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

temperature of the winter of 1917-18. This is one of the handsomest of the early spring flowering shrubs which can be grown in this part of the country and one of the important Arboretum introductions. The largest plant in the collection is on Hickory Path near Centre Street and is now covered with flowers. A small plant of another Japanese species, *C. pauciflora*, growing on Hickory Path near *C. Gotoana*, is also now covered with flowers. This is unusual, for although the plant is hardy the flower-buds are often killed by cold, as are those of another Japanese species, *C. spicata*. The stems and branches of the Chinese species, *C. Veitchiana* and *C. Willmottae* are uninjured but the flower-buds are killed. These plants have flowered in the Arboretum, but two years ago they were killed to the ground and there is little hope that these handsome shrubs will prove useful for New England gardens.

Prinsepia sinensis. The value of this handsome shrub becomes more and more apparant with the passing years. The first plant in the Arboretum to unfold its leaves, these are already nearly full grown and by the time this Bulletin reaches its Boston readers the plants will be covered with bright yellow flowers. This *Prinsepia* is a perfectly hardy vigorous and fast-growing shrub; the young leaves and the flowers have never been injured by spring frosts, and it can be said of it that it is the best contribution Mongolia has made to our gardens. *Prinsepia sinensis* has proved difficult to propagate, but two years ago it produced for the first time a little fruit and this seed has germinated. It is possible, too, with skill and patience to increase this plant by cuttings, but until the Arboretum plants produce good crops of fruit *Prinsepia sinensis* will not be common in this country. If it could be obtained in sufficient quantities it would make a beautiful and impenetrable hedge as the stems and branches are armed with sharp spines.

Early Flowering Rhododendrons. Only three or four of the Rhododendrons which bloom before the first of May can be grown in this climate. The handsomest of these, *Rhododendron mucronulatum*, which has flowered every spring in the Arboretum for nearly twenty years, has perhaps not before been as thickly covered with flowers as it has been during the past ten days. A native of northern China and Korea it is a tall deciduous-leaved shrub inclined as it grows old to a straggling habit, with long slender branches and pale rose-colored flowers which open before the leaves appear and have never been injured here by April frosts. This is one of the handsome April flowering shrubs which can be successfully grown in this climate. The flowers are still in good condition on the plants in the large group on the lower side of Azalea Path. *Rhododendron dauricum*, which begins to bloom a few days earlier than *R. mucronulatum*, has been unusually handsome this spring as the flowers which are generally destroyed by frost have not been injured. It is a native of eastern Siberia and Manchuria, with bright rose-colored flowers and dark green leaves which in this climate remain on the branches until midwinter. There is an evergreen variety, (var. *sempervirens*), which has also flowered well this spring with the species on the upper side of Azalea Path. The flowers of the hybrid between *Rhododendron dauricum* and the Himalayan *R. hirsutum*, known in gardens as *R. praecox*, "Early Gem," are also in good condition this year; usually they are ruined by frost.

1920. "Corylopsis." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 6(1), 3-4. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321014>.

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