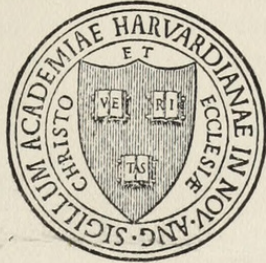


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Asiatic Crabapples. Some of the earliest of these trees are already in flower, twenty-five days earlier than last year, and when this Bulletin reaches its Massachusetts' readers it is probable that a large number of them will be at their best and as full of flowers as they have ever been here before, for this year all plants of the Rose Family are unusually full of flowers and flower-buds. To northern parks and gardens no genus of small trees and shrubs has given greater beauty than *Malus*, the name which is now correctly given to all Apple-trees, especially the wild types and their first hybrids generally known as Crabapples in distinction from the Apple-trees of orchards which are hybrids or selected and improved forms of European and western Asiatic Crabapples. All the species of *Malus* hybridize so freely among themselves that it is not possible to raise from seeds gathered on trees in a large collection of species like that of the Arboretum plants similar to those from which the seeds were taken. Among such seedlings there may be plants handsomer than their seed-bearing parent, although quite different from it, and among a hundred seedlings raised from the seeds of one tree it is not usual to find two exactly alike. The possible variation in seedling plants produced by a single Crabapple-tree is well shown in one of the parks of the city of Rochester, New York, in which there are growing some twenty-five trees raised several years ago from seeds gathered from one plant of *Malus floribunda*, a tree introduced many years ago into our gardens from Japan and by many students believed to be a hybrid of doubtful parentage. These Rochester seedlings now produce abundant crops of fruit. This varies on different trees from the size of a small pea to an inch or an inch and

a quarter in diameter. On some of the trees it is bright yellow, on others bright red and on others red and yellow. There is less difference in the flowers, but the leaves vary on the different plants in shape and in the absence or presence of a covering of hairs. Whenever the seeds of Crabapples are gathered from trees in collections great or small there will be new hybrids; some of these will be distinct and beautiful like the hybrids of the central Asiatic *Malus Niedwetzkyana* which have appeared in European gardens and are now cultivated under the name of *Malus purpurea*, and the persons who raise such new hybrids will naturally want to have them distinguished by name. The number of varieties of such hybrids has no limit, and as the same hybrid may appear in different countries at about the same time and receive different names students of these trees have the promise of even greater trouble in the future than they have had in the past when they had the offspring of only a few species to deal with. As has been often stated in these Bulletins there is but one way to propagate Crabapples if types of the species, varieties and hybrids are wanted and that is by grafting. It is cheaper to raise seedlings, and seedlings are often sold in American nurseries as species. They are often ornamental but rarely are true to the name under which they are sold.

The first Crabapple to open its flowers this year is again the Manchurian, north China and Korean form of *Malus baccata* (var. *mandshurica*) which is the eastern form of the better known Siberian Crabapple (*Malus baccata*) which has been cultivated in Europe for more than a century and has been the parent of many hybrids. The Manchurian form as it grows in the Arboretum is a tree some fifteen feet tall and broad. The flowers, which are produced in profusion, are pure white, more than an inch across and more fragrant than those of any other Asiatic Crabapple. The fruit is round, yellow or red, and not larger than a large pea. A form of this tree, var. *Jackii*, brought from Korea by Professor Jack in 1905, is distinguished by its larger dark scarlet fruit. The Manchurian Crabapple, which is still rare in this country, should, for the fragrance of its flowers alone find a place in all collections. Almost as early is *Malus robusta*, which is believed to be a hybrid between *Malus baccata* and *M. prunifolia*, a north China plant. This tree was raised here in the early days of the Arboretum from the seeds of *Malus baccata* sent from the Botanic Garden at Petrograd. It is covered every spring with large, pure white, or rarely greenish, fragrant flowers which are rather more than an inch in diameter and larger than those of the other Asiatic Crabs. The fruit differs somewhat in size on different trees and is subglobose and dull red. In good soil and with sufficient space for development this Crab will grow into a large tree, with a broad, round-topped head of spreading, often slightly pendulous branches. This is the handsomest of the white-flowered Crabs and one of the most beautiful of early spring-flowering trees which can be safely planted in this part of the country. The largest specimens in the Arboretum are in the old Apple Collection on the left-hand side of the Forest Hills Road.

Malus micromalus, another early-flowering Crab, is one of the least known of these trees. It was first sent to Europe by Von Siebold in 1856



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