

walks. Few of our native trees grow so well in the immediate neighborhood of the seacoast. The seedlings of few trees have shown a greater tendency to variation, and many of the varieties of the Norway Maple have been largely propagated by European nurserymen. There are a dozen or more of the most distinct of these varieties in the Arboretum collection, and among them are some handsome plants. The variety *columnare* is one of the best of the trees with fastigate branches although it is broader and less columnar than the form of the Sugar Maple with erect growing branches (*Acer saccharum* var. *monumentale*), or the fastigate Red Maple (var. *columnare*). One of the handsomest of dwarf trees is the variety *globosum*, a round-topped bush branching from the ground. The large and symmetrical specimen of this plant which had been growing since 1888 in the Arboretum was badly injured by the heavy snow and high winds of the severe winter of 1919-20. It has now made new branches and will soon be as handsome as ever. Forms of this tree with deeply divided leaves are var. *dissectum* and var. *cucullatum*, the Eagle Claw Maple. These are small trees which are more curious than beautiful. The most popular of the varieties of the Norway Maple is the var. *Schwedleri*. Early in the season this tree has bright red leaves which before summer turn dark dull green. The color of the spring leaves attracts nurserymen, and this tree has been planted largely in the neighborhood of eastern cities. The dull unnatural color of the mature leaves makes this, however, an undesirable tree for general planting. More attractive is the variety *Stollii* with large three-lobed leaves, purple as they unfold but later dark green. This is one of the most distinct of all the forms of the Norway Maple in the Arboretum collection.

Acer saccharum, the Sugar Maple and one of the great trees of eastern North America, will also soon be in bloom. The flowers are paler in color than those of the Norway Maple, and arranged in gracefully drooping clusters do not make the tree as conspicuous in the spring. The individual flowers are more delicate, however, and better worth close inspection by the lovers of beautiful flowers.

Amelanchiers. Shad Bushes, as Amelanchiers are often called because they are supposed to bloom when the shad begin to ascend the rivers from the sea, add much to the beauty of the Arboretum in the month of May. Amelanchier is a genus in which North America has almost a monopoly; one small shrubby species grows on the mountains of central Europe, and there is another shrubby species in China and Japan. All the other species are natives of North America where Amelanchiers grow with many species from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Newfoundland to the Gulf States. Some of the species are trees and others large or small shrubs; they flower in the spring before the leaves appear or when they are partly grown, or, in the case of a few species, when the leaves are nearly fully grown, the period of flowering of the different species extending through several weeks. The species all have handsome flowers, with long delicate white petals, and small, dark blue, or nearly black pome-like fruit open at the top, with flesh which in most of the species is sweet and edible. It is these edible fruits which probably have earned for these plants

one of their popular names, Service Berry. *Amelanchier canadensis*, which is the first species to bloom in the Arboretum, has been in flower for several days. It is a tree which occasionally grows to the height of sixty feet with a tall trunk eighteen inches in diameter. The leaves begin to unfold as the flowers open and are then covered with pale gray silky hairs, making the whole plant look white at this time of the year. This beautiful tree does not grow naturally nearer Boston than the western part of Massachusetts; it is common in western New York, and it is the common and often the only species in the southern states in which it grows to the Gulf coast. Owing to an old confusion in determination and names this fine tree, which was originally named by Linnaeus, has been rare in gardens, an entirely different plant having long appeared in books and gardens under the name of *Amelanchier canadensis*. This is also a fine tree, differing conspicuously from *A. canadensis* in the red color of the young leaves which are destitute or nearly destitute of any hairy covering. This tree is now called by botanists *A. laevis*. It is one of the native trees of the Arboretum, and there are a number of specimens growing naturally on the bank above the Crabapples on the left-hand side of the Forest Hills Road which begin to flower a few days later than *A. canadensis*, and are easily recognized by the color of the young leaves. Another species which is a native plant in the Arboretum, *A. obovalis*, is a large shrub rather than a tree with young leaves like those of *A. canadensis* covered with white silky hairs. Large numbers of this shrub which has been planted along the drives and in other Arboretum shrubberies will still be in bloom when this Bulletin reaches its Boston readers making this week one of the pleasantest of the year to visit the Arboretum. Five or six other species of the eastern states are now well established in the Arboretum collection on the grass path which follows the left-hand side of the Meadow Road; they are small shrubs rarely more than five or six feet high, in some species spreading from the roots into clumps of considerable size. They are all delightful plants well suited for the decoration of small gardens or the margins of shrubberies. Generally, however, they are unknown to garden lovers.

Early flowering Pear-trees. The first Pear-tree to flower in the Arboretum this year, *Pyrus usuriensis*, was in bloom by the 25th of April. This tree is a native of Korea, north China and northern Japan, growing further north probably than any other Pear-tree, and sometimes forming forests of some extent. It is probably, too, the largest of all Pear-trees for Wilson photographed in 1918 a tree growing near Shinan in the Province of Nogen, Korea, which was sixty feet tall with a trunk fourteen feet in girth and a head seventy-five feet across. The fruit varies in size and shape, and, judged by American standards, has little or no value. It is believed, however, that the hardiness of this tree may make it valuable as stock on which to grow some of the European garden pears, and experiments with it as stock are being planned in Dakota. A Chinese form of this Pear-tree, var. *ovoidea*, is probably better worth growing for the decoration of parks and gardens. The flowers are larger and open in the Arboretum about ten days later; the fruit, which differs in shape from that of other Pear-trees, is broad at base and gradually narrowed at apex, and although not large is juicy



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