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

specimen standing in the United States, is growing on the right of the Forest Hills Road below the plants of *Prunus subhirtella*. A taller and narrower plant, raised from seeds collected by Professor Sargent in Japan in 1892, is standing by the Forest Hills Road, near its junction with the Meadow Road. Some of the handsomest and hardiest of the double-flowered Cherry-trees cultivated by the Japanese like *albo-rosea*, and *fugenzo*, better known in nurseries as "James H. Veitch," are forms of the Sargent Cherry which supplies the best stock on which the double-flowered forms can be worked.

Prunus yedoensis is the Cherry-tree which has been planted in great numbers in Tokio where it makes a city holiday when it is in flower. It is a wide-branched tree sometimes fifty feet high with pure white flowers. It is hardy in the Arboretum but the flower-buds are often killed by cold and it has usually flowered more abundantly in the Peter's Hill nursery than near the Forest Hills gate where the oldest specimen in the collection has been growing for many years.

Chinese Cherry-trees. Some of the species discovered by Wilson in western China and raised from seeds collected by him have been in flower during the past week. Of interest chiefly to botanists none of these trees are of much promise for the decoration of parks and gardens. The most interesting perhaps is the variety *media* of *Prunus pilosiuscula* which is distinct in the drooping habit of the small white or pink long-stamened flowers.

Plums. In the United States are found more species of the Plum group of the genus *Prunus* than in all the rest of the world. They grow as trees and as small and large shrubs, and are found from Canada to Texas and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but are most abundant in species and individually in the Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas region. In all eastern Asia there is but one species and in Europe two or three. The earliest species to bloom and now in full flower, *Prunus nigra*, the so-called Canada Plum, is a native of the northern border of the United States from New Brunswick westward to North Dakota. From *Prunus americana* with which it is sometimes compared it is well distinguished by the short incurved, not straight, pointed teeth, by the glands on the leaf stalks, and the larger flowers with petals which turn rose color in fading. The Chinese *Prunus salicifolia* is also in flower. It is from this tree that the so-called Japanese Plums now largely grown in this country have been developed.

Almonds. It has been possible to grow in the Arboretum only the species from north China, *Prunus triloba*. It is a tall shrub of open, irregular habit and its only beauty is in its flowers which in color are of the purest pink; no other plant in the Arboretum produces flowers more delicately beautiful in color. This plant has been growing here since 1883 when it was raised from seeds sent by Dr. Bretschneider from Peking. The double-flowered form (var. *plena*) which was found by Fortune in a Chinese garden many years ago is a better known and often a popular garden plant.

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