Prunus. In the Arboretum are now found and placed in this genus the Peaches, Apricots, Cherries, Pears and Plums. As now understood this genus contains some of the important fruit trees of temperate regions, a few valuable timber trees, and a large number of plants cultivated for the beauty of their flowers and fruits. To few genera do northern gardens owe so great and varied beauty, and in the Arboretum many of its species are now well established.

Apricots have already begun to flower and are still covered with white blooms. The earliest is a form of Prunus Armenaica which for several years has been growing in the Arboretum where it is called the Mikado. Judging by the name it is possible that this plant came originally from Japan where the Apricot, a native of northern China, has long been cultivated in many varieties. It is a strong-growing, hardy tree with a comparatively narrow head and erect branches. Near it in the Plum collection, also in bloom, is the Apricot from eastern Siberia and Manchuria, Prunus sibirica, another hardy and handsome tree. In its native country this is a low tree with a trunk sometimes three feet in diameter and wide-spreading branches. As it grows in the Arboretum it is the handsomest of the Apricots in habit and foliage.

The earliest of the Cherries, Prunus tomentosa, an introduction from northern China, has proved to be one of the handsomest of the spring flowering plants in the neighborhood of Boston. It is a vigorous plant five or six feet high and when well grown often broader than tall. The flowers open from pink buds as the leaves unfold and their bright red stalks and calyx make a handsome contrast with the
white petals often marked with rose. The small, lustrous, scarlet, juicy fruit which ripens in June has a good flavor and is attracting the attention of pomologists living in regions of extreme winter cold like the Dakotas and Manitoba where this native of Peking has proved perfectly hardy.

The Spring Cherry of the Japanese, *Prunus subhirtella*, the most delightful and floriferous, travellers say, of all the Japanese Cherries, is again thickly covered with flowers and has not before been more beautiful. Here in the Arboretum it is a large shrub which is not known as a wild plant in Japan. Although somewhat cultivated in the gardens of western Japan, it is uncommon in those of Tokyo and often escapes the attention of visitors in the Flowery Kingdom. The rather small drooping flowers are pink when they open but gradually turn white, and those of no other Cherry-tree in the collection remain in good condition so long. Seeds, which the Arboretum plants produce in great quantities, do not reproduce the parent plant, however, and the seedlings grow usually into the tall slender trees which botanists know as *Prunus subhirtella* var. *ascendens*. 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 *Prunus subhirtella* (var. *pendula*) which has been long a favorite garden plant in Japan and 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 before its time because a European Cherry has been used as stock on which this variety has been grafted. The proper stocks for the Weeping Cherry are the seedling plants of *Prunus subhirtella* and its varieties. To show how easy it is to propagate the early Spring Cherry nurserymen are invited to examine the two plants at the entrance to the Superintendent's house at the corner of Centre Street. These were grafted on seedlings of the type in January, 1917; they were planted in the spring of the same year and placed in their present position in 1919. They show that there is no difficulty in raising good specimens of this plant if nurserymen are willing to give a little attention to disseminating one of the most beautiful flowering plants it is possible to grow in this climate.

**Prunus serrulata sachalinensis.** It is well to call attention again to this tree as when in flower it is the handsomest of the large trees yet introduced into the United States and Europe by the Arboretum. It was first raised here from seeds sent from Japan in 1890 by Dr. J. Sturgis Bigelow of Boston, and again in 1892 from seeds gathered in Japan by Professor Sargent. The trees raised from these seeds have flowered now for several years. As they produce fruit abundantly which ripens in June there is no reason why this splendid tree should not become common in the northern states. Some American city or town can well make itself famous by planting a long avenue of these trees which when they have become forty feet high or more and are in bloom will attract visitors from remote parts of this country.

**Prunus yedoensis.** This blooms a little later than the Sargent
Cherry, and there is a plant of this species on the right hand side of the road from the Forest Hills entrance. This is the Cherry so generally planted in the parks, cemeteries and streets of Tokyo, and its flowering heralds an annual national holiday decreed by the Emperor. It is believed that over two hundred and fifty thousand trees were growing in the precincts of Tokyo before the destruction of a large part of the city a few years ago by fire and earthquake. This Cherry is a quick growing and short-lived tree, with wide-spreading, slightly drooping branches forming a wide flattened head. The bark is pale gray and smooth, becoming darker and somewhat rough on old trunks. The slightly fragrant flowers are produced in clusters of two or several usually before the leaves but occasionally at the same time, and vary in color from white to pale pink. It is this tree which was presented by the Government of Japan to our Government, and is the principal Japanese Cherry which has been planted in Washington. It produces seeds abundantly in the Arboretum and in Washington, and it ought to be more generally planted further south than Massachusetts where the flower-buds are often injured by severe winters.

