duced large crops of fruit until the trees were attacked by the Pear blight which has ruined many of these orchards. *P. ovoidea* has been growing in the Arboretum for eighteen years and *P. Bretschneideri* for thirty-four years and have never been attacked by the Pear blight. It is suggested that by crossing these species with some of the garden Pears valuable results in the way of a new and very hardy race of Pear-trees may be secured. Among hybrid plants in this group attention is called to

***Pyrus malifolia*.** This is a natural hybrid between the common Pear and the White Beam-tree of Europe, *Sorbus Aria*, and is very similar and perhaps a seedling of the hybrid Bollwyller Pear which appeared in Alsace more than three hundred years ago as it was first mentioned by the botanist Bauhin in 1619. *P. malifolia* has large pale oval leaves and large flowers in few-flowered clusters. It is perfectly hardy and a remarkably fast-growing tree which promises to attain a large size in this climate. It well deserves a place in New England collections of flowering trees.

The Asiatic Crabapples are beginning to flower and as the American species do not bloom until later it will be possible to enjoy in the Arboretum the beautiful flowers of these trees for several weeks. The collection is a large one and now contains plants large or small of all the American and Old World species with the single exception of the little known *Malus formosana*, a native, as its name implies, of the island of Formosa. The collections made by Mr. Wilson in China and Japan have thrown much light on several of the Asiatic species which are now much better known than they were a few years ago. The discovery that a common Apple-tree of western China, largely cultivated as a fruit tree in the mountainous districts of Hupeh and Szechuan, is a form of *Malus prunifolia* which, although it has been in European gardens for nearly a century, was not known before as a wildtree, is interesting. This form is now called

***Malus prunifolia*, var. *rinki*.** It is a tree in its wild state with greenish yellow fruit sometimes with a reddish cheek, or rarely entirely red, rather longer than broad and not often more than an inch and a quarter in diameter; it is juicy and has an acid flavor. This tree was early introduced into Japan where it was formerly cultivated in many forms as a fruit tree. The good quality of the fruit of some of these is mentioned in his recently published reminiscences by Lord Redesdale who, in the early 60's as a member of an English Embassy, found them in a remote part of Japan. The cultivation of the Rinki was given up in Japan after the introduction of American and English Apple-trees and it is now a rare plant there. It is this Apple which is often called *Pyrus* or *Malus Ringo* in European publications. Judging by the climate where this tree grows naturally in western China, it should prove as hardy as the Siberian *Malus baccata* which is one of the parents of the hardy race of Apples now much cultivated in the

extreme north as Siberian Crabs, and it is not improbable that by crossing the Rinki with some of these hybrid Crabs, or with the hardiest varieties of the common Apple, a race may be obtained more valuable for the cold parts of North America than any of the Apples which can now be grown in some of the northern states and in the northwestern provinces of Canada.

Malus floribunda. Of the fifteen species of eastern Asiatic Crab-apples, with their numerous varieties and hybrids, not one is more satisfactory as a garden plant than this tree. It is a low, bushy, round-topped tree not more than eighteen feet high which year after year covers itself with bright rose-colored flower-buds, which are followed by pink and finally by white flowers. Nothing is known of the history of this plant beyond the fact that it was sent to Europe by the Dutch naturalist Von Siebold before 1856 when the name first appeared in his catalogue of Japanese plants. Mr. Wilson, however, did not see it in Japan, and it does not appear to be known to Japanese botanists. It has been suggested by different authors that it might be a hybrid, various species having been named as its possible parents. Its hybrid origin is not improbable for seedlings show considerable variation, especially in the time of the falling of the fruit. On plants propagated by grafting from those originally introduced by Von Siebold the fruit drops early in the autumn, but on some of the seedling plants raised in the Arboretum the fruit remains on the branches until spring. There are several large plants of these seedlings in the neighborhood of the Administration Building which through the winter furnished large quantities of food to many different kinds of birds. A seedling of *M. floribunda* which appeared spontaneously many years ago in the Arboretum has larger flowers and fruit than that plant, and is evidently a hybrid with some form of *Malus baccata*. This hybrid has been named *M. Arnoldiana* and is one of the handsomest of all Crabappies.

The old Crabapple Collection is on the left-hand side of the Forest Hills Road, but the largest number of these plants will be found in the new collection at the eastern base of Hemlock Hill.

In subsequent bulletins attention will be called to the most interesting species as they flower.

An illustrated guide to the Arboretum containing a map showing the position of the different groups of plants has recently been published. It will be found useful to persons unfamiliar with the Arboretum. Copies of this guide can be obtained at the Administration Building in the Arboretum, from the Secretary of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, from The Houghton, Mifflin Company, 4 Park Street, Boston, and at the office of the Harvard Alumni Bulletin, 50 State Street, Boston. Price, 30 cents.

The subscription to these Bulletins is \$1.00 per year, payable in advance.

1916. "Malus prunifolia, var. rinki." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 2(3), 11–12. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320480>.

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