American Crabapples. As the blossoms of the last of the Asiatic Crabapples fall those of the American species begin to expand and fill the air with fragrance. There are some eight species and many varieties found from the neighborhood of the Atlantic seaboard west to Texas, Missouri and Minnesota. From Alaska to California a ninth species (M. fusca) is indigenous but this differs greatly in character and appearance from its eastern relatives. The American Crabapples are small trees with intricately placed branches and often spiny branchlets. They have lax corymbs of deep pink, fading to almost white, flowers, which appear after the leaves unfold, and emit an odor of violets. The fruit is flattened-round, greenish and usually clammy viscid. They are admirable trees for planting on the edge of woods, in glades or dells, and deserve to be more widely appreciated.

Malus ioensis. First of the American Crabapples to open its blossoms is the Iowa Crabapple (M. ioensis), the most western member of its group, found widely dispersed from Minnesota southward to Texas. It is a much-branched, round-topped tree, often 30 feet tall, with oblong-ovate leaves, woolly on the underside when young. The double-flowered form (plena), known as Bechtel's Crab, bears in great abundance pink, fragrant, rose-like blossoms, and is a firm favorite in gardens. Many people have been greatly disappointed by the sudden decease of this tree. In some instances Pear-blight has been the cause but generally it is due to the unsuitable understock used. It is the common practice to graft or bud Bechtel's Crab on the Common Apple, an understock manifestly unsuited to the purpose. To obtain healthy, free-growing, long-lived trees, Bechtel's Crab should be worked on seedlings of its parent species or on those of M. coronaria. Since these species fruit freely and are widespread there is no difficulty in obtaining seeds for the purpose. The reason that this has not been done in the past is probably due to the fact that custom has decreed the Common Apple understock for all sorts and conditions of the Crabapple family. So far as the American members are concerned when grafting or budding is necessary a native stock is demanded.