Asiatic Crabapples. The conspicuous plants in flower this week are some of the early flowering Chinese and Japanese Crabapples. The flowers of these trees make one of the principal spectacular displays of the year, and only the flowers of the Lilacs attract a larger number of visitors. Among these Crabapples are several small trees and shrubs which should find a place in every northern garden, for few plants which can be easily and successfully grown from Canada to the Potomac and from the Atlantic to the Pacific are more beautiful when covered in April or northward in May with their white or rose-colored flowers, or in autumn when their branches are loaded with brilliant red, scarlet or yellow fruits. These Crabapples grow best in cool, rich, deep, well-drained soil, and lime does not interfere with their successful development. Some of the wide-branching species lose their beauty of habit unless sufficient space is allowed for their free growth, and nearly all these Crabapples look better as isolated specimens than when crowded together in too compact groups. Crabapples, like many other plants of the Rose Family, are liable to be attacked by the San José scale which unless kept in check can seriously injure them. For many years much attention has been paid at the Arboretum to these plants, and a large and now almost complete collection of the species and recognized hybrids has been assembled. In the future it can be undoubtedly increased by the introduction of new hybrids for these plants hybridize freely, and from seeds gathered from species in a collection like the one in the Arboretum distinct new forms are certain to appear. The Asiatic Crabapples are arranged in two groups. The oldest of them is on the left hand side of Forest Hills Road and the other, which is
larger and more complete, at the eastern base of Peter's Hill. A few only of the more interesting can be mentioned in this Bulletin.

Malus baccata mandshurica is the earliest of these Crabapples to open its flower-buds in the Arboretum. A native of Manchuria, Korea and northern Japan, it is an eastern form of the better known Malus baccata, the Siberian Crabapple, which reached Europe more than a century ago and for a long time was one of only two Asiatic Crabapples known in western gardens. The Manchurian plant as it grows in the Arboretum is a tree twelve or fifteen feet tall and broad; the flowers, which are produced in profusion, are pure white, rather more than an inch across, and more fragrant than those of any other Asiatic Crabapple. The fruit is round, yellow or red, and not larger than a large pea. The Manchurian Crabapple, which is still rare in this country, should, for the fragrance of the flowers alone, find a place in all collections. This plant is in the Peter's Hill Group. Another form of Malus baccata (var. Jackii) is also growing in the Peter's Hill Group. This plant was brought from Korea by Professor Jack in 1905 and is distinguished by its much larger, dark scarlet fruit. The Arboretum plants of this Group are still small but flower and produce fruit freely and promise to be valuable additions to the collection. Another form of M. baccata (f. gracilis) raised from seeds collected by Purdom in northern China promises to be a handsome tree. It differs from the ordinary form of M. baccata in its gracefully pendent branches, in the narrower leaves hanging on slender petioles, and in the smaller flowers and fruits.

Malus robusta is one of the earliest of these plants to flower. This is believed to be a hybrid of M. baccata with M. spectabilis. In some of the earlier issues of these Bulletins it has been called M. cerasifera, a name now found to have been incorrectly applied to it. In good soil and with sufficient room for free development it will grow into a large shapely tree with a broad, round-topped, irregular head of spreading and often drooping branches. The flowers are fragrant and larger than those of the other Asiatic Crabapples with pure white or occasionally greenish petals. The globose dull red fruit varies greatly in size on different individuals but is rarely more than three-quarters of an inch in diameter. To this hybrid belong many of the trees cultivated for their fruit in cold countries under the general name of “Siberian Crabs;” of these trees the well known “Red Siberian” is a typical representative. A new form of M. robusta (f. persicifolia) raised from seeds collected by Purdom in northern China, distinct in its narrow peach-like leaves, is now established in the Arboretum and may when better known prove to be worth general cultivation.

Malus micromalus, which is also an early-flowering plant, is one of the least known of the Crabapples. It was first sent to Europe from Japan by Von Siebold in 1853 under the name of “Kaido,” a name which in Japan belongs to Malus Halliana. In Japan this tree is rare and known only in gardens, and by Japanese botanists is believed to have been introduced into their country from China and to be a hybrid possibly of M. baccata with M. spectabilis. The habit of this plant is
more pyramidal than that of other Crabapples and this habit makes the plants conspicuous in the collection. The largest plants are covered this year with their small, pale pink, delicate flowers which will be followed by light yellow fruit, often rose color on one cheek. A plant of *Malus micromalus* first came to the Arboretum from the Paris Museum in 1888 and the plants now growing here are descendants of that plant. It is still one of the rarest of the Asiatic Crabapples in western gardens.

