Malus floribunda, by many persons considered the most beautiful of Crabapples, was introduced into Holland by Von Siebold in 1853 from Nagasaki, Japan. The place where it grows wild still remains unknown, although possibly it is one of the high mountains of Kyushu. Japanese botanists and nurserymen confuse it with the Parkman Crab, and Wilson has not seen it in Japanese gardens. It is a broad, round-topped, treelike shrub sometimes twenty-five feet tall with stout branches and slender arching and pendant branchlets. The clustered flowers are white when fully expanded, rose-red in the bud, and as they open in succession the two colors make a beautiful contrast. The fruit is about the size of a pea yellowish or yellowish brown; from some plants it falls in the early autumn, on others it remains on the branches during the winter or until devoured by birds who are particularly fond of it. Several plants with persistent fruit are growing close to the Administration Building in the Arboretum, and during the winter are filled with numerous species of birds, including pheasants who are fond of these Crabapples. A hybrid between *M. floribunda* and perhaps *M. robusta* appeared in the Arboretum in 1883 among a lot of seedlings of *M. floribunda* and has been named *M. Arnoldiana*. It has the habit and abundant flowers of *M. floribunda*, but the flowers and fruit are nearly twice as large. It is a handsomer plant than *M. floribunda* and one of the most beautiful of the Crabapples in the Arboretum.

Malus Sieboldii is another of the species introduced in 1853 from the gardens of Japan into Europe by Von Siebold. It is a low, dense shrub of spreading habit with the leaves on vigorous branchlets three-lobed, small flowers white tinged with rose in color, and small yellow fruits. Von Siebold's Crab is really a dwarf form of a species common on the Korean Island of Quelpaert, and on the mountains of central Japan and Hokkaido, to which the name var. *arborescens* has been given. This is a tree often thirty feet or more tall, with ascending, wide-spreading branches, twiggy branchlets and minute fruit yellow on some and red on other individuals. Although the flowers are small, they are produced in immense quantities, and this species has the advantage of flowering later than the other Asiatic Crabapples.

Malus Sargentii from salt marshes in the neighborhood of Muroran in northern Japan, where it was discovered by Professor Sargent in 1892, has qualities which give it a field of usefulness peculiarly its own. This species is a dwarf with rigid and spreading branches, the lower branches flat on the ground; it is well suited for covering slopes and banks. The flowers are in umbel-like clusters, saucer-shaped, round and of the purest white, and are followed by masses of wine-colored fruit which is covered by a slight bloom and unless eaten by birds remains on the plants well into the spring.

Malus prunifolia var. **rinki** is the wild parent discovered by Wilson in western China of the race of apples long cultivated in the Orient, and since it fruits freely in the hot moist valleys of central China as well as in the cold regions of northern Korea it may prove of value to pomologists in breeding new races of hardy Apple-trees.

1923. "Malus Sieboldii." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 9(4), 15–15. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321329>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/239239>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321329>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/321329>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

Rights Holder: Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.