

botanists but the differences are technical and have no garden significance.

Chinese Pears. The Chinese Pears on top of Bussey Hill and those on the left of Forest Hills Gate and in the collection at the foot of Peter's Hill are opening their blossoms. The first to bloom is *Pyrus ussuriensis*, native of northeastern continental Asia, where it grows to a very large size. In Korea trees 60 ft. tall with rounded crowns spreading 75 ft. and trunks 10 ft. in girth are not uncommon. In northeastern Asia it has been long cultivated as a fruit tree and some of the selected varieties produce quite good fruit. This is green, round to ovoid in shape, with firm gritty white flesh rich in sugary juice. On some trees the flowers are pink in the bud and suggest the familiar apple-blossom. The Chinese Sand Pear (*Pyrus serotina*) has a similarly hard juicy fruit but is russet-brown without and varies enormously in size. This tree is wild in the woods of central China and has been long cultivated in China from whence it passed to Korea and Japan. It grows from 50 to 60 ft. tall, has a more or less pyramidal though sometimes a flattened round crown and produces large pure white blossoms. It is really very ornamental when in flower. The wild type has russet-brown flattened round fruits each about an inch in diameter. A relative with smaller flowers found wild in the same part of China is *Pyrus serrulata*. A species which promises to be of great value to fruit growers in this country on account of its virtual immunity to Pear blight is *P. Calleryana*. This is a tree of variable size exhibiting diversity in shape of foliage, found in a wild state from southern Japan and Korea throughout a great part of China. The flowers, borne together in rounded clusters, are small with white petals and prominent pink-anthered stamens. The fruit is brown and about the size of a garden pea. Introduced into this country by the Arboretum through seeds sent by Wilson in 1907, it has grown rapidly and for several years past has flowered and fruited each season. Seeds in great quantity have been disseminated far and wide in this country for the purpose of raising plants for use as understock on which to graft garden Pears. If its immunity to Pear blight be maintained this tree will prove to be one of the most valuable introductions to orchards this country has enjoyed.

Shadblows. The earliest Shadblow to blossom (*Amelanchier canadensis*) is now in full bloom. It is native of western Massachusetts and western New York south to the Gulf states. Described by Linnaeus in 1753 other sorts have usurped the name and the true plant has long been rare in gardens. It is a tree, at its maximum full 60 ft. tall with a trunk 5 ft. in girth, with a dense round-topped crown of thin branches; the flowers as they open are often tinged with pink and are produced in ascending and nodding racemes. The flowers expand at the same time as the leaves which are clothed with a floss and the whole tree is wreathed in snowy whiteness. E. H. W.



Wilson, Ernest Henry. 1927. "Chinese Pears." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 1(2), 8–8.

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