

brid is flowering remarkably well this year on the left-hand side and close to the Forest Hills Gate. *Sorbopyrus auricularis*, called in Europe the Bollwyller Pear, is a deciduous-leaved tree from twenty to sixty feet high, forming a round bushy head, with ovate or oval leaves rounded or heart-shaped at base, covered above with loose, early deciduous down, and flowers from three-quarters of an inch to an inch in diameter. The fruit is pear-shaped, an inch to an inch and a quarter long and wide, red, each on a stalk from an inch to an inch and a half long, with sweet yellowish flesh. It is said to have originated at Bollwyller in Alsace, and was first mentioned by Bauhin as early as 1619. For three hundred years it has been propagated by grafts, for it produces few fertile seeds. The variety in the Arboretum, sometimes called *Pyrus malifolia*, differs chiefly from the type in its broadly top-shaped fruit two inches long and wide and deep yellow when ripe. Spach named and described this tree in 1834 and said that the original specimen at that time grew in the garden of the King of France in Paris, and was thirty feet or more high. This and the Bollwyller Pear are certainly little known in this country and deserve a place in all collections of flowering trees.

Berberis Dielsiana, which was raised from seeds collected by Purdom in the province of Shensi, in China, is one of the handsomest and most vigorous of the Barberries of recent introduction. The largest plant in the Arboretum is growing among the new Chinese Barberries on Bussey Hill where it is already eight or nine feet tall and broad. It is one of the species with flowers in drooping racemes like those of the common Barberry. It is not only a vigorous and handsome plant but is valuable for its early flowers which have opened in the Arboretum as early as the middle of April. It first flowered here in 1916 and is now in bloom.

Enkianthus perulatus. The fine plant of this Japanese shrub on the southern side of Azalea Path, which is the earliest specimen of the genus to bloom here, has not before been so thickly covered with its white flowers. It is a compact, round-headed bush, and in the autumn the leaves turn bright scarlet. This is a popular plant in Japan and may be often seen in Japanese gardens cut into a round ball. The Arboretum plant has never produced seeds, and this species has remained extremely rare in this country.

Acer griseum, one of Wilson's discoveries in western China, is in bloom on Bussey Hill for the first time in the Arboretum. It is a small tree distinct in the orange color of the trunk and branches, the three-foliate leaves and large yellow flowers in drooping few-flowered clusters. The male and female flowers are produced on different plants, and the tree on Bussey Hill is a male. This handsome tree is not common and the Arboretum will be glad to obtain fertile seeds of it.

American Crabapples. Following the last of the eastern Asiatic Crabapples the American species begin to flower. Nine species are now recognized, with several varieties and two hybrids. They have white or pink fragrant flowers which do not open until the leaves are partly or nearly grown, and green or pale yellow fragrant fruit which hangs

