Japanese Cherries. The publication by the Arboretum of an illustrated book on Japanese Cherries by E. H. Wilson greatly increases our knowledge of these plants and will lead, it is believed, to their more general cultivation in this country. Mr. Wilson has recently passed a year in Japan where he was sent by the Arboretum to solve many problems which have long perplexed students of the Japanese flora, and especially to study the character and distribution of the Japanese Cherry-trees and the origin and peculiarities of the numerous forms which are cultivated by the Japanese and which have made Japanese gardens famous. Mr. Wilson succeeded in seeing the ten Japanese species in their native forests and all the principal collections of the garden forms. The introduction into the Arboretum of plants of all the species and of seventy different named garden varieties is one of the results of this journey. Mr. Wilson states in his introduction that, although American and European gardeners have been importing Japanese flowering Cherries for half a century, scarcely one good-sized healthy tree can be found in this country or in Europe. These varieties are double-flowered or otherwise abnormal and therefore can only be propagated by grafting, and a choice of the right stock on which to graft them is important. The plants imported from Japan are all grafted on the variety Mazakura of Prunus Lannesiana which is a poor short-lived tree particularly subject to the attacks of scale and boring insects. It is used as stock by the Japanese because it can be quickly and cheaply raised from cuttings. In Europe and the United States one of the European Cherries has been used as stock for the Japanese varieties and on this they have succeeded no better.
than on the ordinary Japanese stock; and the conclusion which Wilson has reached after a careful study of the subject is that these garden varieties of the Japanese Cherry can only succeed and make large and permanent plants when they are grafted on seedlings of the largest, hardiest and longest lived of the Japanese species. This is the northern tree which has been called *Prunus Sargentii* but now is known to be the northern form of *Prunus serrulata* and is to be called var. *sachalinensis*. During the last year seedlings of this northern tree raised from seeds ripened in the Arboretum have been used here as stock on which the varieties brought home by Wilson from Japan are being grafted, and there is no reason to doubt that the plants produced in this way will grow here to a large size and become as beautiful features in the parks and gardens of America as they are in those of Japan. Five Japanese species produce double-flowering forms. Those derived from the Sargent Cherry, the Yama-sakura or Mountain Cherry of the Japanese, will probably prove most valuable in this climate where they may be expected to grow to a larger size and last longer than the garden varieties of the other species.

In the Arboretum many of the flower-buds of Cherries have been killed during the winter. On

*Prunus yedoensis* the buds have all been killed. This is a white-and pink-flowered tree and one of the handsomest of the Japanese species. It is this Cherry which has been so largely planted in the streets, parks and cemeteries of Tokyo that when it blooms a general holiday is proclaimed by the Emperor that the public may enjoy its flowers. This Cherry is perfectly hardy in the Arboretum where it has flowered for several years and produced crops of fruit.

*Prunus subhirtella*. This is the Higan-zakura or Spring Cherry of the Japanese. It is a shrubby plant from ten to fifteen feet high and broad, and is not known as a wild plant, although it is much cultivated in western Japan. Mr. Wilson considers it "the most floriferous and perhaps the most delightful of all Japanese Cherries." This plant was raised in the Arboretum many years ago and from the Arboretum it has been widely distributed in the United States and Europe. For years it has flowered here regularly and has attracted as much attention perhaps as any plant in the Arboretum. The small pink flowers now completely cover the upper branches; those on the lower branches have all been killed no doubt by a lower temperature near the ground than a few feet above it.

*Prunus subhirtella*, var. *pendula* has lost, too, many of its flower-buds and the trees in the Arboretum promise to be less beautiful this spring than usual, although in some gardens near Boston this Cherry is now covered with its drooping pink or rose-colored flowers. This weeping Cherry, which has been largely planted in parks, temple grounds and cemeteries in Japan, is nowhere known as a wild tree. It was introduced into Europe and the United States many years ago.
and it is now fairly common in the gardens of the northern states. In propagating this tree American and European nurserymen have used as stock one of the European Cherries which are not suitable for the purpose, and such plants are short-lived and generally unsatisfactory. The wild type of this weeping tree and of *Prunus subhirtella* is

*Prunus subhirtella* var. *ascendens*, of which there is an excellent picture in Mr. Wilson's book. It is a tall tree with erect spreading branches, and grows in forests in Japan in Shinano Province, and in central China. It has escaped the attention of American and European gardeners, and there are only small seedling plants in the United States. One of these can now be seen with the other forms of *Prunus subhirtella* on the right-hand side of the Forest Hills entrance.

