

ARNOLD ARBORETUM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

BULLETIN

OF

POPULAR INFORMATION

SERIES 3. VOL. II

MAY 3, 1928

NO. 4

The Forest Hills Gate, the most popular of the entrances to the Arboretum, is just now the mecca of all interested in early flowering shrubs and trees. On the right just within the gates a collection of Japanese Cherries is in full blossom and in the distance, on the left, the Forsythias still form a cascade of rich yellow. At almost every season of the year there is something of particular interest immediately within this gate and the Japanese Cherries assembled there are a never failing feast of spring beauty. The sunny situation suits them and the well-drained sandy and gravelly loam is to their liking. Each year they make a good growth and clothe themselves with a crop of blossoms. An occasional dressing of bone-meal or cow-dung is amply repaid by the increased quantity of flowers. They are among the simplest plants to cultivate if a proper beginning is made. We have stated that their successful culture is dependent upon starting right and this means that the plants must either be of seedling origin or be grafted or budded on a congenial stock. The need of budding or grafting applies mainly to the double-flowered Cherries with which at the moment we are not concerned. The single-flowered types with a few exceptions may be raised from seeds, a fact that should delight that ever increasing class of tree-lovers who enjoy raising their own plants. These Cherries fruit more or less freely each year and if one can outwit that voracious immigrant, the European Starling, there is no difficulty in collecting a sufficient quantity. The pulp should be washed away, the seeds dried, stored in a cool place and sown in beds or boxes the following autumn and allowed to get frozen in the winter. A few, sometimes many, will germinate the following spring but the majority will lie in the ground until the second season. The seedlings grow rapidly and by transplanting several times and pruning to a single stem a supply of young trees ready to set out in permanent situations may be had in three or four years from the time of germination.

The Cherry-blossom season in Japan is, as lovers of flowers well know, the great spring festival of that land and the occasion of a national holiday decreed by the Emperor. Like all festivals, de-



Wilson, Ernest Henry. 1928. "The Forest Hills Gate." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 2(4), 13–13.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321912>.

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