Berberis (Mahonia) repens. The beautiful Oregon Grape, *Berberis* (*Mahonia Aquifolium*) of the northwest coast region is not a satisfactory plant in this climate unless it can be planted in exceptionally sheltered positions or can be carefully protected, for the cold here destroys or disfigures the leaves and often kills the plants. The species from the Rocky Mountains, *B. repens*, is a hardier plant and one of the most useful of the dwarf, broad-leaved evergreens which can be used here. It grows less than a foot high and spreads rapidly into large mats; the leaves are pale bluish green and are not lustrous like those of the Oregon species, and the flowers are bright yellow and produced in compact terminal clusters. This plant is now in flower in the Shrub Collection next to a plant of *Berberis Aquifolium*, which is also in flower and in better condition this spring than usual. There is a collection of different forms of the Mahonias on the lower side of Hickory Path near Centre Street, including the Japanese species (*B. japonica*) which has unexpectedly proved hardy in this sheltered position.

Early Lilacs. The white-flowered *Syringa affinis* and its variety *Giraldii*, with pale lilac or mauve-colored flowers, *S. Meyeri* and *S. hyacinthiflora*, are already in flower and in a few days many of the varieties of the common Lilac will open their flowers. *S. affinis* and its variety are tall shrubs of a straggling habit, but are valuable on account of their early and very fragrant flowers. The white-flowered form is the common and apparently the only kind of Lilac cultivated in the gardens of Peking. *S. Meyeri* is a dwarf shrub of northern China with compact clusters of very fragrant dark purple flowers which are distinct in the exceptionally long slender tube of the corolla. *S. hyacinthiflora* is a hybrid between the common Lilac and the Chinese *S. oblata*; the flowers are lilac-colored, small and double, in rather small clusters; it is a vigorous, fast growing plant, however, of good habit and is chiefly valuable in prolonging the Lilac season.

Daphnes. *Daphne Mezereum* and its white-flowered variety bloomed several weeks ago before the snow had entirely disappeared. They are dwarf European shrubs with erect branches, and have now become naturalized in several places in the northern states. A more beautiful plant, *D. Cneorum*, is now in flower in the Shrub Collection and on the lower side of Azalea Path; it forms a broad mat of wiry semiprostrate stems less than a foot long, covered with dark green leaves and terminating in dense heads of rose-colored delightfully fragrant flowers. It is a plant which with the same treatment and in the same soil succeeds in some gardens and fails utterly in others. Fortunately it does well in the Arboretum where it is one of the most admired plants in the Collection. The pale lilac-flowered *D. genkwa* is blooming in the special Chinese Collection on the southern slope of Bussey Hill. This Daphne was sent to the United States many years ago from Japan, but the plants derived from Japanese gardens did not succeed here. It is a Chinese plant introduced into Japan, and the plants now flowering in the Arboretum were raised from seeds collected by Wilson in

1916. "Early Lilacs." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 2(4), 15–15. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320488>.

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