ARNOLD ARBORETUM
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Crabapples form one of the largest and most beautiful of the Arboretum groups of trees and during the last forty years a great deal of attention has been paid to it here; but the Arboretum contains many handsome but still very imperfectly known plants. It has failed to obtain a plant of the type of *Malus pumila*, a native of eastern Europe and western Asia, although it has a collection of numerous forms or hybrids of this plant. The species is the most valuable tree in the world as it is the origin of the orchard apples now cultivated in all the temperate parts of the world and produces high class fruit over a larger area than any other tree, and the wild type of such a tree, the origin of innumerable varieties of the apples of commerce, should certainly find a place in every Arboretum worthy of the name. This type does not appear to be in any European garden and no one seems to know exactly where it grows. To find it an expedition will have to be made especially for the purpose to some remote region of eastern Turkestan. It has not been possible, too, to obtain yet a plant of the wild form of *Malus sylvestris*, the species of western Europe which has also been more or less used in the development of the orchard apple and is greatly needed here.

Hybrid Crabapples. The handsomest Crabapples in the collection are hybrids, at least they are nowhere known as wild plants and do not reproduce themselves from seeds, and can only be propagated by buds or grafts. The first of these supposed hybrids to reach Europe was *Malus spectabilis* which was sent from Canton to England in 1780. It appears to have been widely cultivated in Chinese gardens and flourishes in those of Peking. It was growing in the Elgin Botanic Garden

near the city of New York in 1811 and has been in this Arboretum since 1889. Early in the last century when it was the only Asiatic Crabapple cultivated in this country it was often found here, but fifty or sixty years ago was largely replaced by more recent introductions. *Malus spectabilis* is one of the largest of the Asiatic Crabapples in the collection, growing here to the height of from twenty-five to thirty feet and forming a wide vase-shaped crown of numerous spreading and ascending branchlets. The flowers are pale pink, single or semi-double, and very fragrant. The abundant fruit is pale yellow, nearly globose, and an inch in diameter. One of its parents is undoubtedly *Malusrinki*, the edible Chinese apple. It is hard to form even a guess at its other parent. *Malus micromalus*, which is distinct in its pyramidal habit and early flowers, is possibly a hybrid of *M. spectabilis*. This plant is cultivated in Japan under the name of "kaido" under which it has been growing in the Arboretum since 1888 when plants were first obtained from the Jardin des Plantes in Paris. In habit it is one of the most distinct of all Crabapples and well worthy of a place in every collection of these plants. It is growing both along the Forest Hills Road and in the group at the base of Peter's Hill, but the petals fell nearly a week ago. *Malus Scheideckeri* is also probably a hybrid of *M. spectabilis*, and possibly of *M. micromalus*. It originated in Germany several years ago, and has been in this Arboretum since 1889. It is a small pyramidal tree with small flowers produced in great abundance.

Malus floribunda is now perhaps the most popular in this country of these supposed hybrids. It has generally been supposed to be a Japanese plant but it is not yet known there as a wild tree. It was found by Von Siebold in 1853 in a garden in Nagasaki and sent by him to Europe. Trees of this Crabapple imported from England in 1874 were planted in exceptionally deep and rich soil in the garden at Holm Lea, Brookline, and have become the largest and handsomest Crabapples in the United States, never failing to flower and produce great crops of fruit every year. The oldest plants in this Arboretum were raised from buds taken in 1876 from the plant in Francis Parkman's garden in Jamaica Plain. Japanese botanists confounded *Malus floribunda* with the Parkman Crab, *Malus Halleana*, probably another hybrid of a pyramidal growth and red flowers, which Wilson did not find in Japanese gardens. *M. floribunda* is a broad, round-topped, tree-like shrub sometimes twenty-five feet tall, with stout branches and slender, arching and pendant branchlets. The clusters of flowers are white when fully expanded and rose-red in the bud, and as they open in succession the two colors make a handsome contrast. The fruit is about the size of a pea, yellowish or yellowish brown on some plants and falls in early autumn, but on several seedlings raised at the Arboretum growing near the Administration Building the fruit remains on the branches until spring and supplies the birds with an abundant supply of food. These trees are evidently hybrids. Another hybrid possibly with *M. robusta* appeared here with a lot of seedlings of *M. floribunda* in 1883 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*, distinguished by its long

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