American Crabapples. As the blossoms of the last of the Asiatic Crabapples fall those of the American species begin to expand and fill the air with fragrance. There are some eight species and many varieties found from the neighborhood of the Atlantic seaboard west to Texas, Missouri and Minnesota. From Alaska to California a ninth species (M. fusca) is indigenous but this differs greatly in character and appearance from its eastern relatives. The American Crabapples are small trees with intricately placed branches and often spiny branchlets. They have lax corymbs of deep pink, fading to almost white, flowers, which appear after the leaves unfold, and emit an odor of violets. The fruit is flattened-rounded, greenish and usually clammy viscid. They are admirable trees for planting on the edge of woods, in glades or dells, and deserve to be more widely appreciated.

Malus ioensis. First of the American Crabapples to open its blossoms is the Iowa Crabapple (M. ioensis), the most western member of its group, found widely dispersed from Minnesota southward to Texas. It is a much-branched, round-topped tree, often 30 feet tall, with oblong-ovate leaves, woolly on the underside when young. The double-flowered form (plena), known as Bechtel’s Crab, bears in great abundance pink, fragrant, rose-like blossoms, and is a firm favorite in gardens. Many people have been greatly disappointed by the sudden decease of this tree. In some instances Pear-blight has been the cause but generally it is due to the unsuitable understock used. It is the common practice to graft or bud Bechtel’s Crab on the Common Apple, an understock manifestly unsuited to the purpose. To obtain healthy, free-growing, long-lived trees, Bechtel’s Crab should be worked on seedlings of its parent species or on those of M. coronaria. Since these species fruit freely and are widespread there is no difficulty in obtaining seeds for the purpose. The reason that this has not been done in the past is probably due to the fact that custom has decreed the Common Apple understock for all sorts and conditions of the Crabapple family. So far as the American members are concerned when grafting or budding is necessary a native stock is demanded.
**Malus coronaria.** In size, habit of growth and general appearance, this species is very similar to the Iowa Crabapple, but differs in having the young leaves smooth on the underside. It is found from New York south to Alabama, and westward to Missouri, and has been known in cultivation since 1724. About 1900, a form (Charlottae) with large, semi-double flowers, was discovered near Waukegan, Illinois, which promises to rival Bechtel’s Crab as an ornamental tree for garden use. Both *M. ioensis* and *M. coronaria* with other American Crabapples may be seen in the collection at the foot of Peter’s Hill and on the left of the Forest Hills Road at its junction with Meadow Road.

**Enkianthus campanulatus.** Among the Azaleas on the top of Bussey Hill this shrub is opening its racemose clustered blossoms which hang beneath tufts of deep green leaves. On some bushes the flowers are flesh-color, on others salmon to reddish crimson; in one they are cream-colored. No two bushes appear to have exactly the same color flowers, but all are remarkably floriferous and the leaves assume brilliant colors in the autumn. This Enkianthus is a shrub of upright habit, widespread on the mountains of Japan where occasionally it forms a tree-like bush. In 1892 it was introduced into the Arboretum where it has proved perfectly hardy in exposed and wind-swept places; even in the Shrub Garden it has scarcely suffered winter injury. Like other members of the Erica family it demands a lime-free soil.

**Enkianthus perulatus,** better known under the name of *E. japonicus,* is a round habited shrub and a familiar object in almost every garden in Japan. Its natural habit is neat and compact, and no shrub takes on more brilliant hues of scarlet, orange and crimson in the fall. The flowers are pendent, urn-shaped, pure white and produced in umbels.

**Enkianthus cernuus rubens.** This species differs from others in having the corolla irregularly notched. The type has yellowish flowers striped with crimson and is not in cultivation in the Arboretum but *rubens,* with deep red blossoms, thrives. Another less ornamental species is *E. subsessilis,* which hails from the Nikko region of Japan. Though less handsome in blossom than other species its foliage is not one whit less brilliant in the autumn. Enkianthus is a small genus of shrubs, related to Andromeda, all natives of the Far East, where they are found on the Sikkim Himalayas and eastward through China to the mountains of Japan. So far only the Japanese species have proved hardy in this Arboretum. These are worthwhile shrubs, deserving of a place in every garden. The collection may be seen beneath the old White Pines on the top of Bussey Hill.

**Iberis Tenoreana.** A broad patch of this low-growing shrubby Candy-tuft is now in full blossom in the Shrub Garden. It is useful as a ground cover in sunny places but its greatest value is for the Rock Garden. The blossoms, produced in racemose clusters, are of the purest white. A related species (*I. sempervirens*) is also well established in the Shrub Garden and flowers later.

**Rosa Ecae.** A large bush of this Rose is now in full blossom in the Shrub Garden. The pale, creamy yellow, five-petalled flowers in which
White-flowered *Wisteria floribunda alba*. 
glow masses of yellow stamens, are subtended by small, neat-looking leaves. This is a very hardy Rose, found wild from the wind-swept regions of central Asia westward to north-central China. Upright in habit, with abundant, red-barked, prickly stems, it makes a shapely shrub. It has been growing in the Arboretum since 1911 and has not suffered winter injury; neither has any of its branches died. Less showy in blossom than other yellow-flowered Roses, it is easily the hardiest and in some ways the best. From the middle of May, when the leaves first unfold, until the autumn when they change color and fall, the bush emits a delightful fragrance of Sweetbriar. It is just the Rose for a wind-swept corner near the windows of a living room or beneath those of a bedroom, where its wafted fragrance can be appreciated.

**Wisterias.** Unquestionably the most beautiful of all climbers hardy in cool, temperate regions is Wistaria, everywhere so deservedly popular and widely cultivated. The name Wistaria was given in 1818 by Nuttall, to an American plant (*W. frutescens*) in honor of Dr. Caspar Wistar, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania. The same year John Reeves, an officer of the English East India Company stationed at Canton, China, sent to England a climber which received the name of *Glycine sinensis*. In 1825, De Candolle correctly referred this plant to Nuttall’s genus Wistaria. Today, and for many decades past, Wistaria and *Wistaria sinensis* in the popular mind have been synonymous. The Chinese Wistaria is native of eastern China and is not completely hardy so far north as Boston, Massachusetts. It requires some protection and this is usually afforded by planting it against houses, but even then in severe winters the flower buds are often killed.

In Japan’s gardens, paintings and embroideries, a Wistaria bearing very long racemes of flowers is a familiar subject. This plant, widely known as *Wistaria multijuga*, is a garden form of the wild Wistaria of Japan (*W. floribunda*), and correctly should be called *W. floribunda var. macrobotrys*. The species is abundant on the margins of moist woods and especially in thickets alongside streams, ponds and ditches virtually all over Japan, and has racemes from one to one and a half feet long of pale purple flowers. In Japanese gardens forms with white and pinkish flowers are cultivated; also a purple-flowered form with racemes measuring as much as 60 inches. These plants are grown by the side of ponds, and enjoy an unlimited water supply during the time of flowering.

Seeds of the Japanese Wistaria were received in this country by Samuel Parsons of Flushing, in 1862, from Dr. George R. Hall. It is hardier than its Chinese relative, has slightly smaller flowers, which, opening later, are fragrant and equally beautiful. The white, purple and pinkish forms are all hardy, and may be grown against buildings, on trellises, or allowed to ramble at will over trees and bushes. There is also a form with ugly double purple flowers.

Wisterias are erratic in the matter of flowering, and if raised from seeds decades may pass before any flowers appear. They should be increased by grafts, layers or cuttings from flowering plants, since from such source plants three or four feet tall will blossom freely. Good soil and restricted root room are additional aids to success.

E. H. W.