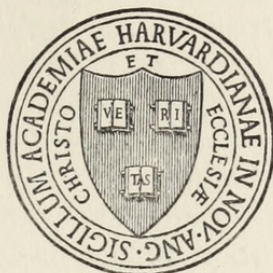


ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



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***Prunus serrulata sachalinensis*.** Although the flowers of this tree, often called the Sargent Cherry, will have faded when this number of the Bulletin reaches its readers; it is well to call attention to it as when in flower it is the handsomest of the large trees yet introduced into the United States and Europe by the Arboretum. It was first raised here from seeds sent from Japan in 1890 by Dr. J. Sturgis Bigelow of Boston, and again in 1892 from seeds gathered in Japan by Professor Sargent. The trees raised from these seeds have flowered now for several years but never so beautifully as this year. As they produce fruit abundantly which ripens in June there is no reason why this splendid tree should not become common in the northern states. Why will not some American city or town make itself famous by planting a long avenue of these trees which, when they have become, like the largest trees in the Arboretum, forty feet high or more and are in bloom will make the town which has planted them famous and attract visitors from the remotest parts of the country.

This the Mountain Cherry of northern Japan (*Yama Jakura*) is the parent of many of the finest Japanese double-flowered Cherry-trees which when well grown are the most beautiful of all flowering trees. They are rarely seen, however, in good condition of any size either in the United States or Europe because the attempt has been made to graft them on European Cherries which now it has been clearly shown are not suited for the purpose. The double-flowered Cherries imported from Japan are grafted on the white-flowered form of *Prunus Lannesiana* which although not very hardy has flowered better this year than ever before in the Arboretum. It is also the parent of several

of the finest double-flowered Cherry-trees. The double-flowered forms of this and of *Prunus serrulata* do not succeed as they come from Japan as they are all grafted on *Prunus Lannesiana* and the bark of that species is thin and is apt to split. Double-flowered trees imported from Japan which have been grafted or budded at the ground level often get on to their own roots and are hardy and permanent but they are shrubs rather than trees. It is evident, in spite of the protest of American and European nurserymen, that all the double-flowered Japanese Cherries must be grafted on the variety *sachalinensis* of *P. serrulata* if large and healthy trees are wanted, and the best plants will be obtained by inserting the grafts at the top of stems six or eight feet high that they may have a vigorous, rough-barked trunk. This means a slow and expensive operation before the trees are ready for sale, and it is probably safe to say that large and healthy double-flowered Japanese Cherry-trees will not soon be common in this country. Two other varieties of *Prunus serrulata*, var. *pubescens* and var. *spontanea*, are well established in the Arboretum and although still small have flowered well this spring. To see how the lovely Spring Cherry of Japan (*P. subhirtella*) can be propagated nurserymen are invited to examine the two plants by the Prince Street entrance to the Superintendent's house at the corner of Centre Street. These were grafted on seedlings of the type plant on January 19, 1907; they were planted in the nursery in the spring of the same year and placed in their present position in the spring of 1919. They show that there is no difficulty in raising good specimens of this plant if nurserymen are willing to give a little attention to them.

Prunus yedoensis has not before flowered as well in the Arboretum as this spring. There is a plant of this species on the right hand side of the Forest Hills entrance, another on the southern slope of Bussey Hill, and a third in the nursery on the top of Peter's Hill. This is the Cherry so generally planted in the parks, cemeteries and streets of Tokyo, and its flowering heralds an annual national holiday decreed by the Emperor. It was believed that over two hundred and fifty thousand trees were growing in the precincts of Tokyo before the destruction of a large part of the city a few years ago by fire and earthquake. The oldest authentically known trees were in the Imperial Botanic Garden at Koishikawa and were planted less than fifty years ago. This Cherry is a quick-growing and apparently short-lived tree with wide-spreading and slightly drooping branches forming a wide flattened head. The bark is pale gray and smooth, becoming darker and somewhat rough on old trunks. The slightly fragrant flowers are produced in clusters of two or several, usually before the leaves but occasionally at the same time, and vary in color from white to pale pink. It is this tree which was presented by the Government of Japan to our Government and is the principal Japanese tree which has been planted in the streets of Washington. This Cherry produces seeds abundantly now in the Arboretum and in Washington, and it ought to be much more generally planted a little further south than Massachusetts where the flower-buds are too often injured by severe winters. It grows perfectly well in New York, and thousands of trees might well find a place in Central Park, where so many of the original plants have disappeared, and in all the regions south of Washington.



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