*Malus Halliana* var. *Parkmanii* is the semidouble form of a Crabapple which Wilson found growing wild at high altitudes in western China on the Tibetan border. As the double-flowered form had long been a favorite in Japanese gardens, where it is frequently cultivated under the name of "Kaido," this tree before Wilson’s time was believed to be a native of Japan. The Parkman Crab, as the semidouble-flowered form is generally known in this country, was one of the first Japanese plants to reach the United States direct from Japan as it was sent to Boston in 1862 where it was first planted by Francis Parkman, the historian, in his garden on the shores of Jamaica Pond. From this tree has been produced most of the plants of this Crabapple now growing in America and probably in Europe. The Parkman Crab is a small vase-shaped tree with erect and spreading branches and dark bark. It flowers profusely every year and the flowers, which droop on slender stems, are rose-red and unlike in color the flowers of other Crabapples. The fruit, which is borne on long erect stems, is dull in color and hardly more than one-eighth of an inch in diameter. The Parkman Crab when in flower is one of the handsomest and most distinct of Crabapples, and its small size makes it one of the best of them all to plant in small gardens. The Chinese single-flowered form, *M. Halliana*, is not in the Arboretum collection.

*Malus theifera* is one of Wilson’s early discoveries in central and western China, and gives every promise of being a decorative plant in this country of the first class. It is a tree with long, upright and irregularly spreading, zigzag branches thickly studded with short spurs which bear numerous clusters of flowers which are rose-red in the bud, but become pale or almost white when the petals are fully expanded. In central China the peasants collect the leaves and prepare from them their “red tea.” From this fact the specific name of the tree has been formed. The largest plant in the Arboretum is now fourteen feet high and flowers profusely every year. There is a var. *rosea* with deeper-colored petals which is also in the collection.

By European botanists the now well known *Malus floribunda* has usually been considered a hybrid of uncertain Chinese origin, and the plant cultivated in American and European gardens is certainly the parent of several hybrids. The handsomest of these probably is *Malus arnoldiana* which appeared many years ago in this Arboretum among seedlings of *M. floribunda*. The other parent is probably the hybrid *M. robusta*. It is a low tree with wide-spreading, slightly pendulous branches with the abundant flowers of *M. floribunda*, but the flowers and fruits are nearly twice as large as those of that tree. There is
not perhaps a more beautiful Crabapple in cultivation. Like other hybrids, it can only be increased by grafts or cuttings, and is still rare in gardens. A better known hybrid of *M. floribunda*, *M. Scheideckeri* appeared in Germany several years ago. The broad pyramidal habit of this tree suggest *M. spectabilis* which is probably the other parent. This hybrid flowers here earlier than *M. floribunda*. The bright rose pink flowers which are often semidouble are produced in great profusion and are followed by bright yellow fruit sometimes three-quarters of an inch in diameter. The excellent habit and early flowers of this hybrid make it a valuable addition to the group.

*Malus Sieboldii* was introduced from the gardens of Japan into Europe by Von Siebold in 1853. It is a low, dense shrub of spreading habit with the leaves on vigorous branchlets three-lobed, small flowers tinged with rose in color, and small yellow fruits. Von Siebold's Crab is really a dwarf form of a tree common on the Korean Island of Quelpaert, and on the mountains of central Japan and Hokkaido, to which the name var. *arborescens* has been given. This is a tree often thirty feet or more tall, with ascending wide-spreading branches, twiggy branchlets and minute fruit yellow on some and red on other individuals. Although the flowers are small, they are produced in immense quantities, and this species has the advantage of flowering later than the other Asiatic Crabapples. *Malus atrosanguinea* is believed to be a hybrid of *M. Sieboldii* and the Parkman Crab. It is a broad-branched low tree with rather dull red showy flowers and is now often seen in American gardens.

*Malus Sargentii* from salt marshes in the neighborhood of Muroran in northern Japan, where it was discovered by Professor Sargent in 1892, has qualities which give it a field of usefulness peculiarly its own. This species is a dwarf with rigid and spreading branches, the lower branches flat on the ground. The flowers are in umbel-like clusters, saucer-shaped, round and of the purest white, and are followed by masses of wine-colored fruit which is covered by a slight bloom and unless eaten by birds remains on the plants well into the spring. The plant usually sold by American nurserymen as *M. Sargentii* is probably a hybrid of this species. It is dwarf although treelike in habit with a well formed stem, short spreading branches and small flowers tinged with pink.

*Malus prunifolia rinki* is an interesting tree, for this is the Apple cultivated by the Chinese and from China taken to Japan where it was the only Apple cultivated as a fruit tree before the advent of foreigners. The wild type of this tree discovered by Wilson in western China is also growing in the Arboretum. *Malus sublobata* is the name which has recently been given to a Crabapple of unknown origin believed to be a hybrid of *Malus prunifolia rinki* and *M. Sieboldii*. The plants of this hybrid are, with a single exception, narrow, pyramidal, fast-growing trees taller than any other Crabapple in the collection, and looking now as if they might grow into big trees. This hybrid does not flower in the Arboretum very freely every year and the flowers are mostly confined to the upper branches.