one of their popular names, Service Berry. *Amelanchier canadensis*, which is the first species to bloom in the Arboretum, has been in flower for several days. It is a tree which occasionally grows to the height of sixty feet with a tall trunk eighteen inches in diameter. The leaves begin to unfold as the flowers open and are then covered with pale gray silky hairs, making the whole plant look white at this time of the year. This beautiful tree does not grow naturally nearer Boston than the western part of Massachusetts; it is common in western New York, and it is the common and often the only species in the southern states in which it grows to the Gulf coast. Owing to an old confusion in determination and names this fine tree, which was originally named by Linnaeus, has been rare in gardens, an entirely different plant having long appeared in books and gardens under the name of *Amelanchier canadensis*. This is also a fine tree, differing conspicuously from *A. canadensis* in the red color of the young leaves which are destitute or nearly destitute of any hairy covering. This tree is now called by botanists *A. laxvis*. It is one of the native trees of the Arboretum, and there are a number of specimens growing naturally on the bank above the Crabapples on the left-hand side of the Forest Hills Road which begin to flower a few days later than *A. canadensis*, and are easily recognized by the color of the young leaves. Another species which is a native plant in the Arboretum, *A. obovalis*, is a large shrub rather than a tree with young leaves like those of *A. canadensis* covered with white silky hairs. Large numbers of this shrub which has been planted along the drives and in other Arboretum shrubberies will still be in bloom when this Bulletin reaches its Boston readers making this week one of the pleasantest of the year to visit the Arboretum. Five or six other species of the eastern states are now well established in the Arboretum collection on the grass path which follows the left-hand side of the Meadow Road; they are small shrubs rarely more than five or six feet high, in some species spreading from the roots into clumps of considerable size. They are all delightful plants well suited for the decoration of small gardens or the margins of shrubberies. Generally, however, they are unknown to garden lovers.

Early flowering Pear-trees. The first Pear-tree to flower in the Arboretum this year, *Pyrus usuriensis*, was in bloom by the 25th of April. This tree is a native of Korea, north China and northern Japan, growing further north probably than any other Pear-tree, and sometimes forming forests of some extent. It is probably, too, the largest of all Pear-trees for Wilson photographed in 1918 a tree growing near Shinan in the Province of Nogen, Korea, which was sixty feet tall with a trunk fourteen feet in girth and a head seventy-five feet across. The fruit varies in size and shape, and, judged by American standards, has little or no value. It is believed, however, that the hardiness of this tree may make it valuable as stock on which to grow some of the European garden pears, and experiments with it as stock are being planned in Dakota. A Chinese form of this Pear-tree, var. *ovoidea*, is probably better worth growing for the decoration of parks and gardens. The flowers are larger and open in the Arboretum about ten days later; the fruit, which differs in shape from that of other Pear-trees, is broad at base and gradually narrowed at apex, and although not large is juicy

and of such good flavor that it has to be picked in the Arboretum when only half grown to prevent the breaking down of the branches by marauding visitors. Unlike those of other Pear-trees the leaves turn bright scarlet before falling. This is an old inhabitant of the Arboretum, and the large tree on the left of the Forest Hills Road near the entrance is still covered with flowers.

Pyrus Calleryana and its varieties raised from seeds collected by Wilson in western China have now for a week been covered with flowers. They are growing with other Chinese Pear-trees on the southern slope of Bussey Hill, and are narrow, shapely, pyramidal trees now about twenty feet high. The flowers are smaller than those of the other Chinese species, and the globose brown fruit is not much more than a third of an inch in diameter. To American pomologists *Pyrus Calleryana* is now of more interest than the other Pear-trees raised at the Arboretum from seeds collected by Wilson in China, for they believe that they have found in it a stock on which to graft garden pears more resistant to blight than any which has yet been found, and the seed produced in the Arboretum is in great demand by the Department of Agriculture of the United States and by nurserymen.

Pyrus serotina, another Chinese Pear-tree introduced by Wilson from western China, is also in flower. To students of cultivated plants this is a tree of particular interest for this native of the mountain forests of western China is now believed to be the origin of the brown or yellowish, round, hard and gritty Sand Pears which in many varieties the Japanese have cultivated from time immemorial and which must have been introduced into Japan probably by way of Korea. In the early days of western intercourse with Japan many varieties of the Sand Pear were brought to the United States and Europe, but except for the beauty of their flowers and fruits they have proved to be of little value, for the fruit is so hard and so full of grit that it is not even worth cooking. It was probably forms of the Sand Pear which produced the Leconte and Kieffer Pears from which much was at one time expected in this country, especially in the southern states, but which have proved so susceptible to blight that the cultivation of these trees has now been generally abandoned. The flowers of *Pyrus serotina* are larger and more beautiful than those of other Pear-trees, but there is little beauty in the small brown fruit; and the habit of the tree with its long spreading branches forming an open irregular head is not particularly attractive.

Prunus incisa has been as full of flowers as it has been every spring for the last six years, although many flower-buds have been killed on other Japanese Cherry-trees by the cold of the past winter. This Cherry is a native of Japan and is abundant on the eastern and southern slopes of Fuji-san and on the Hakone Mountains. It is a large shrub or under favorable conditions a small tree twenty-five or thirty feet high; the flowers appear before the deeply cut leaves in drooping clusters; their calyx is bright red; the petals are white or occasionally tinged with rose color, and the anthers are bright yellow. The petals fall early, but the calyx, which gradually grows brighter in color, remains for some time on the young fruit and is showy.

1922. "Early flowering Pear-trees." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 8(3), 11–12. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321190>.

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