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

used domestically in making jellies and preserves but are not in very general use. All the other Crab-apples are only valuable for the beauty of their flowers and fruits in the decoration of gardens. The American Crab-apples bloom later than the Old World species, and their flowers do not open until the leaves are well grown. The flowers are more or less deeply tinged with pink or rose color and are exceedingly fragrant. The fruits of the eastern species are depressed-globose, light green, sometimes turning pale yellow when fully ripe, lustrous, covered with a waxy exudation, and more fragrant than the fruit of other Apple-trees. The fruit falls without having become soft, and remains on the ground a long time without losing its shape. The fruit of the northwestern species (*M. fusca*) is oblong, not more than three-quarters of an inch in length, yellow-green or yellow often flushed with red, or occasionally entirely red. The flesh of this little apple is thin and dry.

The American Crab-apples are good plants for wood borders and forest glades, and can be used to advantage with the Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), the different Shad Bushes (*Amelanchier*), and some of the American Hawthorns to enliven forest parks and country roadsides. American Crab-apples, however, are still little known or appreciated by American gardeners, and only one of them, the so-called Bechtel Crab, a double-flowered form of *M. ioensis* of the Mississippi Valley, is found in American nurseries. The flowers of this tree resemble small double pink roses and attract more attention than almost any other plant in the Arboretum. Among the handsomest of the species of eastern Asia as flowering plants are:—

Malus floribunda is probably the best known and the most generally cultivated Crab-apple in this part of the country. When grown naturally it is a broad, tall, round-topped bush, rather than a tree, with wide-spreading branches. The flowers as they open are red and, passing through different shades of rose color, become almost white before the petals fall. The fruit is not much larger than a pea. This plant is one of the most satisfactory of all flowering shrubs which can be grown in this climate for it has never yet been injured by cold, heat, or drought, and never fails to produce its flowers every spring. On some of these plants the fruit drops in early autumn, and on other seedling plants raised in the Arboretum it remains on the branches until early spring and furnishes birds with great supplies of winter food, and for the benefit of the birds plants of this variety should be selected. There are a number of these plants close to the Administration Building where during the winter they are much frequented by pheasants who find shelter in a neighboring Pine grove. A hybrid of *Malus floribunda*, and one of the hybrid forms of *M. baccata* appeared spontaneously in the Arboretum, and has been called *Malus Arnoldiana*; it has the low-branched habit of *M. floribunda* but the flowers and fruits are more than a third larger. This is one of the handsomest of all Crab-apples.

1917. "Malus prunifolia." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 3(5), 18–19. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320666>.

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