or only a day earlier than last year, and other April flowering shrubs have blossomed at their normal time. On April 2nd the temperature fell to 23° Fahrenheit. This ruined the flowers of the north China Peach (*Prunus Davidiana*) which were just opening and those of the earliest of the Azaleas (*Rhododendron dahuricum*) whose rose-colored corollas were just emerging from the buds. On the nights of the 24th and the 25th the thermometer registered as low as 24°. This ruined the flowers of the early blooming Magnolias, but the flowers of the Forsythias, Cherries, Plums and Apricots show no signs of injury. Freezing weather in April is not unusual in New England and its effect on the flowers of different plants can well be studied by persons who have in mind the planting of spring gardens. The flowers of *Magnolia stellata*, *M. denudata* (better known as *M. conspicua*), *M. kobus* and its variety *borealis*, which open in April, are too often ruined by frost. To prevent this it is desirable to plant these trees and shrubs on the north side of other trees, and especially of evergreen trees, where the flowers may be expected to open seven or eight days later than on plants fully exposed to the sun. The hybrid Chinese Magnolias with pink or rose-colored flowers all bloom later than the white-flowered species and their flowers are rarely injured by cold although the unfolding petals of some of these hybrids were badly discolored by the cold of the past week. These hybrids therefore, although their flowers are less beautiful than those of the species, are better garden plants in this climate. The best known of these hybrids is called *M. Soulangeana*, of which there are several varieties differing in the greater or less amount of pink or rose color in the petals. The flowers of *Rhododendron dahuricum*, as has already been stated, were spoiled this spring but last year were uninjured. Its variety with persistent leaves (var. *sempervirens*) bloomed a few days later and escaped injury. A few days later the flowers of the north China and Korean *Rhododendron mucronulatum* opened, and although now beginning to fade were in good condition during fully two weeks. A more southern plant and therefore inclined to bloom later than *R. dahuricum*, it is a better garden plant in this climate and one of the handsomest mid-April flowering shrubs in the Arboretum. The Cornelian Cherry (*Cornus Mas*) is another plant for which the frosts of April have no terrors. The small, bright yellow flowers arranged in many-flowered clusters open late in March or in early April and remain in good condition for three or four weeks. There is no record here of their injury by frost. This is a shapely shrub or small tree of excellent habit; the leaves are bright green and the scarlet or rarely yellow fruit, which ripens late in summer, is cherry-like in appearance. The Cornelian Cherry is a native of eastern Europe and western Asia, and has been grown in Old World gardens for three centuries. There is no better early flowering shrub for our northern gardens in which, although it was brought to America certainly more than a hundred years ago, it is still too little seen.

Forsythias, after having lost a part of their flower-buds in three of the past five winters, are again covered with flowers which have not

been injured by the cold of the past week. The Arboretum collection contains specimens of all the species and varieties, and of many hybrids, and is interesting as indicating possibilities in plant breeding, when hybridizers enter a broader field than the one to which they have generally confined their efforts. The natural crossing of species of Forsythias has produced plants with handsomer flowers than those of their parents. This is true of some Lilacs and Crabapples, and of many Spiraeas, Deutzias and Rhododendrons, and it is not improbable that from the new material which has come into gardens in recent years handsomer garden shrubs and more valuable trees than those we now possess will reward the patient labors of the plant breeder. To the hybrid Forsythias the general name of *intermedia* has been given. The parentage of these plants is not perfectly clear, although one of their parents is certainly the Chinese *F. suspensa* var. *Fortunei*, the plant which is most often cultivated in American gardens. The handsomest of these hybrids and the handsomest Forsythia in the Arboretum collection, *F. intermedia spectabilis*, came here several years ago from a German nursery. The flowers of this form are bright yellow. Other handsome hybrids are var. *primulina*, with primrose-colored flowers, and var. *pallida*, with pale straw-colored flowers. The former appeared spontaneously in the Arboretum a few years ago. The flowerbuds of all Forsythias are often killed in severe winters, but those of these hybrids were for a long time believed to be hardier than those of the species, although in the winter of 1917-18 they suffered even more than those of their parents.

Prunus persicoides. This is a hybrid between the Peach and the Almond, which also produces handsomer flowers than its parents. The plants of this hybrid were in full bloom during the excessive cold of last week which did not injure them. The flowers are an inch and a half in diameter, with a bright red calyx, pale pink or nearly white petals blotched with deep rose at the base, and bright red filaments. This hybrid as a flowering plant is, perhaps, the handsomest of all the Peach-Apricot-Almond group. It originated in Europe more than a hundred years ago, but if it has never been common in American gardens it is no longer so; and it is doubtful if it is known to any American nurseryman.

The earliest Pear to flower, *Pyrus ussuriensis*, has been in bloom for more than a week and the flowers are untouched by frost. This is probably the largest of all Pear-trees as specimens occasionally occur in Korea sixty feet or more tall, with trunks 14 feet in circumference. The flowers are not as large as those of some of the other Chinese Pear-trees, and the fruit is small and of no value. This tree, however, is exciting much interest among American pomologists who believe they have found in it a blight resisting stock on which to graft garden pears.

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