subhirtella is increased by the fact that the flowers often remain in good condition for ten or twelve days, and longer than those of the other single-flowered Cherry-trees. This Cherry can be raised from soft wood cuttings and by grafting on its own seedlings. These will grow into tall trees with long straight trunks (*Prunus subhirtella*, var. *ascendens*) and in Japanese temple gardens are sometimes fifty feet high with trunks two feet in diameter. This is a common tree in the forests of central Japan, and grows also in southern Korea and central China. Until Wilson's investigations in Japan in 1914 this tree seems to have been entirely unknown in western gardens. Raised from the seeds of *Prunus subhirtella*, which are produced in large quantities every year, it grows here rapidly and proves to be a handsome tree. It has the drooping flowers of the well-known *Prunus pendula* of gardens which is only a seedling form of *P. subhirtella ascendens* and for which the correct name is *Prunus subhirtella* variety *pendula*. This tree is not known to grow wild, but has for centuries decorated courtyards and temple grounds in central and northern Japan. The largest tree seen by Wilson was sixty-five feet tall with a head as broad as the height of the tree. There is a form of *P. subhirtella* (var. *autumnalis*) with semidouble flowers which blooms in both spring and autumn. This is a shrub often cultivated in Tokyo gardens, and in the Arboretum first flowered in May, 1915.

***Prunus yedoensis*.** This is the Cherry-tree which has been most generally planted in Tokyo. It is a small tree with smooth pale gray bark, wide-spreading branches, and large pale pink or white flowers which usually open before the leaves unfold. No old trees are known in Japan, and the origin of this Cherry is uncertain. It has not been found growing wild in Japan, and Wilson after studying it in Tokyo was inclined to believe that it was a hybrid. But, whatever its origin, it is a hardy tree which produces beautiful flowers and should be better known in this country and in Europe. Last year the flower-buds were killed by the winter cold; now the Arboretum tree is covered with them.

***Prunus serrulata*, var. *sachalinensis*.** This tree, which was called *Prunus Sargentii* until it was discovered that it had an older name, is believed to be the handsomest of the large Cherry-trees of eastern Asia. In the forests of northern Japan and Saghalin it is a tree often seventy-five feet high, with a trunk four feet in diameter; it has large pale pink or rose-colored single flowers, large dark green leaves which are deep bronze color as they unfold with the opening flower-buds, and small globose fruits which are bright red at first when fully grown and become black and lustrous when ripe. In western countries this tree was first raised in the Arboretum in 1890 from seeds sent here by Dr. William Sturgis Bigelow, of Boston, and of the trees introduced by the Arboretum there is none of greater beauty. It has been found that the seedlings of this tree are the best stock on which to graft most of the double-flowered Cherries which are so highly prized by Japanese gardeners, and that the reason why these plants have

1917. "Prunus yedoensis." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 3(3), 11–11. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320654>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/216959>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320654>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/320654>

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>.