hardy tree with a comparatively narrow head of erect branches. Near it in the Plum collection is also blooming the Apricot from eastern Siberia and Manchuria, *Prunus sibirica*, another hardy and handsome tree which appears to be little known in this country. Another species, *Prunus mandshurica*, has fewer flowers this spring. In its native country this is a low tree with a trunk sometimes three feet in diameter and wide-spreading branches. As it grows in the Arboretum this is the handsomest of the Apricots in habit and foliage. Another of these trees, *Prunus dasycarpa*, the so-called "Black Apricot" from the dark color of its slightly downy fruit blooms a little later and is now only opening its flowers. This tree, which has been cultivated for a long time in European gardens, is now believed to be a hybrid between the Apricot and the European Garden Plum. Little known in the United States, when in good flower it is one of the most beautiful objects in the Arboretum. The small hard fruit has been rarely seen here.

Cherries are placed by many authors in the genera *Cerasus*, *Lauro-cerasus* and *Padus*, here considered sections of the genus *Prunus*. This is the most numerous in species and the most widely distributed of all the groups of the genus *Prunus*, and among the Cherries are some of the most beautiful when in flower of the trees and shrubs which can be grown in northern gardens. The earliest to bloom this year has been

Prunus tomentosa, an early introduction by the Arboretum from northern China, has proved to be one of the handsomest of the early spring flowering shrubs in the neighborhood of Boston. It is a vigorous plant five or six feet high and when well grown often broader than tall. The flowers open from pink buds as the leaves unfold and their bright red stalk and calyx make a handsome contrast with the white petals often marked with rose. The small lustrous scarlet juicy fruit which ripens in June has an excellent flavor and is attracting the attention of pomologists living in regions of extreme winter cold like the Dakotas and Manitoba where this inhabitant of the mountain slopes in the neighborhood of Peking has proven perfectly hardy. A variety (var. *endotricha*) brought from western China by Wilson flowers a few days later. This variety is chiefly distinguished from the north China plant by the absence of the hairs on the fruit.

Prunus subhirtella. This, the Spring Cherry of the Japanese, is the most delightful, travellers say, of the Japanese Cherries and as usual has been covered with flowers which opened on the 28th of April before the leaves began to unfold. Pink when they open the petals become nearly white before they fall. *Prunus subhirtella* is not known as a wild plant, and not uncommon in the gardens of western Japan is not often seen in those of Tokio. This is perhaps the reason why it has been less often sent to this country. The fact, too, that it does not reproduce itself from seeds is another reason why the "Spring Cherry" is still so rarely seen in the United States and Europe. The two large plants on the right hand side of the Forest Hills Road have been growing in the Arboretum for twenty-nine years, and when they are in flower no other plant in the collection, Cherry, Plum, Crabapple, Lilac,

Azalea or Rhododendron, equals them in beauty. The flowers, too, last longer in good condition than those of the other Japanese Cherry-trees. Three varieties of *Prunus subhirtella* are cultivated in the Arboretum where they begin to flower a few days later than the type. One of these, the var. *ascendens*, is a tall tree not uncommon in the woods of central Japan. It is this tree which is usually produced from the seeds of *Prunus subhirtella*, and the seedlings furnish the best stock on which to graft that plant. Still extremely rare in gardens, this variety *ascendens* shows little promise of becoming a valuable garden plant. Much better known is the variety *pendula*. This is the Japanese Weeping Cherry which has been cultivated for fifty years in this country and is now common in the neighborhood of Boston and New York. The trees are very beautiful when they are covered with their small pure pink flowers, but these last only for two or three days. Seeds of the tree with pendulous branches occasionally produce seedlings of similar habit, but most of these seedlings are the var. *ascendens* which is the best stock for the var. *pendula*. Another variety of *Prunus subhirtella* (var. *autumnalis*) has been growing in the Arboretum for only a few years but is a plant of considerable promise especially as it flowers in both spring and autumn. This is a shrub or in Japan occasionally a small tree, with semi-double pink and white flowers which open in spring a day or two later than those of the variety *pendula*. The autumn flowers are rather smaller and less abundant than those of the spring crop, but opening in October never fail to create interest and curiosity.

Prunus incisa is again covered with flowers which open at the same time as that of *Prunus subhirtella*. The pure white petals only last for a few days but the calyx which gradually turns red remains on the fruit for two or three weeks and is distinctly conspicuous. The name *incisa* of this Cherry is descriptive of the deep lobes of the large handsome leaves. Although a common plant in Japan on the Hakone Mountains and the slopes of Fuji-san this Cherry still remains extremely rare in American and European gardens. The oldest plant in the Arboretum now established near *Prunus subhirtella* on the right hand side of the Forest Hills Road was obtained in 1912 from a German nursery.

The Sargent Cherry, as the northern form of *Prunus serrulata* (var. *sachalinensis*) is often called, is the handsomest of all Cherry-trees of large size, as *Prunus subhirtella* is the handsomest of the species which are shrubs rather than trees. The rose colored or pink flowers which began to open this year on the 27th of April are short lived but their abundance, the hardiness of the tree which has not yet been attacked here by disease, the beauty of the large dark green leaves, brilliantly colored in the autumn, and the lustrous bark make this the handsomest of all Cherry-trees of large size. In northern Japan it was once a common inhabitant of the forest growing sometimes to a height of eighty feet with a tall massive trunk. Such trees are sought for the valuable lumber they produce and are fast disappearing. It was first raised in the Arboretum in 1891 from seeds presented by Dr. William Sturgis Bigelow, of Boston, and this tree, the largest

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