

has the advantage of flowering later than the other Asiatic Crabapples. *M. atrosanguinea* is believed to be a hybrid of *M. Sieboldii* and the Parkman Crab. It is a low broad-branched tree with dull red showy flowers, and is now often seen in American gardens. *Malus sublobata*, which is believed to be a hybrid between *M. prunifolia* *rinki* and *M. Sieboldii*, is also in flower. The plants in the Arboretum are already thirty feet high and, unlike other Crabapples, form a tall trunk covered with pale bark and a narrow head. The large white flowers are chiefly produced on upper branches and are followed by bright clear yellow fruits about three-quarters of an inch in diameter.

American Plum-trees. North America is the real home of Plum-trees as it is of Hawthorns. They range across the continent from the valley of the St. Lawrence nearly to the Rio Grande. They are most abundant in eastern and southern Kansas, eastern Oklahoma, southern Arkansas, and Texas from the valley of the Red River to the Edwards Plateau. In this region Plum-trees are represented by more species than are found in all the world outside of North America. Some of the trees are of considerable size and others are large or small shrubs which frequently spread in sandy soil by means of shoots. From the fruit of nearly all the American Plums good jellies and preserves can be made, and selected seedling forms of several of the species have received the attention of Pomologists and are now cultivated as fruit trees in parts of the world where the varieties of the old world *Prunus domestica* cannot be successfully grown. The handsomest of the American Plums, *Prunus hortulana*, the most beautiful of all Plum-trees, is common from southeastern Illinois to eastern Kansas and Oklahoma. It is a tree from twenty to thirty feet high with a clean trunk and wide-spreading branches, which form a round-topped shapely head. The leaves are unusually large for a Plum-tree, and smooth and lustrous on the upper surface. The fruit is scarlet, lustrous, and from three-quarters of an inch to an inch in diameter. A well-fruited tree of *Prunus hortulana* is more beautiful in October than any other small tree which can be grown in the northern states.

Early Flowering Currants. The two yellow-flowered American Currants are perhaps the most attractive of these plants. The better known of them, the so-called Missouri Currant (*Ribes odoratum*) is found in many old gardens and grows naturally from South Dakota to Texas. *Ribes aureum*, a smaller plant from the northwest and the Rocky Mountain region, with slender branches, smaller flowers and black or orange-colored fruit, appears to be extremely rare in cultivation. These two plants are growing in the Shrub Collection with another of the Rocky Mountain Currants (*R. cereum*) with small white flowers, and as usual is an attractive plant at this season.

Early Flowering Lilacs. Several hybrids of *Syringa affinis* var. *Giraldii* and the common Lilac are already in bloom. It is believed that Sunday, May 17, will be the best day for the Lilacs.



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