

duced large crops of fruit until the trees were attacked by the Pear blight which has ruined many of these orchards. *P. ovoidea* has been growing in the Arboretum for eighteen years and *P. Bretschneideri* for thirty-four years and have never been attacked by the Pear blight. It is suggested that by crossing these species with some of the garden Pears valuable results in the way of a new and very hardy race of Pear-trees may be secured. Among hybrid plants in this group attention is called to

**Pyrus malifolia.** This is a natural hybrid between the common Pear and the White Beam-tree of Europe, *Sorbus Aria*, and is very similar and perhaps a seedling of the hybrid Bollwyller Pear which appeared in Alsace more than three hundred years ago as it was first mentioned by the botanist Bauhin in 1619. *P. malifolia* has large pale oval leaves and large flowers in few-flowered clusters. It is perfectly hardy and a remarkably fast-growing tree which promises to attain a large size in this climate. It well deserves a place in New England collections of flowering trees.

**The Asiatic Crabapples** are beginning to flower and as the American species do not bloom until later it will be possible to enjoy in the Arboretum the beautiful flowers of these trees for several weeks. The collection is a large one and now contains plants large or small of all the American and Old World species with the single exception of the little known *Malus formosana*, a native, as its name implies, of the island of Formosa. The collections made by Mr. Wilson in China and Japan have thrown much light on several of the Asiatic species which are now much better known than they were a few years ago. The discovery that a common Apple-tree of western China, largely cultivated as a fruit tree in the mountainous districts of Hupeh and Szechuan, is a form of *Malus prunifolia* which, although it has been in European gardens for nearly a century, was not known before as a wildtree, is interesting. This form is now called

**Malus prunifolia, var. rinki.** It is a tree in its wild state with greenish yellow fruit sometimes with a reddish cheek, or rarely entirely red, rather longer than broad and not often more than an inch and a quarter in diameter; it is juicy and has an acid flavor. This tree was early introduced into Japan where it was formerly cultivated in many forms as a fruit tree. The good quality of the fruit of some of these is mentioned in his recently published reminiscences by Lord Redesdale who, in the early 60's as a member of an English Embassy, found them in a remote part of Japan. The cultivation of the Rinki was given up in Japan after the introduction of American and English Apple-trees and it is now a rare plant there. It is this Apple which is often called *Pyrus* or *Malus Ringo* in European publications. Judging by the climate where this tree grows naturally in western China, it should prove as hardy as the Siberian *Malus baccata* which is one of the parents of the hardy race of Apples now much cultivated in the





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