**Prunus nigra.** Among American Plums in the Arboretum, *Prunus nigra*, the so-called Canada Plum, is the earliest to bloom. It is a native of the northern border of the United States from New Brunswick westward, and is distinguished from the more southern *P. americana* by its larger and earlier flowers, the blunt teeth of the leaves and by the darker and closer bark; the flowers, too, turn pink as they fade. The Canada Plum has produced some excellent seedling forms which are esteemed and grown by pomologists.

**Prunus salicina**, better known as *P. triflora*, blooms only a little later than the Canada Plum, and the flower-buds which completely cover the wide-spreading 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 developed.

**Prunus triloba.** Among the flowers of early spring few are more lovely than those of this small Almond from northern China which, in spite of the fact that it has flowered in the Arboretum every spring during the last twenty years, is still very little known, although a form with double flowers (var. *plena*) is a common garden plant in this country and is often successfully forced under glass for winter bloom. The single-flowered plant should be better known; it is a tall shrub of rather open irregular habit of growth. The pure clear pink flowers are produced in profusion, and among the shrubs introduced into the Arboretum in the last thirty years none exceed in beauty the single-flowered form of this plant. It can be seen on the right hand side of the Forest Hills Road not far below the entrance.

**Prinsepia sinensis** is again covered with clusters of bright yellow flowers which spring from the axils of half grown leaves. It is a tall broad shrub with long, gracefully ascending and spreading branches and stems armed with numerous spines. This member of the Rose
Family is perfectly hardy and the handsomest shrub which Manchuria has contributed to western gardens. The two specimens in the Arboretum were sent here from St. Petersburg in 1903 and 1906 and have been found difficult to propagate. In recent years fortunately one of the plants has produced a few seeds, and as these have germinated there is reason to hope that this shrub may become a common ornament in northern gardens. It has much to recommend it as a hedge plant. The species from northern China can be seen to advantage in the Shrub Collection.

*Corylopsis Gotoana* has been in bloom for more than a week and has never been so full of flowers. This is an Asiatic genus of the Witch Hazel Family, with fragrant yellow flowers in long drooping clusters and leaves which have a general resemblance to those of the Witch Hazel. *C. Gotoana* was introduced into the Arboretum from central Japan and is the largest and handsomest species, growing from five to eight feet tall in this climate, and may be considered one of the handsomest of the early spring flowering shrubs. In the Arboretum it can best be seen on the Centre Street Path in the rear of the Hickories.

*Daphne Mezereum* and its white-flowered variety were in bloom two or three weeks ago. These are dwarf European shrubs with erect branches, and have become naturalized in several places in the northern states. A more beautiful plant, *D. Cneorum*, is coming into flower in the Shrub Collection and on the lower side of Azalea Path. This is one of the most beautiful and satisfactory, hardy, early flowering shrubs and is not common enough in American gardens. In the Arboretum it can be seen in the Shrub Collection and on the lower side of Azalea Path. It forms a broad mat of wiry semiprostrate stems covered with dark green leaves and terminating in dense heads of rose-colored fragrant flowers. This is one of the plants which with the same treatment and in the same soil succeeds in some gardens and fails utterly in others. Fortunately it does well in the Arboretum and when in bloom is one of the most admired plants in the collection, and in Rochester, New York, where there are now many plants raised from seeds obtained from plants in Victoria Park at Niagara Falls, it is considered the very best of the early blooming shrubs.

*Viburnum fragrans* is now blooming more freely than in previous years. It is a deciduous shrub from northern China only recently introduced and still little known, and has obovate-oblong, sharply dentate leaves glabrous beneath, and flowers which open with or before the leaves, very fragrant, and white with very pinkish buds. Judging from the Arboretum plants this year this promises to be one of the handsomest of all Viburnums. It can be seen growing on the left hand side of the road in the bed at the turn up Bussey Hill.

**Docent service.** Beginning on May 9th a docent will meet visitors who may desire his services at the Forest Hills gate at 3 P. M. on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays; and garden clubs and groups of not less than twelve persons at any other hour if the Director is notified not less than two days in advance.