

Prunus nigra. Among American Plums in the Arboretum *Prunus nigra*, the so-called Canada Plum, is the earliest to bloom, and, although it opened its flowers at the end of last week, is still in fair condition. It is a native of the northern border of the United States from New Brunswick westward, and is distinguished from the more southern *Prunus americana* by its larger and earlier flowers, the blunt teeth of its leaves and by darker and closer bark; the flowers turn pink as they fade. The Canada Plum has produced some excellent seedling forms of garden Plums which are esteemed and largely grown by pomologists. A form of the Canada Plum found growing in Seneca Park, Rochester, New York, near the gorge of the Genesee River, and believed to be a native plant in that region, is when in bloom one of the most beautiful Plum trees in the Arboretum Collection and well worth propagating as a garden plant.

Prunus salicina, better known perhaps as *P. triflora*, flowers only a little later than the Canada Plum, and the flower-buds which completely cover the wide-spreading branches are already opening. This tree is interesting because it is the only native Plum in eastern Asia and the tree from which the so-called Japanese Plums of gardens have been developed.

Prunus dasycarpa. This plant, which is a native of eastern Siberia or Manchuria, is known as the Purple or Black Apricot on account of the dull purple color of the fruit. It has never flowered more abundantly than it has this spring but the flowers are now beginning to fade.

Prunus triloba. Among the flowers of early spring few are more lovely than those of this small Almond from northern China which, in spite of the fact that it has flowered in the Arboretum every spring for the last twenty years, is still very little known, although the form with double flowers (var. *plena*) is a common garden plant in this country and is often successfully forced under glass for winter bloom. The single-flowered plant should be better known. It is a tall shrub of rather open irregular habit of growth. The flowers, which are pure clear pink in color, are produced every year in profusion, and among the shrubs introduced into the Arboretum in the last thirty years none excel the single-flowered form of *P. triloba* in the beauty of their flowers. It can be seen on the right-hand side of the Forest Hills Road not far below the entrance, and there is a fine plant on the southern slope of Bussey Hill.

Amelanchiers. The Shad Bushes, as Amelanchiers are often called because they are supposed to bloom when shad begin to ascend the rivers from the sea, add much in early spring to the beauty of the Arboretum. This genus in North America contains nearly all the species as only one small shrubby species grows on the mountains of central Europe and another in China and Japan. In North America it grows in many forms from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from Newfoundland to the Gulf States. Two of the species are trees and the others large or small shrubs, the flowers usually appearing before the leaves or when they are partly grown. They all have handsome flowers, with usually

long white petals and small, dark blue or nearly black, rarely yellow, pome-like fruit open at the top, the flesh of which in most of the species is sweet and edible. The earliest species to bloom, *A. canadensis*, has been for more than a week in flower. This is the largest species of the genus and a tree occasionally growing 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 silky white hairs, making the whole plant look white at this time of the year. This beautiful tree does not grow naturally nearer Boston than western Massachusetts. It is common in western New York, and 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 described by Linnaeus, has long been rare in gardens, a different plant having usually appeared in them under this name. This is a second tree species, differing from *A. canadensis* in the red color of the young leaves which are destitute or nearly destitute of any hairy covering, and should be called *Amelanchier laevis*; it is a native of the Arboretum and is now in flower. A natural hybrid of the two arborescent species, *A. grandiflora*, is not rare in the woods in the neighborhood of Rochester, New York. It promises to become a tree here and has the largest flowers of any of the Shad Bushes. The flowers of a form of this hybrid (var. *rubescens*) are more or less deeply tinged with rose color and are more beautiful than the flowers of the other species or varieties. *Amelanchier oblongifolia*, which is the largest of the shrubby species, is a common wild plant in the Arboretum and has been planted in considerable numbers along the roads, especially along the Valley Road. It is a vigorous and handsome shrub often ten or fifteen feet high and broad through the branches. It is an inhabitant of moist woods and rocky uplands from New Brunswick to Pennsylvania, Missouri and Minnesota.

There are supposed to be a dozen more American small shrubby species or hybrids growing in the Arboretum, but there is still doubt about the identity of several of them. Some of these are in flower in the Meadow Road Group, and others will be in bloom later. The species of central and southern Europe, *A. ovalis*, is well established in the Arboretum, as are the Japanese *A. asiatica* and its Chinese variety *sinica*. These foreign species bloom later.



1925. "Amelanchiers." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 11(2), 7-8. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321539>.

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