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Asiatic Crabapples. The conspicuous plants in flower this week are some of the early flowering Chinese and Japanese Crabapples. The flowers of these trees make one of the principal spectacular displays of the year, and only the flowers of the Lilacs attract a larger number of visitors. Among these Crabapples are several small trees and shrubs which should find a place in every northern garden, for few plants which can be easily and successfully grown from Canada to the Potomac and from the Atlantic to the Pacific are more beautiful when covered in April or northward in May with their white or rose-colored flowers, or in autumn when their branches are loaded with brilliant red, scarlet or yellow fruits. These Crabapples grow best in cool, rich, deep, well-drained soil, and lime does not interfere with their successful development. Some of the wide-branching species lose their beauty of habit unless sufficient space is allowed for their free growth, and nearly all these Crabapples look better as isolated specimens than when crowded together in too compact groups. Crabapples, like many other plants of the Rose Family, are liable to be attacked by the San José scale which unless kept in check can seriously injure them. For many years much attention has been paid at the Arboretum to these plants, and a large and now almost complete collection of the species and recognized hybrids has been assembled. In the future it can be undoubtedly increased by the introduction of new hybrids for these plants hybridize freely, and from seeds gathered from species in a collection like the one in the Arboretum distinct new forms are certain to appear. The Asiatic Crabapples are arranged in two groups. The oldest of them is on the left hand side of Forest Hills Road and the other, which is

larger and more complete, at the eastern base of Peter's Hill. A few only of the more interesting can be mentioned in this Bulletin.

Malus baccata mandshurica is the earliest of these Crabapples to open its flower-buds in the Arboretum. A native of Manchuria, Korea and northern Japan, it is an eastern form of the better known *Malus baccata*, the Siberian Crabapple, which reached Europe more than a century ago and for a long time was one of only two Asiatic Crabapples known in western gardens. The Manchurian plant as it grows in the Arboretum is a tree twelve or fifteen feet tall and broad; the flowers, which are produced in profusion, are pure white, rather more than an inch across, and more fragrant than those of any other Asiatic Crabapple. The fruit is round, yellow or red, and not larger than a large pea. The Manchurian Crabapple, which is still rare in this country, should, for the fragrance of the flowers alone, find a place in all collections. This plant is in the Peter's Hill Group. Another form of *Malus baccata* (var. *Jackii*) is also growing in the Peter's Hill Group. This plant was brought from Korea by Professor Jack in 1905 and is distinguished by its much larger, dark scarlet fruit. The Arboretum plants of this Group are still small but flower and produce fruit freely and promise to be valuable additions to the collection. Another form of *M. baccata* (f. *gracilis*) raised from seeds collected by Purdom in northern China promises to be a handsome tree. It differs from the ordinary form of *M. baccata* in its gracefully pendent branches, in the narrower leaves hanging on slender petioles, and in the smaller flowers and fruits.

Malus robusta is one of the earliest of these plants to flower. This is believed to be a hybrid of *M. baccata* with *M. spectabilis*. In some of the earlier issues of these Bulletins it has been called *M. cerasifera*, a name now found to have been incorrectly applied to it. In good soil and with sufficient room for free development it will grow into a large shapely tree with a broad, round-topped, irregular head of spreading and often drooping branches. The flowers are fragrant and larger than those of the other Asiatic Crabapples with pure white or occasionally greenish petals. The globose dull red fruit varies greatly in size on different individuals but is rarely more than three-quarters of an inch in diameter. To this hybrid belong many of the trees cultivated for their fruit in cold countries under the general name of "Siberian Crabs;" of these trees the well known "Red Siberian" is a typical representative. A new form of *M. robusta* (f. *persicifolia*) raised from seeds collected by Purdom in northern China, distinct in its narrow peach-like leaves, is now established in the Arboretum and may when better known prove to be worth general cultivation.

Malus micromalus, which is also an early-flowering plant, is one of the least known of the Crabapples. It was first sent to Europe from Japan by Von Siebold in 1853 under the name of "Kaido," a name which in Japan belongs to *Malus Halliana*. In Japan this tree is rare and known only in gardens, and by Japanese botanists is believed to have been introduced into their country from China and to be a hybrid possibly of *M. baccata* with *M. spectabilis*. The habit of this plant is

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