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Japanese Azaleas. The flora of Japan contains many species of Azaleas, and in early spring their brilliant flowers enliven innumerable hillsides. Many species and varieties are favorite garden plants in Japan, and Japanese gardens owe much to these plants. In distribution the Azaleas of Japan are generally southern, and only a few species are found in the northern part of the empire. All of the species will probably flourish in the southern United States; and many of them will succeed as far north as Long Island and possibly in Newport, Rhode Island. Of the sixteen Japanese species three are well established and hardy in the Arboretum; a northern species, *Rhododendron* (all Azaleas are now called Rhododendrons by botanists) *Albrechtii*-related to our *Rhodora* but with red flowers, judging by the climate of the region in which it grows, should also be hardy here. This handsome plant, however, which was first raised at the Arboretum twenty-five years ago, has not been a success here. Another northern species, *Rhododendron Tschonoskii*, with the smallest flowers of any Azalea, is an old inhabitant of the Arboretum but is without value as an ornament of gardens. Two beautiful Azaleas from the mountain forests of central Hondo, *Rhododendron Rehderianum* and *R. pentaphyllum*, have not yet been sufficiently tested in the gardens of this country; they may be expected to be able to bear the cold of Massachusetts winters, but appear difficult to establish. Another Japanese Azalea, *R. mucronatum*, generally known as "Azalea ledifolia" or as "Azalea indica alba," has been seen in American gardens for the last eighty years. It is very often found in the old gardens of the southern states; it is hardy and often cultivated on Long Island, and occasionally lives for many years in sheltered positions in eastern Massachusetts. The three Japanese species, which have proved themselves,

after a trial of twenty-five years, to be perfectly hardy and first-class garden plants in eastern Massachusetts are *R. Kaempferi*, now considered a variety of *R. obtusum*, *R. japonicum* and *R. reticulatum*, better known as *R. rhombicum*. The first of these plants is the only red flowered Azalea which is hardy in this climate. Thousands of seedlings have been raised in this country in recent years and it will soon become common in eastern gardens. It has been largely used in the Arboretum, and late in May and in the early days of June its flowers furnish the most surprising and spectacular display of the year. The flowers are delicate, however, and when fully exposed to the sun lose their color; and this Azalea gives most satisfaction when it is planted in the shade of trees or on the northern border of a wood of conifers. In the Arboretum the most successful group of this Azalea is behind the Laurels (*Kalmia*) and in front of the Hemlocks at the northern base of Hemlock Hill. The plants bloom a week later than those in more exposed situations and their flowers last much longer in good condition. The tallest plants in the Arboretum are now eight or nine feet high and although growing in complete shade never fail to flower.

Rhododendron japonicum has been growing in the Arboretum as long as Kaempfer's Azalea, and by many persons it is considered a handsomer plant. It is a round-topped rather compact shrub usually not more than three or four feet tall, with flame-colored flowers three inches across. It is only in recent years that the value of this plant in American gardens has been recognized, for it was long supposed, in the Arboretum at least, to be one of the numerous forms of the short-lived and usually unsatisfactory hybrids sent to this country chiefly from Holland and known commercially as "Azalea mollis." A beautiful yellow-flowered variety of *R. japonicum* (var. *aureum*) has been found in Japan, and a few plants have reached the United States, where two years ago it flowered for the first time in a Massachusetts garden. This plant promises to be an important addition to the number of hardy Azaleas which can be grown in this climate. A handsome race of hybrid Azaleas was obtained several years ago in Europe probably by crossing *Rhododendron japonicum* with the yellow-flowered Azalea of eastern China, usually known as *R. sinense*. To this race of hybrids the general name of *R. Kosterianum* has been given. The best known plant of this hybrid origin is probably the one called "Anthony Koster." It is a handsome plant, but not always entirely hardy in this climate where it is usually short-lived. About eight years ago T. D. Hatfield, gardener of the Hunnewell Estate at Wellesley, Massachusetts, crossed *R. japonicum* raised from seeds collected by Professor Sargent in Japan with *R. sinense* raised from seeds collected by Mr. Wilson in eastern China. There can be no doubt about the parentage of this plant. This new Azalea, which has been named *R. Kosterianum*, "Miss Louisa Hunnewell" bears large clusters of orange-colored flowers which open as the leaves unfold; the plant is perfectly hardy, and the flower-buds were not injured by the exceptionally severe winters of 1917-18 and 1919-20. If anyone in the United States has raised a handsomer shrub it is unknown to the Arboretum. During the last seventy-five years several hundred different hybrid Azaleas have been made in Europe and the United States; accurate and reliable records of

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