

is usually a week behind us, this Cherry is in full bloom and, so too, is it across the Parkway from the Arboretum. While the Cherry blossoms have remained virtually at a standstill during the past two weeks the buds on the Lilac bushes have grown considerably and there is great promise of a fine crop of flowers. After a careful survey it is comforting to note that although the first flowers of spring have had a rude awakening and suffered heavily for their haste no material damage has been done to those which had not progressed beyond the bud stage. If from now on normally decent weather prevails, there will yet be a rich harvest of spring flowers.

In the Orient flowering Cherries in variety are a feature of wayside thickets and woodlands, and are among the most pleasing features of early spring. Not only in Japan are flowering Cherries a conspicuous feature of the forest flora, but in Korea and the temperate parts of China also. Japan has so largely supplied us with Cherry trees that we are apt to forget that they also grow in the neighboring countries. As a matter of fact, the first Oriental Cherry to be grown in western gardens was introduced from Canton, China. This was in 1819 and it was named *Prunus pseudocerasus*. In 1882 a second species, afterwards named *P. serrulata*, was also sent to England from Canton. The first-named has single flowers and is the common, edible Cherry of China. Unfortunately, it grows in warm or moderately warm districts and has not proved hardy except in very favored locations. The early importations quickly disappeared from gardens and subsequent introductions, except a notable example in the Botanic Gardens, Cambridge, England, have succumbed to the western climate. The cultivation of this species in Massachusetts is out of the question but it is now growing at Chico and elsewhere in California. The second plant (*P. serrulata*) has double white flowers and this has persisted in cultivation down to the present time, although it never appears to have become common. Soon after 1850 flowering Cherries from Japan began to reach Europe and, in the early sixties, this country and they quickly superseded the Chinese sorts. It must be confessed, however, that this was due to frequent importations rather than to the successful cultivation of these trees. Today, most of the Oriental flowering Cherries in cultivation in this country are of Japanese origin. One or two of the species, however, are widespread in the Far East and these together with species recently discovered in central China are now gradually becoming known to western gardens. On the whole, few, if any, of the Chinese species promise to rival in beauty their Japanese brethren.

Chinese Cherries. *Prunus cyclamina* is a tree from 20 to 35 feet tall with a moderately thick trunk and a spreading crown of slender branches, common in thickets and in thin Oak woods on the mountains of Hupeh, central China. The deep pink flowers, each about an inch in diameter, are produced in great abundance in clusters on the naked shoots. The sepals are strongly reflexed, while the yellow-anthered stamens are prominently thrust forward. The unfolding leaves are bronze-green and appear after or at the same time as

the blossoms open. Another woodland species common in central China is *P. pilosiuscula*. This is a low, bushy tree with slender branches, abundant white flushed pink blossoms, prominent stamens, reflexed sepals and bronze-green, unfolding foliage. It is one of the hardiest species and for many years past has flowered freely in the Arboretum. A lovely plant is *P. concinna* with relatively large, pure white faintly stained with pink, blossoms. The flowers, each from 1 inch to 1¼ inches in diameter, are crowded in fascicles along the naked shoots. The bronze-colored calyx has ascending-spreading sepals and each petal is deeply emarginate. This Cherry is native of the thickets and the margins of the woods on the mountains of western Hupeh, where it is usually a bush seldom exceeding 10 feet in height; occasionally it forms a small and slender tree. These three species of Chinese flowering Cherries were discovered and introduced into cultivation by E. H. Wilson and are now in blossom on Bussey Hill.

Japanese Cherries. Just within Forest Hills Gate and on Bussey Hill the Japanese Cherries are bearing their usual abundant crop of blossoms. Unless unpropitious weather prevails the single flowered forms will be at their best when this Bulletin reaches its readers. Owing probably to the cool weather the blossoms of the Sargent Cherry (*P. serrulata sachalinensis*) are this year unusually deep pink in color. The Spring Cherry (*P. subhirtella*) is as lovely as usual and, so too, is the less hardy Tokyo Cherry (*P. yedoensis*). The so-called October-flowering Cherry (*P. subhirtella autumnalis*), which last autumn flowered sparingly, is this spring bearing an unusually large quantity of its pleasing semi-double pink passing to white blossoms. This is really a first-class plant and one which ought to be widely known; although the flowers are semi-double, it frequently produces fruit. The Mt. Fuji Cherry (*P. incisa*) has been often mentioned in these Bulletins and each year its merits become more and more apparent. It is absolutely hardy and no Cherry is more floriferous. The flowers are pure white and after the petals fall the calyx becomes reddish and continues to be attractive for many days. This is a bush or small tree particularly abundant on the lower slopes of sacred Mt. Fuji. It was discovered so long ago as 1776 by Carl P. Thunberg but was not introduced into western gardens until after the dawn of the twentieth century. It was first received at the Arboretum from H. A. Hesse, Weener, Germany, in April 1912, under the erroneous name of *P. pseudocerasus*. The single flowered Cherries mentioned here with the exception of *P. subhirtella* are easily raised from seeds, which is the simplest and the most satisfactory method of increase. With the exercise of a little patience there is no difficulty in raising them from seeds and in a few years a good stock of healthy, vigorous plants is available. On their own roots these Cherries grow readily and live long. They are good species, with their characters fixed, and there is nothing to gain but much to lose in attempting to propagate them other than by the natural method of seeds.

E. H. W.



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