Prunus serrulata* var. *sachalinensis, sometimes called the Sargent Cherry, should also be in flower at the end of this week. It is believed to be the handsomest of the large Cherry-trees of eastern Asia. First raised at the Arboretum in 1890 from seeds brought from Japan by Dr. William Sturgis Bigelow of Boston, this tree has grown well here.

Prunus concinna. As usual this Chinese Cherry is the first of its genus to open its flowers in the Arboretum. It is a tree-like shrub three or four feet high, with a single stem. The flowers, which appear before the leaves, are produced in the greatest profusion in few-flowered clusters, and their bright red calyx makes a handsome contrast with the white petals. The loose lustrous red bark of this plant is perhaps its most attractive character, and for this beautiful bark it is well worth a place in our gardens, although several of the Asiatic Cherries are superior to it as flowering plants. *Prunus concinna* can be seen in the collection of Chinese shrubs on the southern slope of Bussey Hill.

Plum-trees are often beautiful objects when in flower, and the value of several of the American Plums for the decoration of parks and gardens has not yet been generally recognized in this country. One must travel in early spring through southern Kansas, eastern Oklahoma and eastern Texas, where Plum-trees and Plum-bushes are more numerous and of more different kinds than in any other part of the world, to realize how wonderful these plants are when covered with flowers. *Prunus nigra*, the so-called Canada Plum, is the earliest of these trees to flower here. It is a native of the northern border of the United States from New Brunswick westward, and is distinguished from the more southern *Prunus americana* by its larger and earlier flowers, by the blunt teeth of the leaves, and by the darker and closer bark. The flowers turn pink as they fade. The next Plum-tree in the collection to flower is *Prunus salicina* which is the most important Plum-tree of eastern Asia, and is best known perhaps as the origin of the so-called Japanese Plum now largely cultivated in the United States. The Arboretum plants were raised from seeds collected by Wilson in western China and their flowers will be opening during the next week. The flowers of *Prunus nigra* and *Prunus salicina* will soon be followed by those of *Prunus americana*, of the eastern United States, of the blue-fruited *P. alleghaniensis*, a native of southern Connecticut and western Pennsylvania, and a species of considerable ornamental value, of *P. Watsonii*, the Sand Plum of Kansas and Oklahoma, of *P. Munsoniana* of the Kansas and Texas region, and of *P. hortulana*, a native of the region from southern Illinois to southern Missouri and Oklahoma. This is perhaps the handsomest of the American Plum-trees, and with the exception of *P. maritima* of the New England coast, the last to flower. In cultivation it is a round-topped tree with wide-spreading branches. The flowers are small, only half an inch in diameter, and open before the leaves which are long-pointed and lustrous. The globose fruit is scarlet, very lustrous and perhaps is more beautiful than that of any of the American species. The Plum-trees will be found at the entrance to the Shrub Collection from the Meadow Road, and there is a supplementary collection with many American species and varieties near the top of Peter's Hill.

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