, suffer seriously from the San José scale which, although it can easily be kept in check by spraying, makes them sometimes undesirable garden plants.

The yellow-flowered western American Currants, Ribes odoratum and R. aureum, are just now two of the most conspicuous plants in the Arboretum. A generation ago the former was one of the common shrubs in American gardens where it was always called the Missouri Currant; it is even sometimes naturalized in the eastern United States. A native of the region from Dakota to Texas, it is perfectly hardy, grows to a large size and flowers freely every year. The other yellow-flowered Currant is a smaller plant with more slender stems and shorter flowers, and is perhaps a more attractive plant than the former. It grows naturally from the headwaters of the Missouri River to the northwest coast and to Arizona, and is still rare in cultivation. There is a variety in the collection from Montana with yellow fruit (var. chrysococcum). Among other species of Currants which are also in flower one of the most interesting is the Rocky Mountain Ribes cereum with its handsome foliage and small white flowers. There is a good specimen of this little known plant in the Shrub Collection, where Ribes tenue from western China is flowering for the first time in the Arboretum.

In the Gooseberry Collection are now in flower several handsome and interesting species well worth examination by persons interested in shrubs still little known in gardens. Some of the most distinct species now in flower in this group are Ribes niveum, with white flowers, from the northwestern United States, R. missouriense, with pale yellow flowers, an inhabitant of the region from Missouri to Arkansas, R. stenocarpum, with white flowers, from Japan, R. Cynosbati, and its variety inerme, with white flowers, from the northeastern United States, and R. pinetorum, with orange-red flowers, from Arizona; in flower this last is perhaps the most beautiful of all the Gooseberries in the Arboretum.

The Korean Viburnum Carlesii is uninjured by the winter. This is one of the most beautiful of the exotic Viburnums and is particularly interesting from the fact that the flower-buds are bright orange-red while the inner surface of the corolla is white, and as the flowers open the color of the outer surface gradually fades to pink and then to white.
As the buds do not always expand at the same time there are in the flower-cluster pink buds among the white flowers; the flowers are very fragrant. This plant, although it is still comparatively little known, well deserves a place in every collection of shrubs.

As usual, the earliest Barberry to flower in the Arboretum is *Berberis dictyophylla* which, although it comes from the southern part of China, is 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. The peculiar beauty of the plant, however, 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. Plants of this Barberry can be seen in the Shrub Collection and in the supplementary collection of Barberries on Hickory Path near Centre Street.

*Prinsepia sinensis* is uninjured by the winter and the plant on Hickory Path near Centre Street has flowered more profusely than ever before. This north China shrub is one of the first plants in the Arboretum to undo its leaves in the spring, and when these are nearly fully grown the clear yellow axillary flowers appear. This beautiful and interesting shrub does not seed at all freely in the Arboretum and is still rare in American collections.

*Fothergilla*, which is a genus of the Witch Hazel Family, confined to the southeastern United States, has furnished gardens with some beautiful shrubs. All the species bear small white flowers in compact clusters, at the ends of the branches, and handsome leaves resembling those of the Witch Hazels; they are just coming into bloom. *Fothergilla major* and *F. montana* are large, vigorous and very hardy shrubs, while *Fothergilla Gardeni*, which is a small plant and a native of the coast region, is less hardy than the mountain species. These shrubs are in the Shrub Collection and on Azalea Path, and the largest plant of *Fothergilla major* in the Arboretum is in the Witch Hazel Group near the pond at the junction of the Meadow and Bussey Hill Roads.

The form of *Rhododendron praecox* known in gardens as "Little Gem" is usually the first of the evergreen Rhododendrons to flower in the Arboretum. The pale rose-pink flowers are too often injured by late frosts, and this year the flower-buds have been killed by cold, so that this spring the earliest Rhododendron in flower is a dwarf plant received several years ago from Germany under the name of *R. Jacksonii*, a name which does not appear in catalogues. It is evidently one of the forms or hybrids of *R. caucasicum*, although it flowers two or three weeks before any of the other forms of this species in the Arboretum. It is a low compact plant with clusters of large pale pink flowers and has not been at all injured by the winter. There are two specimens in the collection at the base of Hemlock Hill and they are well worth the attention of lovers of dwarf early flowering Rhododendrons.

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