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The Wild Pear Trees. The old collection of these trees is on the left-hand side of the Forest Hills entrance. Pear trees are natives of China and the Himalayas, and range westward through Persia and the Caucasus to southeastern and southern Europe. The genus has no representative in Japan or America. The wild types are rarely cultivated in this country, although as flowering trees some of the species are as beautiful as many of the better known Asiatic Crabapples and their leaves, both when they are unfolding and at maturity, are much handsomer than those of any of the Apples. The flowers of all Pear trees are pure white and their large, bright rose-colored anthers add to their attractiveness. Some of the Chinese species have been growing in the Arboretum since 1882 when Dr. Bretschneider sent here from Peking the seeds of a number of trees and shrubs from northern China. Among these were the seeds of what now prove to be three species of Pear trees. One of these, *Pyrus betulaefolia*, had been known earlier in France. It is a tall, rather narrow tree with pale foliage, comparatively small flowers and small russet fruits rarely more than half an inch in diameter. This is a fast-growing, shapely tree and has proved hardy in many of the northern dry cold regions of this country and Canada, and has sometimes been successfully used as a stock on which to work some of the varieties of garden Pears. Unfortunately it frequently suffers from the pear blight. More beautiful in flower and leaf is another of the Bretschneider Pears to which the name of *Pyrus phaeocarpa* has lately been given. This tree has unusually large flowers, large, deep green and very lustrous leaves and small, pear-shaped, russet brown fruits. There is a variety with globose fruit (var.

globosa) which except in the shape of the fruit is like the species. This is one of the handsomest of the small trees which have been introduced by the Arboretum in cultivation. The third of the Bretschneider Pears has been named for him, *Pyrus Bretschneideri*. This tree does not appear to grow to so large a size as the last, but it is perfectly hardy and the flowers and foliage are nearly as handsome. The fruit is globose or subglobose, about one inch in diameter, pale yellow, juicy and of good flavor. This is probably the tree from which at least some of the excellent and very juicy pears which are largely cultivated in the neighborhood of Peking have been derived. It is possible that this tree will prove useful to cross with some of the garden Pears in the hope of obtaining varieties which may prove hardier than any now in cultivation. Another Chinese Pear is one of the most distinct and interesting species of the whole genus. The leaves of most Pear trees fall in the autumn without change of color or turn to a dull bronze color, but the leaves of this tree late in the autumn turn as bright a scarlet as those of any American Red Maple or Gum tree. The fruit of a few Pear trees is globose, but its usual form is obovoid, that is the broad end is at the apex and the narrow end at the insertion of the stalk, but the fruit of this tree, unlike that of any other Pear tree, is ovoid, that is, it is broad at the insertion of the stalk and tapers to the apex. The fruit is about an inch and a half long, yellow, and of fairly good flavor. This tree was introduced into Europe nearly fifty years ago probably from northern China and has been known there as *Pyrus Simonii*. That name, however, had been given to a different species and this tree has now been named *Pyrus ovoidea*. It is possible that this species has also played some part in the development of the Chinese garden Pears. *Pyrus ovoidea* is one of the first of the Pear trees to open its flowers which are now fully expanded. The flowers of the other Chinese species and those from Europe will open during the next week. A supplementary collection of these trees has recently been planted at the base of Peter's Hill, and the new species discovered by Wilson in western China have also been planted in a special Chinese collection on Bussey Hill.

The Shad Bushes. The Arboretum is now gay with these plants which have been largely used here in the plantations along many of the drives. The general collection is in the border between the Meadow Road and the parallel walk on the left-hand side entering from the Jamaica Plain gateway. The distribution of these plants is peculiar. One species, a small shrub, occurs in the mountain regions of central Europe; another shrubby species is rather a rare plant in Japan, with a variety in western China where it is common and sometimes grows to the size of a small tree. In North America the genus is distributed from Labrador to Florida, and from the Atlantic to the northwest coast region, with several species in the dry interior region of the continent as far south as Arizona. The common name for these plants and their fruit among several of the northern tribes of Indians, Saskatoon, has been adopted for what is now an important city in Saskatchewan on the river of that name. Several species are common in the northeastern states and these in early spring add greatly to the beauty of

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