Double-flowered Japanese Cherries. That there is a fast growing
demand for these trees in this country is shown by the number of
letters received at the Arboretum asking information about them. It
must be acknowledged that generally these double-flowered Cherries
have not proved a success in this country. This is not the fault of
the plants or the climate, as can be seen in the Arboretum, but of
the methods adopted by nurserymen for their propagation. There
are now growing in the Arboretum thirty-two double-flowered forms
of Prunus Lannesiana and eighteen forms of Prunus serrulata
sachalinensis. These are the only two species, the double-flowering
forms of which are worth cultivation in this country. Of them the
handsomest here are the following forms—Prunus serrulata sachalin
ensis: Albo-rosea, Fugenzo, Sekiyama, Kirin, Horinji, and Hisakura,
and of all double-flowered Japanese Cherries the two forms of Prunus
serrulata, sachalinensis called Albo-rosea with white flowers and Fu
genzo, often known as James H. Veitch, with deep pink flowers, have
given the greatest satisfaction in the Arboretum. The best six
double-flowered forms of Prunus Lannesiana are, Jonioi, Miyako,
Sirotae, Amanogawa, Ojochin, and Ochichima.

To most American nurserymen the proper production of these Cher-
rries will appear a slow and expensive operation but unless they adopt
this plan these plants will never succeed, and the demand for them
will soon disappear. Seedlings of Prunus serrulata sachalinensis are
essential as stock on which to bud or graft the double-flowered varie-
ties. The seeds of this tree cannot be imported from Japan with any
confidence, as this is a northern form and Japanese seed dealers would
hardly send north to gather seeds when other species or varieties are easily obtained in the neighborhood of Tokyo. Although the Arboretum has been distributing the seeds of this noble tree, which can be successfully grown from Canada to the Potomac and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, this country can only depend on the five large trees growing here, the two trees in the Boston Park System, a tree at North Easton, Massachusetts, and the trees in the parks at Rochester, New York, for the seed. It will require ten or twelve years for the seeds planted now to produce plants large enough to flower and produce a little fruit, and if this is planted, it will require at least six years to grow the stock large enough to bud or graft with the double-flowered varieties. This means that the American nurserymen who really want to make a success in growing these double-flowered plants must be prepared to devote eighteen or twenty years to getting his plants of a suitable size to sell. Another essential thing is that they allow at least two of their original seedlings planted in good soil and with abundant space for development to grow permanently, so that the nurseries may be assured of abundant seeds for all future needs.

A collection of twenty-five trees of these double-flowered Cherries which were grafted in 1915 on Prunus serrulata sachalinensis have been planted on the southern slope of Bussey Hill and have never before given such a promise of flowers which will probably be opened soon after this Bulletin reaches its readers.

Asiatic Crabapples. Among the popular plants in flower the end of 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 they are conspicuous 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 Jose 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.
Malus baccata mandshurica is the earliest of these Crabapples to open its flowerbuds 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. 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.

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. The habit of this plant is more pyramidal than that of other Crabapples and this habit makes the plants conspicuous in the collection. The 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 is a semidouble form, of uncertain origin. The double-flowered form has long been a favorite in Japanese gardens, where it is frequently cultivated under the name of “Kaido,” and is 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.

**Malus floribunda.** This beautiful tree has long 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 fruit 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.

**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 Sargentii** from salt marshes in the neighborhood of Mororan 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.