

Forsythia ovata. This native of the slopes of the Diamond Mountains of Korea was raised at the Arboretum from seeds collected by Wilson in Korea in 1918, and in its range is the most northern of the species of Forsythia, has been in bloom for more than a week. It is a large shrub distinct in its light yellow branches with broad, long-pointed, coarsely toothed leaves from four to five inches long and from three to four inches wide, and clear primrose-colored flowers rather smaller than those of *F. Fortunei* or any of the forms of *F. intermedia*. They open, too, about a week earlier than those of the other Forsythias, and this year were fully open on the 23rd of April. This Korean species promises to be a useful addition to early spring-flowering shrubs and to be hardy in parts of this country where the other Forsythias cannot be successfully cultivated. It should also prove exceedingly valuable to cross with the other species and hybrids in order to produce hardier hybrids of this useful genus.

April-flowering Rhododendrons. The earliest of these, the Siberian *R. dahuricum*, which can be seen on Azalea Path is now well covered with its small rose purple flowers. The flowers of the north China *R. mucronulatum*, which open usually two or three days later than those of the Siberian plant, are less delicate and are rarely injured by frost. On the lower side of Azalea Path there is a mass of this beautiful plant which is well worth a place in the spring garden. The plants of the hybrid Rhododendron (*R. ciliatum* x *dahuricum*) known in gardens as *R. praecox* "Early Gem" in the general Rhododendron collection are covered with expanding flower-buds. This is an interesting and handsome plant, but the flowers are very delicate and five years out of six are ruined by frost.

Docent service. Beginning on May 9th a docent will meet visitors who may desire his services at the Forest Hills gate at 3 P. M. on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays; and garden clubs and groups of not less than twelve persons at any other hour if the Director is notified not less than two days in advance.

Mr. J. G. Jack of the Arboretum staff will conduct a field class on Saturdays during the spring and early summer, to assist those who wish to gain a more intimate knowledge of the native and foreign trees and shrubs which grow in New England. Instruction will be given in informal outdoor talks and in the examination of the plants. Different botanical groups will be visited at each meeting, although any trees or shrubs found may form subjects for study. No technical knowledge or special preparation is required in order to join the class as the instruction is intended to be simple in character, affording opportunities for questions and answers relating to the specimens under observation. Unless otherwise notified the class will meet promptly at ten o'clock in the morning, on Saturdays, in the Arboretum at the Forest Hills entrance, beginning May 8th. The class will close on the 25th of June. The fee for the course is \$5.00, payable in advance.



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