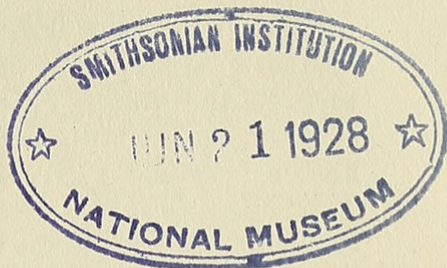
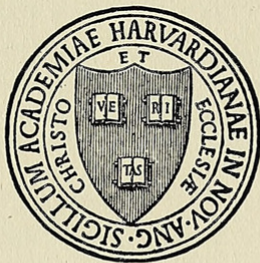


ARNOLD ARBORETUM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY



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Asiatic Crabapples. Some of the early flowering species and varieties of these trees are perhaps the most conspicuous objects in the Arboretum this week. For many years much attention has been devoted here to these trees and the collection, which is as nearly complete as it has been possible to make it, is certainly one of the best in the world. The species are all represented here and it is not probable that there are more to discover although there is always a possibility that an undescribed species is still hidden in some unvisited valley in southern Kansu or in some of the other remote provinces of western China. New hybrids are much more probable. Indeed, there is danger that there may be too many of them, for these plants are so susceptible to pollen from their neighbors that it is useless to plant the seeds of any of the Arboretum trees with the expectation of obtaining seedlings similar to the parent; and as nurserymen and amateurs are now everywhere planting Crabapple-seeds, there will in a few years be as many hybrids of unknown origin as there are now new Irises and other garden plants. This will mean troublesome and usually unsatisfactory work for the conscientious dendrologist anxious to throw light on the origin of cultivated trees.

The flowering of the Crabapples makes one of the chief spectacular displays of the year here and of these displays only that of the Lilacs attracts a larger number of visitors. Many of the plants are well covered with buds; a few will flower sparingly or not at all this year but the general display will be an average one, although not as good certainly as last year when all the trees were covered with flowers. The collection is arranged on the left hand side of the Forest Hills Road and

at the eastern base of Peter's Hill, a short distance from the entrance at the corner of South and Bussey Streets. The oldest and largest plants are by the Forest Hills Road but there is a larger number of species and varieties on Peter's Hill which should be visited by everyone interested in these plants. There is in one of these Bulletins only space to call attention to a few of the most interesting of these plants. The earliest of them to flower.

Malus baccata mandshurica, is a native of Manchuria, Korea and northern Japan, and the eastern form of the better known *Malus baccata*, the Siberian Crabapple, which reached Europe more than a century ago and for a long time was one of the Asiatic Crabapples known in western gardens. The Manchurian form as it grows in the Arboretum is a tree fifteen or eighteen feet tall and broad; the flowers, which are produced in profusion, are pure white, rather 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. The Manchurian Crabapple, which is still rare in this country, should for the fragrance of the flowers alone find a place in all collections.

Malus robusta. This is another of the early flowering Crabapples and is believed to be a hybrid between *M. baccata* and *M. prunifolia*. Planted in good soil and allowed sufficient room for development it will grow into a large shapely tree with a broad, round-topped, irregular head of spreading often drooping branches. The flowers are fragrant and larger than those of the other Asiatic Crabapples with pure white or occasionally greenish petals; and the fruit, which varies in size on different plants, is globose and dull red.

Malus Halliana, with its form *Parkmanii* which has doubled flowers, is perhaps the most distinct of all Crabapples in the color of its rose-red flowers. It is a shapely small tree, with erect and spreading stems forming a narrow vase-like head, and dark green leaves. The globose reddish fruit is not larger than a small pea. The Parkman Crab was among the first Japanese trees to reach this country direct having been sent by Dr. George R. Hall in 1861 to Boston where it was first planted in Mr. Francis Parkman's garden on the shores of Jamaica Pond. This Crabapple is a favorite in Japanese gardens where it is known as "Kaido," but has not been found in a wild state. Whatever its origin the Parkman Crab is one of the most distinct and beautiful of the small trees which flower here during the early days of May.

Malus theifera, from central and western China, is closely related to Hall's Crab. It is one of Wilson's introductions through seeds sent to Veitch in 1900 and in 1907 to the Arboretum where it is now from twelve to fourteen feet high. It has upright, spreading, rather zigzag branches which are densely studded with short spurs which bear numerous clusters of flowers rose-red in the bud becoming pale and al-the leaves and from them prepare a palatable beverage which they call most white when fully expanded. In central China the peasants collect red tea. From this fact the specific name is derived.



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