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Japanese Cherries. The publication by the Arboretum of an illustrated book on Japanese Cherries by E. H. Wilson greatly increases our knowledge of these plants and will lead, it is believed, to their more general cultivation in this country. Mr. Wilson has recently passed a year in Japan where he was sent by the Arboretum to solve many problems which have long perplexed students of the Japanese flora, and especially to study the character and distribution of the Japanese Cherry-trees and the origin and peculiarities of the numerous forms which are cultivated by the Japanese and which have made Japanese gardens famous. Mr. Wilson succeeded in seeing the ten Japanese species in their native forests and all the principal collections of the garden forms. The introduction into the Arboretum of plants of all the species and of seventy different named garden varieties is one of the results of this journey. Mr. Wilson states in his introduction that, although American and European gardeners have been importing Japanese flowering Cherries for half a century, scarcely one good-sized healthy tree can be found in this country or in Europe. These varieties are double-flowered or otherwise abnormal and therefore can only be propagated by grafting, and a choice of the right stock on which to graft them is important. The plants imported from Japan are all grafted on the variety Mazakura of *Prunus Lannesiana* which is a poor short-lived tree particularly subject to the attacks of scale and boring insects. It is used as stock by the Japanese because it can be quickly and cheaply raised from cuttings. In Europe and the United States one of the European Cherries has been used as stock for the Japanese varieties and on this they have succeeded no better

than on the ordinary Japanese stock; and the conclusion which Wilson has reached after a careful study of the subject is that these garden varieties of the Japanese Cherry can only succeed and make large and permanent plants when they are grafted on seedlings of the largest, hardiest and longest lived of the Japanese species. This is the northern tree which has been called *Prunus Sargentii* but now is known to be the northern form of *Prunus serrulata* and is to be called var. *sachalinensis*. During the last year seedlings of this northern tree raised from seeds ripened in the Arboretum have been used here as stock on which the varieties brought home by Wilson from Japan are being grafted, and there is no reason to doubt that the plants produced in this way will grow here to a large size and become as beautiful features in the parks and gardens of America as they are in those of Japan. Five Japanese species produce double-flowering forms. Those derived from the Sargent Cherry, the Yama-sakura or Mountain Cherry of the Japanese, will probably prove most valuable in this climate where they may be expected to grow to a larger size and last longer than the garden varieties of the other species.

In the Arboretum many of the flower-buds of Cherries have been killed during the winter. On

Prunus yedoensis the buds have all been killed. This is a white-and pink-flowered tree and one of the handsomest of the Japanese species. It is this Cherry which has been so largely planted in the streets, parks and cemeteries of Tokyo that when it blooms a general holiday is proclaimed by the Emperor that the public may enjoy its flowers. This Cherry is perfectly hardy in the Arboretum where it has flowered for several years and produced crops of fruit.

Prunus subhirtella. This is the Higan-zakura or Spring Cherry of the Japanese. It is a shrubby plant from ten to fifteen feet high and broad, and is not known as a wild plant, although it is much cultivated in western Japan. Mr. Wilson considers it "the most floriferous and perhaps the most delightful of all Japanese Cherries." This plant was raised in the Arboretum many years ago and from the Arboretum it has been widely distributed in the United States and Europe. For years it has flowered here regularly and has attracted as much attention perhaps as any plant in the Arboretum. The small pink flowers now completely cover the upper branches; those on the lower branches have all been killed no doubt by a lower temperature near the ground than a few feet above it.

Prunus subhirtella*, var. *pendula has lost, too, many of its flower-buds and the trees in the Arboretum promise to be less beautiful this spring than usual, although in some gardens near Boston this Cherry is now covered with its drooping pink or rose-colored flowers. This weeping Cherry, which has been largely planted in parks, temple grounds and cemeteries in Japan, is nowhere known as a wild tree. It was introduced into Europe and the United States many years ago,

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