Asiatic Cherry-trees. When this copy of the Bulletin reaches its readers in eastern Massachusetts the principal display of flowers in the Arboretum will be made by some of the Cherry-trees of eastern Asia and by early-flowering Plum-trees. As in previous years, the earliest of these trees to flower this spring is Prunus concinna, a native of the mountains of central China where it was discovered by Wilson. Prunus concinna is a small tree which first flowered in the Arboretum when less than three feet high. The flowers, which are white with a red calyx, are less beautiful than those of several of the other Asiatic Cherry-trees, but they are produced in the greatest profusion and are not injured by spring frosts; and as small plants flower as freely as larger ones this Cherry well deserves a place in collections of spring-flowering trees and shrubs. The Japanese Prunus incisa has opened its flowers this spring only two or three days later than Prunus concinna. It is a shrub or small tree with white or rarely pale rose-colored flowers which appear before the deeply lobed leaves unfold. The petals fall in a few days after the buds open but the calyx, which gradually grows red, remains on the fruit for two or three weeks and is decidedly showy. A form of this Cherry (var. Yanakei) with pure white petals and a bright green calyx is flowering for the first time in the Arboretum this spring. Although Prunus incisa is a common plant in Japan on the Hakkone Mountains and on Fuji-san, it has remained extremely rare in American and European gardens. It is in flower this year a few days earlier than the Chinese Prunus tomentosa, an early introduction of the Arboretum which has proved to be one of the handsomest of the early spring flowering shrubs in the neighborhood of
Boston. It is a vigorous plant five or six feet high, and when fully
grown often broader than tall. The flowers open from pink buds as
the leaves unfold and their bright red stalk and calyx make a hand-
some contrast with the white petals often blotched with rose color.
The small scarlet lustrous fruit which ripens in June and is covered
with short hairs is attracting the attention of pomologists in regions of
intense cold in the interior of this continent where Prunus tomentosa
has proved to be hardy. Crossed with Prunus Cerasus, if such a cross
can be made, it might produce a race of garden Cherries which would
probably be hardy further north than it is possible to cultivate success-
fully any of the varieties of that species. A form of Prunus tomen-
tosa (var. endotricha) discovered by Wilson in western China flowers a
few days later than the species from which it chiefly differs in the
absence of hairs from the fruit. An Almond from northern China,
Prunus triloba, blooms with or a little later than Prunus tomentosa.
It is a tall shrub of open irregular habit, and its only beauty is in its
flowers which are purest pink in color. No other plant in the Arbore-
tum produces flowers more delicately beautiful in color, but although
it has been flowering here now for nearly thirty years it is still rare
in American gardens. The less beautiful double-flowered form (var.
plena) is, however, a better known and more popular garden plant in
this country. A single plant (Prunus Arnoldiana) of what is evidently
a natural hybrid between Prunus triloba and P. tomentosa appeared in
the Arboretum a few years ago among seedlings of the former. It is
a vigorous upright growing shrub with a single stem, handsome white
flowers which appear as the leaves unfold, cherry-like fruit which rarely
develops, and leaves intermediate between those of its supposed parents.
The large trees of the Sargent Cherry, Prunus serrulata var. sacha-
linensis, have lost this year some of their flower-buds especially from
lower branches but are nevertheless well covered with their pink and
rose-colored flowers. The flowers are short-lived, but their abundance
and beauty, the hardiness of the tree which has not yet been attacked
by any disease, the beauty of its ample dark green leaves brilliantly
colored in the autumn and its bright and lustrous bark make this the
handsomest Cherry-tree of large size which can be successfully grown
in this climate. In recent years it has been difficult to obtain from
Japan seeds of this northern variety of Prunus serrulata for the large
trees have been generally cut in Hokkaido for lumber; and the plants
now in the United States have been raised from the seeds produced by
the Arboretum trees. A number of these seedling trees are beginning
to flower in different parts of the country and will in the course of a
few years be producing crops of fruit. This ripens in the Arboretum
in June; and everyone with fruit-bearing trees of this Cherry should
protect the fruit from birds and see that the stones are planted, for
the Sargent Cherry is one of the handsomest trees which can be used
successfully for the decoration of northern gardens and supplies the
best stock on which to graft or bud many of the double-flowered Ja-
panese Cherries, the handsomest and hardiest of which are forms of
Prunus serrulata and its varieties. The Spring Cherry of the Japan-
es (*Prunus subhirta la*), the most delightful and floriferous, travellers
say, of all Japanese Cherries, is thickly covered with fast opening flower-buds and has not before given greater promise of beauty. It is a large shrub which is not known in Japan as a wild plant. Although cultivated somewhat in the gardens of western Japan it is uncommon in those of Tokyo and therefore has failed to attract the general attention of the visitors to the Flowery Kingdom who stick to beaten tracks. The rather small drooping flowers are pink when they first open but gradually turn white, and those of no other Cherry-tree in the collection remain in good condition for so many days. This plant is still rare in American and European gardens; it can be increased by grafting, and soft wood cuttings in the hands of a skilful propagator can be made to grow. Seeds, which the Arboretum plants produce in great quantities, do not reproduce the parent plant, however, and the seedlings generally grow into the tall slender trees which botanists know as Prunus subhirtella var. ascendens, and which are common in the forests of central Hondo. This tree has generally been overlooked or neglected as a garden plant, but is now flowering in the Arboretum. Much better known is the form of P. subhirtella (var. pendula) with pendulous branches which, long a favorite garden plant in Japan, was sent many years ago to Europe and then to the United States. This beautiful plant, which is perfectly hardy in Massachusetts has often grown badly here and died long before its time because European Cherry stocks have been used for multiplying it. The proper stocks for the Weeping Cherry are the seedling plants of Prunus subhirtella (var. ascendens) or seedlings raised from the seeds of that variety which probably have not yet been produced in this country. Seeds of the pendulous form sometimes produce plants with pendulous branches, and such plants are occasionally found among the seedlings of Prunus subhirtella. There are few flower-buds this spring on the weeping Japanese Cherry-trees in the Arboretum and these will open much later. The flower-buds of Peaches, including those of the wild Peach-tree of northern China (Prunus Davidiana), and of several Apricots have been killed in the Arboretum by the severe winter but Plums large and small are generally well covered with buds.

