

# ARNOLD ARBORETUM

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**The Arboretum** is singularly lovely at the present time, a condition, it is true, shared by the countryside at large but peculiarly enhanced here by the presence of exotic trees and shrubs in rich variety. Enter its approaches where you will, beauty reigns on all sides. By the Jamaica Plain Gate the Asiatic Magnolias are squandering their petals around the Administration Building and large trees of *Malus floribunda* are wreathed in pink-tinted blossoms. Along Meadow Road the ruddy brown young foliage of *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, the Katsura of the Japanese, is conspicuous and here and there the last of the Shadblows, *Amelanchier asiatica*, *A. sanguinea* and *A. amabilis*, enliven the scene. Within the Forest Hills Gate, Pears and Crabapples on the left are in full blossom and facing them are various double-flowered Japanese Cherries aglow with pink clusters. Beyond, the Forsythias still make a goodly show and so do the American Plums. In the Shrub Garden many plants are putting forth their blossoms, but the Oriental Quinces still dominate the scene. If entry be made through the Centre Street Gate the rapidly swelling buds on the Hickories attract attention on the right, and beyond the Oaks are pushing forth gray, yellow-green and pink-tinted leaves. The native *Crataegus arnoldiana* and other early-flowering Hawthorns are draped in white. Just around the corner on the left the blossoms of *Viburnum Carlesii* fill the air with the fragrant odor of cloves. Close by, its less dense habited sister, *V. bitchiuense*, is laden with pinkish flowers.

**Bussey Hill**, where the new and rarer plants from the Orient are quartered, is perhaps the most interesting place in the Arboretum at the moment. The double-flowered Japanese Cherries are opening their blossoms and the Azalea bushes are ready to explode into sheets of pink, yellow, salmon and flaming red. On *Berberis Dielsiana* hang tassels of yellow flowers, and Wilson's Pearl Bush, with its upright racemes of large white flowers, compels attention. From the Overlook itself looking toward the south, the Hemlock Grove looms majestic; westward across the Oaks, over and beyond the steely gray, misty, cloud-like clump of American Beech, Spruce, Fir, and Pine stand conspicuous. Everywhere wholesome scented air, opening bud, blossom, and



green grass—everything fresh and clean—the Arboretum in spring is rich in charm and beauty.

**Double-flowered Cherries.** On the grassy knoll of Bussey Hill the collection of double-flowered Japanese Cherries is opening its blossoms. Probably no group of small trees attract the public more than these Cherries with their rose-like flowers. With no group in the past have garden-lovers been less successful. In Bulletins of previous years it has been frequently pointed out that the seat of the trouble is the understock that has been used in grafting or budding these plants. It has been stated that the proper understock to use is the common Mountain Cherry of the Orient, particularly the Japanese form of this tree known as the Sargent Cherry (*Prunus serrulata sachalinensis*). This is the northern type and grows to a greater size than any other and, moreover, is the hardiest. Itself the parent of the best pink-flowered double Japanese Cherries, if used as a stock our gardens would enjoy a hardy, long-lived race which lovers of these plants crave. Unfortunately the Mazzard, Morello, Mahaleb and even the Common Plum are used by nurserymen as understocks for these Japanese Cherries. The result is that although sixty-five years have elapsed since the first double-flowered Japanese Cherries came to this country, even moderately good specimens are rarely to be seen. In past years the Arboretum has offered limited quantities of seeds of the Sargent Cherry to those who will apply them for the express purpose of raising understocks on which to work Japanese double-flowered Cherries. The offer is still open and these Bulletins will continue to urge this work for the benefit of American gardens.

**Origin.** The double-flowered Japanese Cherries are derived principally from two species. *Prunus serrulata* and its varieties, widespread in the Orient, is one; the other is *Prunus Lannesiana*, which is native of the warmer parts of Japan and whose derivatives are not quite hardy in the Arboretum. The greenish yellow Ukon and its quaint, green-striped sister, Grandiflora, both more curious than beautiful, are descended from this tender species. There are many others, some with large single or double white, others pale pink or white tinted pink, blossoms, all of which are fragrant. From Long Island south the descendants of this species are worth-while plants. For New England, the northern parts especially, it is the double-flowered forms of *P. serrulata sachalinensis* that are most suitable. The Japanese recognize a great many forms of this Cherry but for all practical purposes they may be reduced to a half dozen. The flushed pink changing to white Albo-rosea and its pink sister Fugenzo are two of the very best. Similar to Fugenzo is Kirin and the late-flowering handsome Kanzan. The pale pink Shogetsu and the pure pink Horinji complete our list. These and others may be seen laden with opening blossoms on Bussey Hill.

**Exochorda Giraldii Wilsonii.** In the Shrub Garden and on Bussey Hill large plants of this vigorous growing Pearl Bush are now rapidly opening their flowers. These are pure white, each one and a half inches across, and borne on erect six- to eight-inch long racemes. It is native of central China and has been growing in the Arboretum since 1907,



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