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,

and it is now fairly common in the gardens of the northern states. In propagating this tree American and European nurserymen have used as stock one of the European Cherries which are not suitable for the purpose, and such plants are short-lived and generally unsatisfactory. The wild type of this weeping tree and of *Prunus subhirtella* is

***Prunus subhirtella* var. *ascendens*,** of which there is an excellent picture in Mr. Wilson's book. It is a tall tree with erect spreading branches, and grows in forests in Japan in Shinano Province, and in central China. It has escaped the attention of American and European gardeners, and there are only small seedling plants in the United States. One of these can now be seen with the other forms of *Prunus subhirtella* on the right-hand side of the Forest Hills entrance.

***Prunus serrulata* var. *sachalinensis*.** The Sargent Cherry for the first time since it began to flower here some years ago has lost some of its flower-buds, especially those on the lower branches. This is the largest and the handsomest of the Cherry trees of eastern Asia, sometimes attaining in northern Japan the height of seventy-five feet and a trunk diameter of four feet. It is one of the trees planted in 1735 in the three mile-long avenue of Cherry-trees at Koganei, near Tokyo, which in early spring is still one of the great sights in Japan.

Hybrid Forsythias. By the path in the rear of the group of Forsythias on the slope at the foot of the Bussey Hill Road are several specimens of forms of the hybrid between *Forsythia suspensa* and *F. viridissima*. The general name of these hybrids is *Forsythia intermedia*, and there are several distinct forms. The plants are in a sheltered position and their flower-buds have not been injured. The handsomest of them is *F. intermedia spectabilis*, and of all the Forsythias which have been grown in the Arboretum this is perhaps the most beautiful. The flowers are larger than those of either of its parents, deep bright yellow, and are produced this year in countless numbers, completely covering the wide-spreading branches. This plant was probably raised in Germany as it was sent to the Arboretum from the Späth Nursery in Berlin. Other distinct and handsome forms of this hybrid are var. *primulina* and var. *pallida*; the former has pale primrose-colored flowers and appeared as a seedling in the Arboretum a few years ago. The var. *pallida* has pale straw-colored flowers which are of a lighter color than those of other Forsythias. This plant also first came to the Arboretum from Germany. These hybrids are beautiful garden plants, handsomer and perhaps hardier than either of their parents, and they are interesting as showing what may be expected from crossing different species of other trees and shrubs. A good deal has already been done in hybridizing Roses and Rhododendrons. New races of Lilacs, Spiraeas and Philadelphus produced by the skill of the hybridizer already beautify our gardens, but this business is only in its infancy and greater results may be expected from it than have ever yet been obtained.

1916. "Prunus subhirtella, var. pendula." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 2(2), 6–7.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320468>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/216951>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320468>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/320468>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

BHL-SIL-FEDLINK

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.