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Crab-apples. These plants for the decoration of northern gardens are of first-rate importance, and from its early days much attention has been paid at the Arboretum to the collection and study of the different species, hybrids and varieties. The flowering of the Crab-apples is one of the important Arboretum events and, although the season is ten or twelve days late, some of the Asiatic species are already in bloom and during three or four weeks Apple blossoms can be seen here.

From the Crab-apple of southeastern Europe and western and central Asia (*Malus pumila*) most of the Apples of our orchards have been developed, although in some of these the blood of the Crab of northern and central Europe (*Malus sylvestris*) can be traced. The Paradise Apple is a very dwarf form of *Malus pumila* used by nurserymen as a stock for dwarf pomological varieties. The first of the Crab-apples of eastern Asia known to Europeans (*Malus baccata*) was first cultivated in Europe one hundred and thirty years ago. It is a native of eastern Siberia, and is a tall, narrow tree with large white flowers appearing with the leaves, and fruit the size of a large pea. The Siberian Crab, as it is popularly called, is a handsome, very hardy plant; its great value, however, is that, crossed with the cultivated Apple-tree, it has given rise to a race of Apples like the Hyslop and the Transcendent Crabs which can be grown in regions too cold for the successful cultivation of the ordinary Apple. These hybrids are known as Siberian Crabs, and many named varieties can now be found in nurseries in the extreme northern part of the country. They

are fast-growing, erect and shapely trees, and well worth a place in northern gardens for the beauty of their flowers and brilliant scarlet or yellow fruits which are usually oblong or ovate in shape and from an inch to an inch and a half in length. The fruit is acid but makes excellent jellies and preserves for which it is largely used. *Malus baccata* has been used in cold regions as a stock on which to graft the ordinary Apple, but its liability to the blight which attacks Pear-trees reduces its value for this purpose. The largest specimen of *Malus baccata* in the neighborhood of Boston is standing in front of the gardener's house in the Harvard Botanic Garden in Cambridge.

One of the handsomest of the Crab-apples in the Arboretum collection is a Korean variety of *Malus baccata* which has been distinguished as var. *Jackii*. It was raised here in 1905 from seed collected by Mr. Jack near Seoul. The plants, although still small, are shapely in habit with straight clean stems and regularly spaced spreading branches; the leaves are thick, long-stalked, from four to six inches in length, dark dull green above and pale below; the flowers are pure white and nearly two inches in diameter, and the dark crimson shining fruits, which are often half an inch long, hang gracefully on long drooping stems. A widely distributed form of *Malus baccata*, the var. *mandshurica*, differs in its broader, more or less hairy leaves. This tree is distributed from the Amoor region to western China and Japan where it is common northward, and in Hokkaido is often found in Alder woods in the neighborhood of the coast.

Malus prunifolia. In one of its forms (var. *rinki*) this tree has been the most economically valuable of all the Asiatic Apple-trees. *Malus prunifolia*, although it has been known in western gardens for many years, is still unknown as a wild plant, but Wilson found growing wild its variety *rinki* in central and western China. This variety differs from *Malus prunifolia* in the shape of the leaves and the amount of their hairy covering, and in the shape and color of the fruit which varies from greenish yellow to yellow or red. This is the Apple which has been cultivated by the Chinese probably for centuries. The fruit of the cultivated tree seen by Wilson was rarely more than an inch and a quarter in diameter, green or greenish yellow with a rosy cheek, or sometimes almost entirely red and had a pleasant bitter-sweet flavor. He found that the fruit grown in the cold region near the Tibetan border was of better quality than that produced in the warmer regions further east. Until the coming of foreigners into Japan introduced American and European varieties of Apples the var. *rinki* was a commonly cultivated fruit tree in Hondo, although now it has almost entirely disappeared from Japan.

Only the Apples already mentioned, *Malus sylvestris* of western and northern Europe, *M. pumila* of southeastern Europe and western and central Asia, *M. baccata* of eastern Siberia, *M. prunifolia*, var. *rinki* of western China, and the species of eastern North America are of economic importance to man. The fruits of the last are sometimes

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