

Amelanchiers are beginning to flower and in a few days the Arboretum will be gay with the white flowers of these trees and shrubs which have been largely planted here along the margins of woods and by the borders of the drives. The species which has been most largely used in this way here is the shrubby *A. oblongifolia*, which grows naturally in the Arboretum where a large native specimen can be seen on the margin of the meadow across the path from the general collection of these plants which occupies the border between the Meadow Road and the parallel grass path on the left-hand side entering from the Jamaica Plain Gate. Another native species, *A. laevis*, is a tree sometimes forty feet high and easily distinguished from all other species by the red color of the unfolding leaves which are destitute of any covering of down. There are some large-sized native trees of this species on the wooded bank in the rear of the Crabapple Collection on the Forest Hills Road. The earliest species in the collection to flower is another tree and perhaps the largest in the whole genus, *A. canadensis*, which is widely distributed from western New York to Louisiana, and the only Amelanchier or Shad Bush in the southern states.

Ribes tenue. This is one of the Currants introduced by Wilson from central and western China, where it is a common plant on the mountains at high altitudes, and a shrub four or five feet high. There are several specimens in the Arboretum, but the handsomest is in the collection of Chinese shrubs on the southern slopes of Bussey Hill. The plant is now covered with short erect clusters of dull yellow flowers which will be followed by bright red, lustrous, juicy fruits. The fruit is sweeter than that of the common red-flowered garden Currant and this plant may prove to be valuable for its fruit, or to cross with the garden Currants. As an early spring-flowering shrub it deserves a place in northern gardens.

The yellow-flowered American Currants are still perhaps the most attractive of the Currants and Gooseberries which can be grown in this climate. The better known of these, the so-called Missouri Currant (*Ribes odoratum*) is often cultivated in the United States and is found in many old gardens. It owes its popular name to the fact that it was first found on the upper Missouri River, but it is now known to occur on the great plains from South Dakota to Texas. This plant is often called in books *Ribes aureum*, but this name belongs to a plant with smaller flowers and black or orange-colored fruits. This beautiful plant is rarely cultivated in American gardens. The two plants are growing together in the general Shrub Collection, and the difference in their general appearance and in the structure of the flowers can readily be seen.

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