leaves and purple cones; it must not be confused with another Japanese Fir-tree which botanists consider a variety of it and now call *A. homolepis* var. *umbellata*. This is a faster growing tree of open habit, with light green leaves and gray cones. It is less hardy than the typical form, and leaves on most of the specimens in the Arboretum have been browned during the past winter as they were two years ago. Except in general collections and as a curiosity this variety of *Abies homolepis* is not worth planting in this part of the world.

A late spring. By the first of April the frost was out of the ground here and there was every prospect of an early spring, but April has been a cold and rainy month with little sunshine and most spring flowers are opening nearly two weeks later than in normal seasons. They have so far, however, escaped the late frosts which too often in this climate ruin April flowers, like those of *Magnolia stellata*, *M. kobus* and early flowering Rhododendrons.

Winter-flowering Witch Hazels. The southern Missouri and Asiatic Witch Hazels have all flowered during the winter, but for some reason which it is not easy to explain their flowers opened five or six weeks later than in other years. *Hamamelis mollis* from central China is the handsomest of these plants and well deserves a place in winter gardens for its flowers with their large bright yellow petals and handsome leaves which in late autumn assume before falling brilliant shades of yellow. A Japanese species (*H. incarnata*), differing from all the other Witch Hazels in the dark red petals of its small flowers drooping on long stems, is a recent addition to the Arboretum collection and has flowered here this winter for the first time. As a botanical curiosity it is interesting, but judged by the first flowers it has produced in America it has little to recommend it as a garden plant.

Cornus mas. The Cornelian Cherry of old-fashioned gardens opened its first flowers on April 18th, and the leafless branches are still covered with its compact, many-flowered clusters of small bright yellow flowers which are unusually abundant this spring. This Cornel is a native of eastern Europe and western Asia, and for three centuries at least has been a favorite garden plant in western Europe. It is a large and shapely shrub and with a little care can be made to grow with a single stem in the form of a small tree. It is handsome from early spring until late in the autumn, for the leaves are large dark green and lustrous but fall without having changed their color, and the short oblong, scarlet, lustrous or rarely yellow fruit which hangs on stout stems is cherry-like in appearance and ornamental. The fact that the flowers are never injured by April frosts greatly adds to the value of this plant for the spring decoration of parks and gardens in the northern states.

Corylopsis is an Asiatic genus of the Witch Hazel Family with light yellow flowers in long drooping clusters appearing before the leaves which have a general resemblance to those of the Witch Hazels. Nearly all the species are represented in the collection but only *C. Gotoana*, a native of the elevated regions of central Japan, is worthy of general cultivation in eastern Massachusetts, for it is perfectly hardy here even the flower-buds having been uninjured by the exceptionally low

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