The Cherry blossom season now opens in the Arboretum. Just within the Forest Hills Gate, on Bussey Hill, and on Peters Hill the single-flowered Asiatic Cherries are fast opening their pink passing to white flowers. The first to bloom is the Sargent Cherry (*Prunus serrulata sachalinensis*), a native of the forests of central and northern Japan where it is often a tree from 60 to 80 feet tall with a thick trunk and a magnificent crown. It has clustered pink or white blossoms, each from 1 to 1½ inches in diameter, which open immediately before the bronzetinted foliage unfolds. This Cherry is the hardiest of its tribe and since its introduction to the Arboretum in 1890 has never suffered winter injury nor have the flower-buds been killed. Fine as a specimen, it makes a splendid avenue tree and with a little attention when young maintains a shapely pyramidal crown. It is readily raised from seed, grows rapidly and is well suited for roadside planting in suburban areas. Apart from its beauty it is the best understock on which to work double-flowered Japanese Cherries of which it is one of the principal parents. Too much cannot be written in favor of this splendid tree.

The Tokyo or Yoshino Cherry (*P. yedoensis*) is the particular Cherry whose flowering at Tokyo is made the occasion of a national holiday. The planting round the Potomac basin at Washington, D. C., now familiar to millions of Americans, is of this species. Although abundantly planted in Toyko, Yokohama and Nagasaki, it is less so in other parts of Japan. Strange to say although a common tree in the districts mentioned it was not until quite recently recognized as a species and it has not yet been found in a wild state. The original trees on which the species is based may be seen in the old botanic garden in Tokyo. First introduced into the Arboretum in 1902 by seeds sent from Tokyo, this Cherry has proved less hardy than other Japanese species. As a matter of fact, Boston is a little too far north for its well-being and it is only occasionally that the flower-buds escape winter injury. From Cape Cod, where the genial influence of the gulf stream prevails, and south as far as Savannah, Georgia,
this tree is perfectly at home. Moreover, it does not resent city conditions and ought to be planted in tens of thousands in places like Central Park, New York City, and elsewhere. Where it grows freely it makes a stately tree 50 feet tall with a trunk from 8 to 10 feet in girth; the branches are thick, wide-spreading and form a broad, oval or flattened head some 50 to 60 feet through. It is, however, apparently short-lived but this should not be against its planting since it is easily raised from seeds and this is the way in which the tree should be propagated. In many respects it is intermediate in character between *P. subhirtella ascendens* and *P. Lannesiana* and possibly is a hybrid between the two, but against this must be stated the fact that it breeds true from seed. The original specimen at the Arboretum is just within Forest Hills Gate, where, however, its flower-buds usually suffer winter injury. On Bussey Hill and on Peters Hill are younger trees which as a rule come through the winter fairly well. However, it should be emphasized that this Cherry though perfect for New York City, for Washington, D. C., Augusta, Georgia, and elsewhere, is not properly adapted to the climate of Boston and northward.

The Spring Cherry of Japan, known as Higan-zakura and of which there are several varieties distinguished by a prefix to the general name, is descended from *P. subhirtella ascendens*, a Cherry found wild on the mountains of central and southern Japan, southern Korea, Formosa and central China. It is a tree from 60 to 75 feet tall with a short, massive trunk, often 12 feet in girth, and thick, wide-spreading branches. By the Japanese it has been long cultivated and in some of the temple grounds and parks, notably that of Ueno in Tokyo, there are magnificent specimens. The crown varies a good deal in shape but it is usually sparse and though the branchlets are thickly strung with blossoms it does not make the show some of the other species do, but it has given rise to several varieties which are very floriferous and useful. Most notable of these is that known as *P. subhirtella*, a low, broad-topped tree, of which the two oldest specimens in this country may be seen on the right just within Forest Hills Gate. This tree is grown on the west coast of Japan, a region remote from the ordinary routes of travel and from such centers of Japan culture as Tokyo and Kyoto. This probably explains why it was unknown to the Occident until almost the dawn of the present century. This Cherry, the true Higan-zakura, is a singularly lovely tree; as the buds swell the whole crown is rose-colored and as the flowers open the petals change from pink to nearly white, the whole tree being a billowy mass of bloom. Seen on a lawn and against a blue sky no picture is more beautiful. Unfortunately, being a garden form this Cherry does not breed true from seed, although a limited percentage reproduce the type. It may be budded and grafted on its own seedlings or propagated by cuttings but these should be grown along in pots since the plant does not bear root interference with impunity.

Of this group of Cherries best known is the Weeping Rosebud Cherry (*P. subhirtella pendula*) introduced into this country so long ago as 1861. Its cultivation has not been properly understood and this accounts for the fact that good specimens are very rare in this
country. The finest known to the Arboretum are those at "Reynoldia" just outside Winston-Salem, North Carolina. There is no need to attempt a description of this well-known Cherry but the fact that it should be grafted or budded on its own seedlings needs to be emphasized and emphasized repeatedly. A certain percentage will, it is true, come true from seed but its affinity is remote from the European Cherries and from its Japanese neighbors, none of which is suitable as an understock.

Another garden variety is *Prunus subhirtella autumnalis*, the so-called October-flowering Cherry, which as a matter of fact some seasons flowers in the autumn and at others in the spring. It has semi-double flowers and in habit of growth resembles *P. subhirtella*. This year the plant inside the Forest Hills Gate is now blooming freely.

*Prunus apetala* is the first of the Cherries to open its blossoms. The flowers, which are small, are borne singly or in fascicles of two or three; the calyx is long-tubed and after the petals have fallen with the stamens becomes intensely red. The petals are white, fading to reddish, rather fugitive which accounts for the specific name. This Cherry is a bush or small tree not uncommon on the mountain slopes about Nikko and elsewhere in Japan. The flowers are small and the plant really possesses little horticultural value, however, it merits attention as being the first of the tribe to open its blossoms.

Many species of Cherry have in recent years been reported from central and western China but few only are happy in the climate of Massachusetts. One of the best is *P. pilosiuscula*, a low, broad-topped tree with clustered, small, pinkish blossoms each with prominent yellow-anthered stems. The habit is excellent and in abundance of blossom is not surpassed by any species. Native of the mountains of central China, it was raised in the Arboretum from seeds collected in 1907 by E. H. Wilson. A fine specimen may be seen in the collection on Bussey Hill.

The cultivation of Oriental Cherries presents no difficulties, always supposing they be either on their own roots or worked on a proper understock. They demand a light, sandy loam where good drainage obtains, and a situation where they can enjoy full sun but sheltered from north winds. A warm bank is an ideal spot. What pruning is necessary should be done after they have flowered. Transplanting needs to be undertaken with care since when established they do not like root interference. Many of them are well suited to city conditions and they ought to be extensively used for this purpose. With the exception of *P. Lan~nesiana* and *P. yedoensis* all the Japanese species introduced are perfectly happy in the Arboretum.

The Forsythia bank is now a glorious sight. Beneath the old White Pines on Bussey Hill *Rhododendron dauricum mucronulatum* is at the height of its beauty. A few of the early flowering Pears are in blossom and so, too, are a number of Almonds, Peaches and related plants. Magnolias are in full bloom in front of the Administration Building.

E. H. W.