elusions 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.,
and ranges into Pennsylvania, Ontario and Michigan. It is a tree sometimes twenty feet tall with wide-spreading horizontal branches and a tall trunk often a foot in diameter, flowers an inch across with ten stamens and rose-colored anthers, and large oblong scarlet fruit ripening and falling at the end of September or early in October. *C. pedicellata* is one of the commonest arborescent species in the western New York-Ontario region, and is often twenty feet high with a tall trunk and ascending and spreading branches. The flowers are half an inch in diameter with ten stamens and rose-colored anthers, and the large oblong fruit is bright scarlet. *C. coccinioides* is distinct in its very compact, few-flowered, nearly globose clusters of large flowers with twenty stamens and large, dark rose-colored anthers. The fruit, which ripens early in October and falls gradually during a month or six weeks, is subglobose, much flattened at the ends, slightly angled, bright scarlet and nearly an inch in diameter. *C. coccinioides* is a native of the region in the neighborhood of St. Louis, Missouri, and is one of the handsomest and most distinct of American Thorns. Many other young Thorn trees are now in bloom in the new Crataegus plantation on the eastern slope of Peter’s Hill, and during the next four or five weeks there will be an opportunity to examine there the flowers of three or four hundred species of these plants.

**Cotoneaster multiflora, var. calocarpa.** This is the first of the new Chinese Cotoneasters to flower this year. It is a shrub with slender gracefully arching stems and narrow blue-green leaves. The arching of the stems brings the flowers, which are borne in erect clusters on short lateral branches, into a conspicuous position and there is now in the Arboretum no shrub in bloom more graceful in habit or more charming in the arrangement of its flowers. The fruit of this species is dull red and about one quarter of an inch in diameter. This plant can be seen in the large collection of Chinese Cotoneasters on the southern slope of Bussey Hill. It is now well worth examination, as are all the species in this group, for among them are some of the most beautiful of all shrubs of recent introduction.

**Malus theifera.** This Crab-apple, which was introduced by Wilson from western China, is flowering this year in the Arboretum for the third time and gives every promise here of increasing the number of trees with beautiful flowers which can be grown successfully in this climate. In habit this Crab-apple differs from all others in its stiff, wide-spreading and slightly ascending branches which make an unusually open head. The flowers are light pink and about three-quarters of an inch in diameter, and when they cover the branches the plants look like Cherry-trees rather than Apple-trees. The fruit ripens in October and is yellowish green or red and about a quarter of an inch in diameter. The name *theifera* has been given to this plant as the Chinese living on the mountains in central and western China use the dried leaves as a substitute for tea. The best plant of this beautiful little tree in the Arboretum is in the collection at the base of Peter’s Hill.

**Magnolia Fraserni.** This is the first of the American Magnolias to bloom in the Arboretum and has now been in flower for several days. It is a small tree rarely more than forty feet high with an open head of long branches, leaves often a foot in length and deeply divided at the base, and creamy-white, sweet-scented flowers eight or ten inches

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