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. "Early Flowering Rhododendrons." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 6(1), 4-4.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321016>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/216956>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321016>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/321016>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

BHL-SIL-FEDLINK

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

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>.