*Prunus serrulata* var. *sachalinensis*. The Sargent Cherry for the first time since it began to flower here some years ago has lost some of its flower-buds, especially those on the lower branches. This is the largest and the handsomest of the Cherry trees of eastern Asia, sometimes attaining in northern Japan the height of seventy-five feet and a trunk diameter of four feet. It is one of the trees planted in 1735 in the three mile-long avenue of Cherry-trees at Koganei, near Tokyo, which in early spring is still one of the great sights in Japan.

**Hybrid Forsythias.** By the path in the rear of the group of Forsythias on the slope at the foot of the Bussey Hill Road are several specimens of forms of the hybrid between *Forsythia suspensa* and *F. viridissima*. The general name of these hybrids is *Forsythia intermedia*, and there are several distinct forms. The plants are in a sheltered position and their flower-buds have not been injured. The handsomest of them is *F. intermedia spectabilis*, and of all the Forsythias which have been grown in the Arboretum this is perhaps the most beautiful. The flowers are larger than those of either of its parents, deep bright yellow, and are produced this year in countless numbers, completely covering the wide-spreading branches. This plant was probably raised in Germany as it was sent to the Arboretum from the Späth Nursery in Berlin. Other distinct and handsome forms of this hybrid are var. *primulina* and var. *pallida*; the former has pale primrose-colored flowers and appeared as a seedling in the Arboretum a few years ago. The var. *pallida* has pale straw-colored flowers which are of a lighter color than those of other Forsythias. This plant also first came to the Arboretum from Germany. These hybrids are beautiful garden plants, handsomer and perhaps hardier than either of their parents, and they are interesting as showing what may be expected from crossing different species of other trees and shrubs. A good deal has already been done in hybridizing Roses and Rhododendrons. New races of Lilacs, Spiraeas and Philadelphus produced by the skill of the hybridizer already beautify our gardens, but this business is only in its infancy and greater results may be expected from it than have ever yet been obtained.
Amelanchiers are beginning to flower and in a few days the Arboretum will be gay with the white flowers of these trees and shrubs which have been largely planted here along the margins of woods and by the borders of the drives. The species which has been most largely used in this way here is the shrubby *A. oblongifolia*, which grows naturally in the Arboretum where a large native specimen can be seen on the margin of the meadow across the path from the general collection of these plants which occupies the border between the Meadow Road and the parallel grass path on the left-hand side entering from the Jamaica Plain Gate. Another native species, *A. laevis*, is a tree sometimes forty feet high and easily distinguished from all other species by the red color of the unfolding leaves which are destitute of any covering of down. There are some large-sized native trees of this species on the wooded bank in the rear of the Crabapple Collection on the Forest Hills Road. The earliest species in the collection to flower is another tree and perhaps the largest in the whole genus, *A. canadensis*, which is widely distributed from western New York to Louisiana, and the only Amelanchier or Shad Bush in the southern states.

Ribes tenue. This is one of the Currants introduced by Wilson from central and western China, where it is a common plant on the mountains at high altitudes, and a shrub four or five feet high. There are several specimens in the Arboretum, but the handsomest is in the collection of Chinese shrubs on the southern slopes of Bussey Hill. The plant is now covered with short erect clusters of dull yellow flowers which will be followed by bright red, lustrous, juicy fruits. The fruit is sweeter than that of the common red-flowered garden Currant and this plant may prove to be valuable for its fruit, or to cross with the garden Currants. As an early spring-flowering shrub it deserves a place in northern gardens.

The yellow-flowered American Currants are still perhaps the most attractive of the Currants and Gooseberries which can be grown in this climate. The better known of these, the so-called Missouri Currant (*Ribes odoratum*) is often cultivated in the United States and is found in many old gardens. It owes its popular name to the fact that it was first found on the upper Missouri River, but it is now known to occur on the great plains from South Dakota to Texas. This plant is often called in books *Ribes aureum*, but this name belongs to a plant with smaller flowers and black or orange-colored fruits. This beautiful plant is rarely cultivated in American gardens. The two plants are growing together in the general Shrub Collection, and the difference in their general appearance and in the structure of the flowers can readily be seen.

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