The Canada Plum so-called (Prunus nigra) is the first species to flower and the buds are already opening. This is a northern tree ranging in Canada from New Brunswick westward through the valley of the St. Lawrence River and along the northern shore of Lake Superior to Winnipeg; it occurs rather sparingly in northern New England, western New York and westward to Minnesota. It is a handsome little tree with dark close bark, a round-topped head of spreading branches, wide coarsely toothed glandular leaves, and large flowers, which unlike those of other American Plums turn pink as they begin to fade. Several forms selected for the excellence of their fruit are cultivated and valued by pomologists. A form of the Canada Plum found growing in Seneca Park, Rochester, New York, near the gorge of the Genesee River and believed to be a native plant in that region is when in flower one of the most beautiful Plum-trees in the Arboretum collection and well worth propagating as a garden ornament. Prunus salicina, better
known perhaps as *P. triflora*, flowers only a little later than the Canada Plum, and the flower-buds which completely cover the wide-spread- ing branches are already opening. This tree is interesting because it is the only native Plum in eastern Asia and the tree from which the so-called Japanese Plums of gardens have been evolved.

*Corylus chinensis*. The fact that this tree has again escaped injury by a severe winter and is flowering in the Arboretum for the second time will interest the large number of persons in this country who are now associated together for the study and improvement of nut-bearing trees. *Corylus chinensis* is a splendid tree widely distributed but nowhere abundant on the mountains of Hupeh and Szech’uan. It is a tree with spreading branches usually from fifty to seventy feet tall, with a trunk two or three feet in diameter, although Wilson measured one tree growing near Fang Hsien in Hupeh which was 120 feet high with a trunk nearly seven feet in diameter. No other Hazel of this size has been reported before or since. The Arboretum plants ripened a few nuts in the autumn of 1919; the nuts vary in size but are thick-shelled, and are enclosed in an involucrre which also varies in shape and thickness. Compared with cultivated Hazel-nuts they have no comestible value. *Corylus chinensis*, however, may prove valuable as a parent of a race of large-growing Hazels with good fruit, or as a vigorous stock on which to graft some of the forms of *C. Avellana* with improved fruit. But whether it proves valuable or not in improving Hazel-nuts *Corylus chinensis*, if it grows here as it does on its native mountains, should prove an interesting and valuable addition to the exotic trees which can be cultivated in this country.

The Nutmeg Hickory. It is a matter of congratulation that this Hickory-tree (*Carya myristicaeformis*) has been growing for several years in the Arboretum and has not been injured by the severe winters of recent years. This is one of the rare and handsome trees of south-eastern North America, and one of the most interesting of Hickory-trees because it unites two distinct groups of species of these trees - the group with valvate bud-scales and thin-shelled nuts in thin husks, of which the Bitternut and the Pecan are representatives, and the group with imbricated bud-scales and thick-shelled nuts in more or less thickened husks, of which the Shagbark Hickory and the Pignut are representatives. The Nutmeg Hickory is a magnificent tree often a hundred feet high, with a tall stem and leaves silvery white on the lower side of the leaflets. The nuts somewhat resemble in shape those of the Pecan but are marked by longitudinal bands of small gray spots. The Nutmeg Hickory grows only in a few isolated stations from eastern South Carolina to eastern Texas. It is most abundant in southern Arkansas where the seeds were gathered from which the Arboretum plants have been raised.