ARNOLD ARBORETUM

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Double-flowered Cherries. Small plants covered with flowers of two of the handsomest of the double-flowered Japanese Cherries can be seen in the Cherry Collection on the right-hand side of the Forest Hills Road. They are varieties of *Prunus serrulata*, var. *sachalinensis*, the so-called Sargent Cherry, and are named *fugenzo* and *albo-rosea*. The first has rose-pink flowers and bronze-colored young leaves, and is believed to be one of the most beautiful of all double-flowered Cherries. This plant has become common in English gardens under the name of "James H. Veitch." In Japan it is called "kofugen" or "benifugen." The form *albo-rosea* has pink flower-buds which become white as the flowers open. Like those of the form *fugenzo* the flowers have two green leafy carpels in the centre and these distinguish these two varieties from all the other Japanese double-flowered Cherries. There are twelve other double-flowered forms of the Sargent Cherry among the seventy-five varieties of different species of Cherries cultivated by the Japanese for the beauty of their flowers and introduced into the Arboretum by Wilson two years ago. In the last fifty years many attempts have been made to cultivate some of these plants in the United States and Europe but with no great success, and they are now imported in considerable numbers every year into the United States from Japanese nurseries. Such plants, however, are short-lived and unsatisfactory, and from studies of these Cherries in Japan Mr. Wilson became convinced that it was the stock on which they were worked in Japan as well as in the United States and Europe that was the cause of their failure, and that the only hardy, long-lived reliable stock for them was the wild type of the Sargent Cherry. If his con-

clusions are correct, there seems no reason why these double-flowered forms should not grow here to be large and long-lived trees. The double-flowered Japanese Cherries bloom later than the trees with single flowers and in normal seasons just before or with the Lilacs; they remain in flower for several days, and if they prove really successful when the proper stock is used on which to graft them the beauty and interest of the spring gardens of the United States will be greatly increased.

Rhododendron (Azalea) japonicum. This Azalea, although the flowers are less brilliant than those of the now better known *R. (Azalea) Kaempferi*, is probably the handsomest of the hardy Azaleas of eastern Asia. The flowers are flame color and rather more than three inches in diameter. As it grows here this Azalea is a round-topped, rather compact, hardy shrub blooming freely every year. It was raised at the Arboretum from seeds collected in Japan by Professor Sargent in 1892 and has been growing in the Arboretum as long as *R. Kaempferi*. Long confused here with the *Azalea mollis* of gardens, less attention has been paid to it, and it is only recently that its specific characters and value have been understood. One of the parents of the hybrid *A. mollis* of gardens it is a handsomer, longer-lived, and more satisfactory plant than that popular and well-known Azalea. In gardens *Rhododendron japonicum* is still one of the rarest of all the hardy Azaleas. It is now in bloom on the lower side of Azalea Path where there is a group of large and small plants.

An early-flowering Hawthorn. The first Hawthorn to bloom in the Arboretum every year is *Crataegus nigra*, a native of southeastern Europe. The Arboretum specimen is a shapely tree from fifteen to eighteen feet high, with a broad compact head and a well-formed trunk covered with pale scaly bark. The leaves are broad, deeply-lobed, covered below with soft hairs, and grayish green in color. The flowers are hardly more than half an inch in diameter, with twenty stamens and anthers faintly tinged with rose, and are borne in small compact clusters. As the flowers fade the petals turn rose color. As a flowering tree *Crataegus nigra* is less beautiful than many of the American Thorns, but the black and lustrous fruit is unusual in color among Thorn trees. The color of the fruit and the earliness of the flowers make this an interesting addition, however, to the list of small trees with showy flowers which can be successfully cultivated in Massachusetts.

A few American Thorns. Several of the early large-flowered American Thorns have been in bloom for several days and are conspicuous and beautiful objects. Among them may be mentioned *Crataegus Arnoldiana*, *C. Ellwangeriana*, *C. pedicellata* and *C. coccinioides*. *C. Arnoldiana* is easily distinguished even in winter by its conspicuously zigzag branchlets armed with long straight thorns; the flowers with their ten stamens and yellow anthers are in broad, many-flowered clusters, and late in August, when the trees are covered with their bright scarlet fruit dotted with white and three-quarters of an inch in diameter, they are more beautiful even than at the end of May. On account of its early ripening and showy fruit this is one of the best of the American Hawthorns for the decoration of summer gardens. *C. Ellwangeriana* is common in the neighborhood of Rochester, N. Y.,

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