

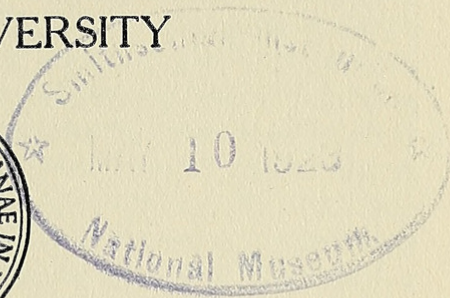
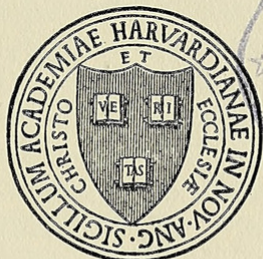
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Prunus. In the Arboretum are now placed in this genus the Peaches, Apricots, Almonds, Cherries and Plums. As now constituted this genus contains some of the important fruit trees of temperate regions, a few valuable timber trees, and a large number of plants cultivated for the beauty of their flowers or fruits, or for the evergreen leaves of some of the species. To few genera do northern gardens owe so great and varied beauty and in this Arboretum many of its species are established. The earliest of them to bloom in the Arboretum is a Peach, *Prunus Davidiana*, which opened its flowers on the 19th of April and shed its petals ten days later. This is the wild Peach-tree of northern China and a narrow tree with a tall slender stem and upright branches. The flowers are pink, and there is also in the Arboretum a white-flowered form. The small hard, green fruit is not seen here every year as the flowers are usually destroyed by spring frosts. This tree has little to recommend it as a garden plant, especially in regions where spring frosts are common, but for students of the geography of plants it is of much interest. It has been used with much success by pomologists as stock for varieties of the garden Peach.

Apricots began to flower this year as early as the 25th of April and are still covered with white flowers. The earliest this year is a form of *Prunus Armenaica* which for several years has been growing in the Arboretum where it has been called "The Mikado." Judging by the name it is possible that this plant came originally from Japan, where the Apricot, originally a native of northern China, has long been cultivated in a number of varieties. "The Mikado" is a strong growing,

hardy tree with a comparatively narrow head of erect branches. Near it in the Plum collection is also blooming the Apricot from eastern Siberia and Manchuria, *Prunus sibirica*, another hardy and handsome tree which appears to be little known in this country. Another species, *Prunus mandshurica*, has fewer flowers this spring. In its native country this is a low tree with a trunk sometimes three feet in diameter and wide-spreading branches. As it grows in the Arboretum this is the handsomest of the Apricots in habit and foliage. Another of these trees, *Prunus dasycarpa*, the so-called "Black Apricot" from the dark color of its slightly downy fruit blooms a little later and is now only opening its flowers. This tree, which has been cultivated for a long time in European gardens, is now believed to be a hybrid between the Apricot and the European Garden Plum. Little known in the United States, when in good flower it is one of the most beautiful objects in the Arboretum. The small hard fruit has been rarely seen here.

Cherries are placed by many authors in the genera *Cerasus*, *Lauro-cerasus* and *Padus*, here considered sections of the genus *Prunus*. This is the most numerous in species and the most widely distributed of all the groups of the genus *Prunus*, and among the Cherries are some of the most beautiful when in flower of the trees and shrubs which can be grown in northern gardens. The earliest to bloom this year has been

Prunus tomentosa, an early introduction by the Arboretum from northern China, has proved to be one of the handsomest of the early spring flowering shrubs in the neighborhood of Boston. It is a vigorous plant five or six feet high and when well grown often broader than tall. The flowers open from pink buds as the leaves unfold and their bright red stalk and calyx make a handsome contrast with the white petals often marked with rose. The small lustrous scarlet juicy fruit which ripens in June has an excellent flavor and is attracting the attention of pomologists living in regions of extreme winter cold like the Dakotas and Manitoba where this inhabitant of the mountain slopes in the neighborhood of Peking has proven perfectly hardy. A variety (var. *endotricha*) brought from western China by Wilson flowers a few days later. This variety is chiefly distinguished from the north China plant by the absence of the hairs on the fruit.

Prunus subhirtella. This, the Spring Cherry of the Japanese, is the most delightful, travellers say, of the Japanese Cherries and as usual has been covered with flowers which opened on the 28th of April before the leaves began to unfold. Pink when they open the petals become nearly white before they fall. *Prunus subhirtella* is not known as a wild plant, and not uncommon in the gardens of western Japan is not often seen in those of Tokio. This is perhaps the reason why it has been less often sent to this country. The fact, too, that it does not reproduce itself from seeds is another reason why the "Spring Cherry" is still so rarely seen in the United States and Europe. The two large plants on the right hand side of the Forest Hills Road have been growing in the Arboretum for twenty-nine years, and when they are in flower no other plant in the collection, Cherry, Plum, Crabapple, Lilac,



1923. "Apricots." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 9(2), 5-6. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321305>.

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