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JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

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Prunus. In the Arboretum are now placed in this genus the Peaches, Apricots, Almonds, Cherries and Plums. As now constituted this genus contains some of the important fruit trees of temperate regions, a few valuable timber trees, and a large number of plants cultivated for the beauty of their flowers or fruits, or for the evergreen leaves of some of the species. To few genera do northern gardens owe so great and varied beauty and in this Arboretum many of its species are established. The earliest of them to bloom in the Arboretum is a Peach, *Prunus Davidiana*, which opened its flowers on the 19th of April and shed its petals ten days later. This is the wild Peach-tree of northern China and a narrow tree with a tall slender stem and upright branches. The flowers are pink, and there is also in the Arboretum a white-flowered form. The small hard, green fruit is not seen here every year as the flowers are usually destroyed by spring frosts. This tree has little to recommend it as a garden plant, especially in regions where spring frosts are common, but for students of the geography of plants it is of much interest. It has been used with much success by pomologists as stock for varieties of the garden Peach.

Apricots began to flower this year as early as the 25th of April and are still covered with white flowers. The earliest this year is a form of *Prunus Armenaica* which for several years has been growing in the Arboretum where it has been called "The Mikado." Judging by the name it is possible that this plant came originally from Japan, where the Apricot, originally a native of northern China, has long been cultivated in a number of varieties. "The Mikado" is a strong growing,

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