

ARNOLD ARBORETUM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

BULLETIN

OF

POPULAR INFORMATION

SERIES 3. VOL. II

APRIL 21, 1928

NO. 2

Early Flowers. In front of the Administration Building *Magnolia stellata* is rapidly opening its pure white flowers and we hope that Jack Frost will this year spare the blossoms. The Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) is still aglow, and the Katsura (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*) is on some trees pushing forth its crimson-anthered stamens, on others its scarlet pistils. The Yellow root (*Xanthorrhiza apuifolia*) alongside the roads is opening its lurid purple, panicked flowers, which are outwardly as much unlike a Buttercup or Clematis, to which family it belongs, as those of any plant seemingly could be. The petals have fallen from David's Peach (*Prunus Davidiana*); the Leatherwood (*Dirca palustris*) and the Mezereum (*Daphne Mezereum*) are passing out of blossom but the Spicebush (*Benzoin aestivale*) is rapidly opening its yellow clustered flowers. In the Shrub Garden the first of the Honeysuckles to bloom (*Lonicera praeflorens*) has shed its pinkish flowers but the bare stems of another, the white-flowered *L. Standishii*, are studded with gaping flowers.

Rhododendron dauricum and its variety *mucronulatum* are in full blossom on Bussey Hill—the variety in a bold clump beneath the old White Pines and the species itself a little distance beyond. Each year these are the first of the Rhododendron clan to open their blossoms in the Arboretum. The typical *R. dauricum* is the more precocious of the two. Often it makes a goodly showing in late autumn and again in very early spring, but, unfortunately, its flowers are apt to be cut by frost. It is a boreal plant, widespread from the Altai Mountains in central Siberia eastward to the Japan Sea, and it is also found in Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan. Introduced into cultivation in England so long ago as 1780, it is a better garden plant in New England than on the other side of the Atlantic. It is a much-branched shrub, growing from 5 to 6 feet tall, with twiggy branches and more or less oval leaves, each from 1½ to 2 inches long and very fragrant when bruised. They vary greatly in degree of persistence. On some bushes the leaves change to yellow and blackish bronze and fall in late autumn; on others they persist through the winter and



Wilson, Ernest Henry. 1928. "Early Flowers." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 2(2), 5–5.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321903>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/216914>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321903>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/321903>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

BHL-SIL-FEDLINK

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.