Prunus triloba. Among the flowers of early spring few are more lovely than those of this small Almond from northern China which, in spite of the fact that it has flowered in the Arboretum every spring for the last twenty years, is still very little known, although the form with double flowers (var. *plena*) is a common garden plant in this country and is often successfully forced under glass for winter bloom. The single-flowered plant should be better known. It is a tall shrub of rather open irregular habit of growth. The flowers, which are pure clear pink in color, are produced every year in profusion, and among the shrubs introduced into cultivation by the Arboretum in the last thirty years none excel the single-flowered form of *P. triloba* in the beauty of their flowers. This shrub can be seen on the right-hand side of Forest Hills Road not far below the entrance. It can also be seen with *Prunus tomentosa* by the path leading from the Meadow Road through the woods into the Shrub Collection.

Early Lilacs. The earliest Lilacs to bloom here, the white-flowered *Syringa affinis*, and its variety with mauve-colored flowers (var. *Giraldii*), and *S. Meyeri*, are rapidly opening their flower-buds. *S. affinis* and its variety are tall shrubs of open habit and, except in their flowers, have no decorative value. The individual flowers are small but are borne in large loose clusters, and are exceedingly and pleasantly fragrant. *S. affinis* is not known as a wild plant but is the common and perhaps the only Lilac cultivated in Peking, where it has been largely used in the Imperial and Mandarin gardens. The variety is a wild plant in the region southwest of Peking. *S. Meyeri* was found in a Chinese garden by the traveller whose name it bears, and is not known as a wild plant. As it grows in the Arboretum it is a shrub beginning to flower when not more than a foot high, and covering itself with small compact clusters of small dark purple very fragrant flowers. This interesting addition to the genus *Syringa* will probably never become a popular garden plant, although it may prove useful to the hybridizer.

The Norway Maple. Only a few of the important trees of western Europe really succeed in eastern North America, although for more than a century they received more attention at the hands of American planters than our native species. There are, of course, some exceptions to this general statement. The forms of the White and of the Fragile Willow, some of the Poplars, the Beech, the Lindens, the Elms, the Birches and the Norway Maple are as much at home in southern New England and the middle states as they are in England, and probably grow here more rapidly than they do in their native countries where there is smaller although more regularly distributed rainfall and less summer heat. None of the European trees have been more generally planted in the eastern states during the last fifty years than one of the Maples (*Acer platanoides*), the so-called Norway Maple, although it is not an exclusively Scandinavian tree, but is widely spread over the continent and reaches the Caucasus. The Norway Maple has

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