on the slender stems and, with the exception of that of the species of the northwestern part of the country and its hybrid, is depressed-globose, usually broader than high, from an inch to an inch and a half in diameter and covered with a waxy exudation. All the species spread into thickets and are excellent plants for the decoration of wood borders and glades. *Malus glaucescens*, which is named from the pale glaucous color of the under surface of the leaves, is the first of the American species to bloom here. This is a shrub usually rather than a tree, not more than fifteen feet high, with stems four or five inches in diameter. The pale yellow fruit is often an inch and a half in diameter. This is a common plant in western New York, western Pennsylvania, southern Ontario and in Ohio, and occurs southward on the mountains to northern Alabama. *Malus ioensis* opens its flowers several days later than *M. glaucescens*. It is the common Crabapple of the northern middle western states and in a number of varieties has a wide range south through Missouri to western Louisiana and Texas. It is a tree sometimes thirty feet high with a trunk often eighteen inches in diameter, a wide open head of spreading branches and usually incised leaves tomentose on the lower surface. A form of this tree with double flowers (var. *plena*), the Bechtel Crab, named for the man who found it growing in the woods in one of the western states, has pale rose-colored flowers which look like small Roses. When in flower this is one of the popular trees in the Arboretum. This double-flowered Crab can now be found in many American nurseries, but these nursery trees are usually short-lived because the common orchard Apple on which they are generally grafted does not suit them as stock. Persons buying the Bechtel Crab should insist that it be grafted on one of the American Crabapples, the best for the purpose being the single-flowered type of *M. ioensis*. *Malus coronaria*, sometimes called the Garland Tree, is the common eastern species, although it does not approach the coast north of Pennsylvania and Delaware and ranges west to Missouri. It is a beautiful tree sometimes twenty-five feet high, with a short trunk, pink flowers rather more than an inch in diameter, and depressed globose fruit. A form with long acuminate leaves (var. *elongata*) which sometimes forms dense thickets, grows in western New York to Ohio and on the southern Appalachian Mountains. A double-flowered form of *M. coronaria* has been found growing in the woods near Waukegan, Illinois, and is called var. *Charlottae* or the Charlotte Crab. The flowers are larger and whiter than those of the Bechtel Crab, and there is no reason why this should not become as great or a greater garden favorite than the Bechtel Crab. *M. platycarpa* has fruit broader than high and often two and a half inches in diameter with a deep cavity at base and apex. The flowers are about an inch and a half in diameter with a glabrous pedicel and calyx, but in the variety *Hoopesii* with a pubescent calyx. There is a large tree of this variety in the Malus Collection opposite the end of the Meadow Road. *M. platycarpa* is a handsome tree well worth a place in collections for its beautiful fruit valuable for cooking and jellies. *M. fusca*, the only native Apple-tree of the Pacific states, where it ranges from Alaska to central California, is an interesting tree. This differs from the other American Crabapples in its short-oblong, yellow-green flushed with red or nearly entirely red fruit from half an inch to three-quar-

ters of an inch long and without the waxy exudation which is peculiar to the eastern American species. The calyx of the flower, unlike that of the eastern species but like that of many Asiatic species, falls from the partly grown fruit. *M. angustifolia* is the last Crabapple in the Arboretum to flower. It is a tree sometimes thirty feet tall with a trunk eight inches in diameter, wide-spreading branches and bright pink exceedingly fragrant flowers. From the other species it differs in the slightly lobed or serrate leaves on the ends of vigorous shoots, and in the rounded apex of the leaves on the flower-bearing branchlets. It is a southern species which naturally does not grow north of southeastern Virginia and southern Illinois, ranging to northern Florida and western Louisiana. Plants raised here many years ago from seeds gathered in northern Florida are perfectly hardy in the Arboretum where they bloom every year and have proved to be handsome and valuable additions to the collection. The other American species, *M. glabrata* of the high mountains of North Carolina, *M. lancifolia*, widely distributed from Pennsylvania to Missouri and western North Carolina, and *M. bracteata*, a common species from Missouri to Florida, with many of the varieties of *M. ioensis*, are now established in the Arboretum. *M. Soulardii*, which is believed to be a natural hybrid between *M. ioensis* and some form of the orchard Apple (*M. pumila*) is a widely distributed and not rare tree in the middle west, and is one of the attractive plants in the Crabapple Collection at the eastern base of Peter's Hill. It is a curious fact that this hybrid flowers in the Arboretum fully two weeks earlier than either of its supposed parents. Several varieties of Soulard's Crabs are distinguished by western pomologists. *Malus Dawsoniana* is a hybrid of the western *M. fusca* and the common Apple which appeared in the Arboretum many years ago from seeds collected in Oregon. It has grown here to more than double the size of *M. fusca* with which it shows its relationship in the oblong fruit of the shape and color of that of its Oregon parent but of about twice the size. The leaves are less pubescent and the flowers are rather larger. This hybrid blooms at about the same time as *M. ioensis* and a few days earlier than *M. fusca*.

The Chinese Redbud, *Cercis chinensis*, a native of western China and growing on the Centre Street Path, has never before been so beautiful. Although it is only a shrub, the flowers are larger and of a better color than those of the American species, and this little Redbud is certainly one of the most beautiful of early-flowering shrubs. Unfortunately the flower-buds are sometimes killed here in cold winters.

Also in bloom are *Cytisus Beanii*, *C. elongata* and *C. glabrescens*, *Vaccinium corymbosum*, *Viburnum bitchiuense*, *Diervilla florida venusta*, *Exochorda Giraldii Wilsonii*, and the first of the Hawthorns, *Crataegus arnoldiana*.



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