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Asiatic Magnolias. With their large flowers opening before the leaves appear these are the most magnificent of early flowering shrubs and trees. The first of the group to expand its blossoms is the Star Magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*), a plant which came to America from Japan in 1862 but whose origin in a wild state is still undetermined. It is a much-branched bush or small tree producing in great quantity snow-white star-shape flowers the petals of which are loose and reflexed. The blossoms are delightfully fragrant filling the air with pleasant aromatic odor. With the exception of the Kobushi (*M. kobus*) it is the hardiest of the Magnolias but its blossoms opening early are apt to suffer from frost. This year the erratic weather in early April scorched a few blossoms but on the whole the plants outside the Administration Building have never been finer. Nearby three shapely bushes of the pink form (*rosea*) are now in full bloom. These are quite a good pink in the bud but when expanded the flowers are almost white. The most northern of the Asiatic Magnolias and the hardiest is *M. kobus* native of Japan and southern Korea. This is a large tree growing from 60 to 70 ft. tall with a broad pyramidal crown. The flowers are pure white, loose petalled, fragrant and abundantly produced. The white and purple Yulans have been favorites in Chinese gardens from the 7th century of the Christian Era and were among the earliest plants brought from the Orient into western gardens. The White Yulan (*M. denudata* more widely known as *M. conspicua*), is perfectly hardy in the Arboretum. It is a tree of moderate size with large milk-white chalice aplenty. The Purple Yulan (*M. liliflora* or *M. purpurea* as it is commonly called) is much less hardy and so far we have failed to establish it in the Arboretum. More popular in American gardens than either of the Yulans is *Magnolia Soulangeana*, a hybrid between the two which originated in France in 1820. There are now many forms of the handsome Magnolia varying in color from nearly white through varying shades of pink to rich wine-red or crimson-purple. In front of the Administration Building several named varieties of this Magnolia are now opening abundant blossom. The White Yulan and the Soulange Magnolia

do extraordinarily well in town gardens and city parks, where they are extremely valuable on account of the earliness of their flowering. In cities, like Hartford, Connecticut, and Rochester, New York, many magnificent specimens of these Magnolias may be seen. When one considers that the natural home of Magnolias is moist woods it is strange that they can withstand the vitiated atmosphere and arid conditions of cities. The wondrous beauty of these Asiatic Magnolias has caused them to be widely planted in America. The stock was drawn from Europe, principally Belgium and Holland, but since plant quarantine has come into effect this source of supply has been cut off and these Magnolias are scarcely obtainable at any price. It is to be hoped that American nurserymen will seriously set about the task of raising them in quantity. They may be propagated readily by layering and also by grafting. The strong growing *Magnolia kobus*, which ripens its seeds freely in this climate, would make an excellent stock; another that can be used is the Cucumber-tree (*Magnolia acuminata*) native of eastern North America.

The Chinese Almond. One of the most delightful of Spring flowering shrubs is the Chinese Almond (*Prunus triloba*) of which three forms are growing just within the Forest Hills Gate. The oldest and best known has very double, pink, rose-like flowers, each about an inch across, borne freely along the whole length of the past season's shoot. More beautiful with deep pink, semi-double flowers with conspicuous yellow-anthered stamens is the form *multiplex*, which was introduced into the Arboretum from near Pekin by Purdom in 1909. The plants were raised from seed and one of the originals may be seen a picture of loveliness at this moment among the Chinese shrubs on top of Bussey Hill. The simple-flowered form (*simplex*) has been growing here since 1883 when it was raised from seeds sent from Pekin by Dr. E. Bretschneider. The third and fourth generation of the original plants may be seen clothed with pure pink blossoms on the edge of the Shrub Garden by a small pond. The Chinese Almond is, as a rule, a short-lived plant but by the Parkman monument on the edge of Jamaica Pond there is growing a magnificent specimen in perfect health and 60 feet round. The double flowered forms benefit from hard pruning after the flowers have fallen. We have seen them grown to advantage espalier fashion against walls. After flowering the shoots are cut hard back to the old wood, new growth is quickly formed and this flowers abundantly the following year. This system may be recommended to those who garden in the colder parts of New England and in the St. Lawrence Valley.

***Prunus tomentosa*.** This broad, rounded Oriental shrub with multitude of thin, whip-like stems is now opening its white tinged with pink blossoms just within the Forest Hills Gate. It is a very hardy plant and has recently come into favor in the middle and western states for its fruit, which is scarlet, cherry-like and of pleasant sub-acid flavor. Like its relative it is not a long-lived plant but may be easily propagated by seeds. Wide-spread in the Orient it is found in quantity throughout southern Korea, Manchuria, northern and western China. A number of forms have been distinguished by



The favorite *Magnolia Soulangiana*.



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