Flowering Cherries. Prunus subhirtella, which probably attracts more attention in early spring than any other Cherry in the Arboretum collection has often been referred to in these Bulletins. It was at its best on April 27th. Although really in attractive flower several days earlier it was kept in check by the cool weather. P. subhirtella is a tree for which enthusiasts often allow a space of perhaps ten feet in their gardens, whereas a much greater area should be allowed for its full ultimate development. The largest plant near the Forest Hills Gate is now 25 or 30 feet high and has a spread of branches of 50 feet in diameter near the ground. This is another plant which does not always come ideally true from seed. Seedlings may produce plants of erect, spreading, or more or less pendulous habit and may bear flowers of poor form and substance compared with the parent, so that if such plants are used it is wise to have several of them from which to select the most desirable individual. The plants usually flower early so that selection may be made while they are small. Otherwise the best forms must be propagated by division, as by grafting and budding. This species may also be grown from cuttings but plants are not easily propagated in this way.

In making selections of forms or varieties of this species there are, besides the type, two of outstanding interest or attractiveness. The more common one, Prunus subhirtella pendula, is a favorite and best known in gardens, while Prunus subhirtella autumnalis is less known but is equally worthy of cultivation. Its pink flowers appear at about the same time and are inclined to be semi-double instead of single. It bears beautiful and abundant bloom in spring, but also has the habit of bearing a good many flowers in autumn, hence the varietal name which has been given to it. Its flower buds appear to be more easily damaged by winter cold than those of the typical P. subhirtella. Our notes taken in 1923 showed about 75% of the buds destroyed in winter while those of the type, growing by its side, appeared to be uninjured.
It is an interesting fact that practically all of the double-flowered forms of Cherries are appreciably later in flowering than the single flowered progenitors, so that no common date can be given which would cover the flowering period of all the forms related to a single species.

**Prunus yedoensis**, Yoshino Cherry, has had a very full load of its white blossoms this season and, on account of several days of cold weather, it has remained in good attractive flower longer than usual, notwithstanding winds and rainstorms, eight or ten days intervening between the opening of the first flowers about April 25th and the first dropping of petals. Hot days, such as sometimes occur at this season, would cause a preliminary dropping of petals within two or three days of flower opening. This species has been described as the dominant shade and flowering Cherry planted in and about Tokio, Japan, for the celebrated cherry blossom festivals which are annual events there. It is a sturdy species, forming a broad, horizontal branched, rounded top which may easily spread 50 feet or more across although it takes many years to reach such proportions. The origin of this tree is unknown, but by some specialists it has been called a possible hybrid between two Japanese species, a supposition which is hard to prove.

It is a curious fact that while descriptions and illustrations of Cherries in and about Tokio usually state or show the blossoms as pink, experience with the species, if it is a species, in America is that the color is white or has a very light pinkish trace in the petals when expanded, the buds being decidedly pink as seen from the backs of the petals. The famous Cherry plantation about the Potomac Basin in Washington, which is usually in good bloom about the second week in April, is apparently mainly the Yoshino Cherry. Its flowers are white or with but a faint trace of pink, as are those at the Arboretum. Our foremost authority (Rehder) in America, in his “Manual”, describes the flowers as “white to pink”, coinciding with the description of other students and writers in this country. The description of the Yoshino Cherry as given in one of the best known Japanese nursery catalogues is “single light pink of medium sized flower, best kinds for avenue planting and park for its quick growth and beautiful blossom and no park without this tree seems perfect, grows most freely in any soil”.

This question of the differences in color as portrayed in most Japanese pictures and as actually developed on plants in this country is one which is puzzling and disconcerting to the average planter and it remains one which requires careful study and investigation.

The blossoms of the single flowered Cherries are fast fading away and as they lose their attractiveness the double-flowered forms, or hybrids, come into their most showy condition. This year that period appears to be during the second week of May. There are many named forms of these beautiful plants, some derived from species, others originating from hybrids, all grafted or budded and all probably much slower growing and never attaining the size of their naturally single flowered progenitors. They should generally be considered as short lived as compared with the types, but this is not always the case.
Prunus serrulata sachalinensis "Fugenco"

Photographed in the Arnold Arboretum, June 9, 1924, by Dr. E. H. Wilson
Besides local conditions much depends upon the stocks upon which they are budded or grafted, a subject which may be referred to in later issues of these Bulletins. A beautiful double flowered species is the well known and often planted *Prunus avium plena*, which is often listed as *Prunus (Cerasus) avium multiplex*. Originally derived from the Sweet or Mazzard Cherry, of Europe and Western Asia, this form has developed flowers which have the aspect of very small fully double white roses borne in umbels of several clusters.

For those who wish for a suggestion of a selection of several of the best and hardiest of the Japanese double forms the following may be mentioned as very satisfactory. They are regarded as forms of the fairly hardy *Prunus serrulata*. Some forms of *Prunus Lannesiana* may perhaps be regarded as more beautiful but they are not so hardy as *P. serrulata*. Of this species there are now a good many forms offered in American nurseries, six of the best may be found under the following names: *Albo-rosea*, pink in bud changing to white; *Fugenzo*, rose pink; *Hisakura*, pale pink; *Hornjiki*, pale pink, clustered; *Kirin*, rose colored, large flowered, late; *Shogetsu* (= *P. serrulata sachalinensis superba*) pale pink, large, late. The Japanese name of the last is said to signify "moonlight through Pine branches".

There are many others which may be grown in our climate, though with less confidence in their immunity from winter injury, particularly those belonging to the *Prunus Lannesiana* group, of which the double or semi-double form known as *P. Lannesiana sirotae*, sold by some Japanese nurseries as a "Mount Fuji", with large, fragrant, pure white blossoms, is probably the finest known of all double Cherries.

Recently we received an inquiry from a correspondent who wishes to know the species and varieties of choice Japanese Cherries which will grow at an altitude of 1500 or 2000 feet in northern New York State. The answer to such a question is that probably none of them would live and thrive and blossom in that latitude and that altitude, where the temperature frequently falls to from 10 to 20 below zero (Fahrenheit). If the trees were not killed or badly injured, their flower buds would almost always certainly be destroyed every winter unless the season happened to be exceptionally mild for the region. Possibly the more northerly forms of such a species of variety as the Sargent Cherry, *Prunus serrulata sachalinensis*, which some botanists think should be regarded as a distinct species (*Prunus Sargentii*), might be able to withstand the rigors of our cold north country but such particularly hardy plants remain to be introduced and proved.

While a few of the double flowered Cherries are to be seen near the Forest Hills Gate the best specimens are to be found in a group on top of Bussey Hill.

The Japanese or Flowering Quince. *Chaenomeles lagenaria* and various forms, often known as *Pyrus japonica* in nurseries and persistently called *Cydonia japonica* in "Standardized Plant Names" are in flower now in the shrub collection. J. G. J.