The Cherries of Eastern Asia have never been more thickly covered with flowers than they have during the past week, and several of them are still worth a visit. The delicate petals of the flowers of these trees and shrubs seem able to bear without injury the coldest April weather Massachusetts has known for many years.

The earliest Cherry to bloom in the Arboretum this spring was *Prunus concinna*, a small tree discovered by Wilson on the mountains of central China. In the Arboretum it first flowered when less than three feet high; it is perfectly hardy, and although the flowers, which are white with a wine-colored calyx, are less beautiful than those of several other Asiatic Cherries it does not seem possible for any plant of its size to produce a more abundant crop. There has always been misunderstanding about this plant in gardens as it was distributed by a London firm of nurserymen as *Prunus subhirtella*.

Prunus tomentosa, a native of northern and western China begins to open its flowers only a day or two later than *P. concinna*. It is a shrub only five or six feet high, and when fully grown in abundant space for the spread of its branches often broader than tall. The flowers open from pink buds as the leaves begin to unfold, and the bright red stalks and calyx make a handsome contrast with the white petals which are often blotched toward the base with rose color. The small fruit ripens in June and is scarlet covered with short hairs, and is sweet and of good flavor. This shrub is attracting the attention of pomologists, living in the dry cold interior region of the continent where it is hardy and where it produces fruit of considerable comestible value. A form discovered in western China by Wilson (var. *endotricha*) is now established in the Arboretum where it blooms rather later than the northern plant. The fruit of this variety is destitute or nearly destitute of hairs.

Prunus incisa. This is another early flowering Cherry and a native of Japan where it is abundant on the eastern and southern slopes of Fuji-san and on the Hakkone Mountains. It is a large shrub or small tree with white or rarely pale rose-colored flowers which appear in drooping clusters before the deeply lobed leaves. The petals fall early, but the calyx, which gradually grows brighter in color, remains for some time on the young fruit and is showy. *P. incisa* is perfectly hardy in the Arboretum where it has now flowered for several seasons. For some reason this beautiful plant, however, is rare in American and European gardens.

Prunus triloba. Among the flowers of early spring few are more lovely than those of this little Almond from northern China which, in spite of the fact that it has flowered in the Arboretum every spring for thirty years, is still little known, although the form with double flowers (var. *plena*) is a common garden plant in this country and is often forced under glass for winter decoration. The single-flowered plant should be better known. It is a tall shrub with a rather irregular habit of growth. The flowers, which are pink, are produced in profusion.

1919. "Prunus tomentosa." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 5(1), 4-4. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320895>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/239291>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320895>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/320895>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Not in copyright. The BHL knows of no copyright restrictions on this item.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.