which open before the leaves unfold and small compressed fruit covered with hairs, with thin dry flesh splitting open at maturity. This shrub was discovered by Wilson in western China and is very similar and possibly identical with the more northern *Prunus mongolica*, which is not in the Arboretum collection. As far as it is possible to judge at this time *Prunus dehiscens* is inferior to the related *Prunus triloba* from northern China and Korea, and in its single-flowered form one of the most beautiful of all spring-flowering shrubs.

Maddenia hypoleuca. To persons who care only for plants with showy flowers *Maddenia* will have little interest, but in the Arboretum the flowering of one of these plants for the first time in America is considered a matter of some importance. *Maddenia* is a genus of shrubs or small trees found only on the Himalayas and in western China where Wilson discovered three of the five known species. *Maddenia* is related to the Choke or Rum Cherries but, unlike them, the flowers are without petals; they are borne in short clusters and consist of a green calyx tinged with red and divided at the apex into two rows of short narrow lobes, numerous stamens with slender filaments and bright yellow anthers and longer than the short style; this in some flowers is rudimentary or entirely wanting, perfect and staminate flowers often appearing in the same cluster. The fruit, like that of the other species, is small, globose, black and cherry-like. *Maddenia hypoleuca* is in the collection of Chinese shrubs on the southern slope of Bussey Hill near *Prunus dehiscens*.

Forsythias. It is three years since the Forsythias have bloomed as they are blooming this year, for last year and the year before many of the flower-buds of some of the species were killed in the Arboretum by severe winter cold. This year the flower-buds are uninjured and the flowers of many of the plants are now at their best. Those of the Servian *F. europaea*, however, will not open for a few days. Apart from the value of all the species as garden plants Forsythia is of special interest to gardeners for, like *Syringa* and *Philadelphus*, it is a genus whose species hybridize freely and produce new seedling forms which are often superior to the parents. The hybrid Forsythias are probably all natural, that is, they have probably all appeared without man's assistance, and those which are now known appear to have been produced by the crossing of *F. viridissima* with *F. suspensa* or its variety, *Fortunei*. The general name of these plants is *Forsythia intermedia* and there are several forms. Those in the Arboretum collection are planted at the rear of the large mass of Forsythias on the bank at the base of the Bussey Hill Road, below the Lilac Collection. The handsomest of them is *F. intermedia spectabilis*, and of all the Forsythias which have been grown in the Arboretum this is the most beautiful. The flowers are larger than those of its parents, and deep bright yellow. This plant was sent to the Arboretum from Germany several years ago. Other distinct and handsome forms of the 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 paler than those of other Forsythias. The flower-buds of these hybrids appear to suffer less from extreme cold than those of either of their parents, at least in the Arboretum, and the buds of the different forms of *F. intermedia* have never been injured by cold.

Salix blanda. This is the general name for the group of hybrid Willows which has come into existence by the natural hybridization of the yellow-barked *Salix viminalis* with the Chinese Weeping Willow, *Salix babylonica*. These hybrids are large, hardy and vigorous trees, with branches as slender and pendulous as those of *Salix babylonica*. What may be considered the typical form of *S. blanda* has light olive green branches. On other forms the branches are more or less tinged with yellow. The handsomest of them has bright yellow branches, especially at this season of the year, and is still without a proper name, although it is sold in nurseries as *Salix babylonica aurea*, *S. babylonica ramulis aureis* and sometimes as *S. vitellina pendula*, although there is a weeping form of the true *S. vitellina* to which this last name belongs. The yellow-barked variety of *S. blanda* is the handsomest of the Weeping Willows which can be successfully grown in the northern states where *S. babylonica* is not always hardy. At this time with its pale yellow unfolding leaves and yellow spikes of flower-buds this tree is an object of great beauty and one of the most attractive plants in the Arboretum. *Salix blanda* is not common in the neighborhood of Boston and probably has not been much planted in any part of the United States.

It is much less well known than the hybrid of *S. babylonica* and the European *S. fragilis* for which the general name is probably *S. sepulcralis*—probably, for it is often impossible to decide what is the correct name for hybrid Willows as there is still much confusion about their origin and history. To the *S. fragilis babylonica* hybrid belong the so-called Wisconsin Weeping Willow which has been largely planted in the northern states, and is a hardy and valuable tree. Its origin is not known at the Arboretum. Thurber's Weeping Willow, named for the Massachusetts nurseryman by whom it has been distributed, is probably of the same parentage. Another hybrid known as *Salix Salamonii* is of the same parentage or is the result of the crossing of the European *Salix alba* with *S. babylonica*. This tree is highly esteemed in Europe but in this country is little known. It is a large, vigorous and hardy tree, with ascending branches and gracefully drooping branchlets, the whole forming a broad head of great beauty. This is a good time to examine the Willow Collection for many of the species, hybrids and varieties are flowering or just coming into bloom, and the flowers of Willows are often very beautiful. The Willow Collection is arranged along the northeast border of the north meadow, and is most easily reached from the Jamaica Plain entrance of the Arboretum.

1917. "Forsythias." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 3(2), 7-8. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320648>.

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