species are as handsome garden plants as some of the hybrids between the Chinese *F. suspensa Fortunei* and *F. viridissima*, to which the general name of *Forsythia intermedia* has been given. The best of these, the var. *spectabilis*, is the handsomest Forsythia which has yet been seen in the Arboretum. The flowers are larger and more abundant than those of either of its parents, and of a deeper color. Other distinct and handsome forms are var. *primulina* and var. *pallida*. The former, which appeared as a seedling in the Arboretum a few years ago, has primrose colored flowers; the flowers of the latter are pale straw color and paler than those of other Forsythias. Forsythias are often badly planted; they require space in which to spread their long gracefully arching branches and are not suitable for small gardens. To be most effective they should be planted as in the Arboretum, in a great mass on a bank or hillside. A Forsythia should never be planted nearer than ten or twelve feet to a road or path, for if there is not enough room between path and plant for its natural growth the side branches must be cut away and an ugly, awkward, bare-stemmed specimen will be left. In suburban gardens in which the care of plants is usually left to the mercy of the jobbing gardener, the branches of Forsythias and of many other shrubs are often cut back in winter or early spring. This destroys the beauty of the plants, and as Forsythias produce their flowers on the branches of the previous year most of the flowers are sacrificed. If a Forsythia must be pruned it should be done just after the plant has flowered, and the oldest stems and branches should be entirely removed that younger ones may grow naturally.

Asiatic Cherries. Like other plants these Cherries are flowering this year from three to four weeks before their normal time. The flowers of the earliest Cherry, *Prunus tomentosa*, were fully open on the 6th of this month. It is a native of northern China and a shrub only five or six feet high, and when it has not been crowded sometimes ten or fifteen feet in diameter. The flowers open from pink buds as the leaves unfold and the bright red stalk and calyx make a handsome contrast with the white petals. The small fruit ripens in June and is scarlet, covered with short hairs and of a pleasant flavor. This Cherry was first raised by the Arboretum nearly forty years ago and there are a few large plants in the Boston parks, but in spite of its beauty and handsome flowers it has not yet caught the popular fancy. As a fruit plant it has received attention in Manitoba and the Dakotas where it has proved hardy and promises to be valuable. The variety from western China (var. *endotricha*) flowers a few days later.

Prunus subhirtella opened its first flowers on April 7, and unless the buds are injured by cold it will be in full bloom when this Bulletin reaches its eastern Massachusetts readers. This is the "Japanese Spring Cherry" which has been described by a traveller in Japan who has made an exhaustive study of its Cherry-trees as "the most floriferous and perhaps the most delightful of all Japanese Cherries." When its branches are covered with its pink drooping flowers no other large shrub or small tree which can be grown in northern gardens is more beautiful; and the flowering of the "Japanese Spring Cherry" is one of the great events of the Arboretum year; and this spring the trees

promise to be more beautiful than ever before. Unfortunately *Prunus subhirtella* is still rare in gardens. It is not known as a wild plant, and its seeds produce plants of the type of which it is a form, a tall tree of the Japanese forests known as *Prunus subhirtella* var. *ascendens*, a much less desirable garden plant. *Prunus subhirtella* therefore can be increased only by cuttings or by grafting it on its own seedlings. The Sargent Cherry (*Prunus serrulata* var. *sachalinensis*), for the first time since the trees in the Arboretum were old enough to flower, has not many flowers this spring except on the upper branches, but the Yoshino (*Prunus yeddoensis*), which often loses its flower-buds from extreme cold, promises an unusual bloom this year, as does the white-flowered *Prunus incisa*, one of the best of the recent additions to the Arboretum Cherry Collection.

Several Apricots were in full bloom on April 6. The most conspicuous were a Japanese form of *Prunus Armenaica*, known as "Mikado," and the Siberian *Prunus mandshurica*. The flowers of the so-called "Black Apricot" (*Prunus dasycarpa*) are a few days later and promise to be unusually abundant. The flowers of the Canada Plum (*Prunus nigra*) and of the Chinese Plum (*Prunus salicina*), and of an Almond of northern China (*Prunus triloba*) are also opening their flowers—fore-runners in a season which now promises an unusual flowering of all plants of the Rose Family — Cherries, Plums, Pears, Apples, Hawthorns, Quinces and Roses.

Andromeda floribunda, often called *Pieris floribunda*, was covered with its pure white, fully expanded flowers on the 3rd of April. This is one of the handsomest of the broad-leaved evergreen shrubs which are perfectly hardy in this climate. It is a round-topped plant occasionally eight or ten feet across and four or five feet high, with small, pointed, dark green leaves and terminal clusters of bell-shaped flowers. The flower-buds, which are fully grown in the autumn, are conspicuous and ornamental during the winter. This southern Appalachian shrub is an old inhabitant of gardens, and is still much propagated by nurserymen. After the Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) and a few Rhododendrons it is the most valuable broad-leaved ever green which can be grown in the northeastern states.

Mr. J. G. Jack of the Arboretum staff will conduct a Field Class on Saturdays during the spring and early summer, to assist those who wish to gain a more intimate knowledge of the native and foreign trees and shrubs which grow in New England. Instruction will be given in informal outdoor talks and in the examination of the plants. Different botanical groups will be examined at each meeting, although any trees or shrubs found may form subjects for study. No technical knowledge or special preparation is required in order to join the class as the instruction is intended to be simple in character, affording opportunities for questions and answers relating to the specimens under observation. Unless otherwise notified the class will meet promptly at 10 o'clock in the morning, on Saturdays, in the Arboretum, at the Forest Hills entrance.

A low temperature, with a heavy snowfall, on April 11, will probably destroy the flowers and flower-buds of many plants.

1921. "Prunus subhirtella." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 7(1), 3-4. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321083>.

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